

RT

RECEIVED OCT 23 1989

10/21/89

Bishop John Vlazny
55 W. Sanborn
Winona, MN 55987

Dear Bishop Vlazny,

I am writing this letter at the request of _____, a fellow parishioner at Holy Family Church in Lake Crystal.

_____ has informed me that several rumors have been circulating in the Holy Family and Madella's St. Mary's parishes about the circumstances of the departure of Father Robert Taylor. As I'm sure you know, Father Taylor is taking a few months off for some rest and relaxation. Apparently rumors have started that he actually left because he embezzled \$300,000 from St. Mary's Church, and other ridiculous accusations have been made.

I have absolutely no reason to believe that Father Taylor is gone for any other reason than that stated above. I know him to be an extremely conscientious pastor who works nonstop for the good of the three parishes under his purview. I have no idea what the intentions of those starting the rumors are, but I believe that they are extremely malicious and do Father Taylor and his parishes a grave injustice.

On a practical note, with the critical shortage of priests in our area and in the whole country, it is obviously counterproductive to do anything that would alienate a priest who has worked so diligently for the benefit of his parishioners.

I am _____ and know firsthand some of the stresses that are involved in living and working in a small town. If anyone made statements about me such as have been made about Father Taylor, I wouldn't hesitate to consider a libel suit.

I'm sure you realize from the tenor of this letter that I am outraged that anyone would malign Father Taylor no matter what the motive. I'm not sure that anything can be done about this situation other than supporting Father Taylor. but if you do hear of any bad rumors about him, please take the above statements into consideration.

Yours truly,

RT000268

RT

FILE COPY

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4441

October 24, 1989

Dear

Please accept this acknowledgement of your recent letter dated October 21, 1989. I am surprised that requested that you send me a letter since I have not heard about this matter from him or anyone else.

Certainly I appreciate your support of Father Taylor during this time of his personal leave. Father Taylor is away on leave with my permission and there is no truth to the kinds of rumors you have reported. Perhaps Father Taylor should have spoken more clearly to the people about his time away, but those who wish to be critical will be critical no matter what is stated.

Thank you for the support and appreciation you extend to Father Taylor. Please keep him in your prayers. I hope that you will also be supportive of as he continues the work of priestly ministry in your community as administrator of the three parishes for which Father Taylor has served as pastor. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:wb

RT000269

RT

To: Bishop Vlazny
From:
Date: October 25, 1989
Re: Lake Crystal/Father Taylor

FILE COPY

, called requesting an appointment with you for him and a few others from to discuss the parish situation there. He was not open to first talking with or to writing you a letter stating his concerns. He indicated that he is supportive of Father Taylor and is concerned about continued negative undercurrents being promoted by a certain faction in the parish.

In the light of his supportive stance and insistence on talking with you, I told him that I would relay his message to you along with his request that you call him back. He works in or he can be reached at home,

RT000136

To: Bishop Vlazny
From: Bill Baechler
Date: October 25, 1989
Re: Lake Crystal/Father Taylor

FILED

, trustee from Lake Crystal Holy Family, called requesting an appointment with you for him and a few others from Holy Family to discuss the parish situation there. He was not open to first talking with Fr. Joe Mountain or to writing you a letter stating his concerns. He indicated that he is supportive of Father Taylor and is concerned about continued negative undercurrents being promoted by a certain faction in the parish.

In the light of his supportive stance and insistence on talking with you, I told him that I would relay his message to you along with his request that you call him back. He works in office in Mankato, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm, telephone number or he can be reached at home,

RT000466

RT

RECEIVED OCT 28 1989

October 25, 1989

Most Reverend John Vlazny
Diocese of Winona Pastoral Center
55 West Sanborn
Winona, MN. 55987

Your Excellency,

I am not very articulate but feel that I need to write. I have strong feelings about what people are saying about Father Taylor.

Father is probably the greatest thing that has happened to the Holy Family parish in the years that I have been in Lake Crystal. Also, because of him, my husband is back attending Mass and has become active in the parish community. He has brought a spiritual renewal to the parish. We are not just attending mass to fulfill the obligation but weekly come away with something to help us through the week.

Not only has he been good for the adults but he is great with the younger members of the parish. He is alive! He also respects the youth as contributing members of the parish and not "just kids".

If you are in contact with Father at all, let him know that we are praying for him and selfishly pray that he comes back to our parish. Hopefully this is what he will want but most importantly we pray that he will find his direction to happiness and fulfilling of his needs.

Thank you for your time.

Cordially,

RT000270

RECEIVED OCT 28 1989

Oct. 25, 1989

Most Reverend Bishop Blazny
 55 West Sanborn
 Minnona, Minnesota, 55987

Dear Bishop Blazny,

We want to send a message
 about Father Taylor.

He was a dedicated shepherd
 of our flock here.

Father lived the word of
 God. He gave us spiritual food
 which we had not had for many
 years. His good health and boundless
 amounts of energy allowed him to
 bring Gods Word to us so we could
 grow in the Lord. Father reached out
 to all the people. He gave to all
 of us and all ages.

We miss him and will pray
 for him. Please pray for all the
 members at Holy Family for healing
 and unity & respect for priests who
 are over worked but giving of them
 selves so generously. Love is Christ

RECEIVED OCT 30 1989

Oct. 28, 1989

To The Bishop of the Diocese of Winona

I have never written a letter to a Bishop before, so if I stumble please accept this for what I hope, is just a few minutes of bending your ear.

I would like to just let you know how I feel about Father Taylor, our parish priest, here in Madelia. In small towns there is gossip - Always has been, Always will be. Usually I don't pay attention to it or even pass it along, but I have some very strong feelings about Father Taylor, and the cloud that is over his head and reputation.

First let me tell you, I have been Catholic for 28 years. I am a convert, and in that 28 years, I have never met, or had for a pastor, a priest that has touched my life, as Father Taylor has. He is one of the most talented men I know. He has the uncanny talent for finding each persons ability and getting them to put it to use. Never, in my time at St. Marys have I seen so many people working for the good of the parish.

I would hope also, that you are aware of how the plain, simple, man on the street

is of great importance to Father Taylor. I realize that he probably is not a very political priest, he cares nothing for his own importance or even comfort. I know that usually he does not even defend himself. To me, he is the true image of a Christian man, and lives as "Christlike" as he can.

I don't know where Father Taylor is today, but I hope he knows that my thoughts and prayers are with him. Please, as you make your decision about his future, keep in mind that there is a large, silent majority of people here in Madelia, that love & respect him.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and please spend one prayer on what I have said!

Sincerely,

RT

FILE COPY

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

November 1, 1989

Dear

First of all, I want to thank you very much for your thoughtful support of Father Taylor, your pastor, at this time. I shall assure him of your continuing concern for him and request your prayers for his well-being and future priestly ministry.

Father's absence from his pastoral duties at the present time is fully in keeping with diocesan policy and has my unquestioned approval. Father Taylor has served this diocese generously and capably for many years. He is one of the family and deserves everyone's respect and appreciation. I am glad that you understand that dimension of priestly life and ministry.

As _____ begins his ministry among you as parish administrator, I hope that you will also give him your full support and come to know and appreciate his talents and goodness as you have done so with Father Taylor. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:wb

RT000274

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE COPY

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 508
Tel. 507/454-4643

November 1, 1989

Dear

First of all, I want to thank you very much for your thoughtful support of Father Taylor, your pastor, at this time. I shall assure him of your continuing concern for him and request your prayers for his well-being and future priestly ministry.

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As he begins his ministry among you as parish administrator, I hope that you will also give him your full support and come to know and appreciate his talents and goodness as you have done so with Father Taylor. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:wb

RT000275

FILE COPY

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

November 1, 1989

Dear

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Father's absence from his pastoral duties at the present time is fully in keeping with diocesan policy and has my unquestioned approval. Father Taylor has served this diocese generously and capably for many years. He is one of the family and deserves everyone's respect and appreciation. I am glad that you understand that dimension of priestly life and ministry.

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Sincerely yours in the Lord,

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:wb

RT000276

He who
desires to see
the living
God
face to face
should not
seek
HIM
in the empty
firmament of
his mind, but
in
human love.

DOSTOEVSKY
2

November

RECEIVED NOV 9 1989

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona
55 West Sanborn
Winona, Minnesota 55987

Dear Bishop Vlazny:

I am writing to let you know of the many ways we have been blessed during the pastorate of Reverend Robert Taylor, and to urge you to allow him to return to us.

In reviewing Canons 528 & 529 describing the pastor's ministry, I find a complete daily agenda in the average week of Father Taylor. Regarding the first instruction to Preaching, the comments from St. Katherine's, St. Mary's and Holy Family nearly all concur that Father

has been one of the most powerful, relevant, thought provoking, inspiring and challenging preachers that we have heard. Always taking the Gospel values of the day as his springboard, Father Taylor continues to frame the author's message for us in the context of our daily lives. The frequently experienced silences in our parishes during his homilies attest to the fact that they touched home and our hearts.

The Lord's message was also proclaimed continually by Father Taylor through his participation in, and support of, our catechetical programs. It was a rare day or evening that he was not at all of the programs in our three parishes -- whether at the Catholic school, or the individual programs at St. Katherine's, St. Mary's, or Holy Family. Under his leadership, the RCIA program was successfully begun and completed last year welcoming five new Catholics into our Parish at the Easter Vigil. Again, under his leadership, we begin the RCIC program this week for the first time with children at St. Katherine's.

Regarding the second job of the pastor, because of Father Taylor we now have three separate Liturgy Commissions which each take turns at helping to create the beautiful liturgies we now enjoy each week. They have learned to study the readings and to plan the service and environment. They have learned to pool resources -- both personal and material -- to respect each other's plans and strengths -- and we implement the same liturgy in each of our Parishes each week. The Eucharist is the center of our Parishes -- Father Taylor celebrates with us, and prays with us, and cries with us, rejoices with us and calls us daily back to the Lord.

The Pastoral care mentioned in the third directive for priests is the core of Father's day. In the four years that he has been our Pastor at Lake Crystal and Truman, and the five years that he has been in Madelia, there is hardly a home that he hasn't stopped to visit. In my experience, I have never known a priest who loved to be among his people as much as Father Taylor does. From the poor to the wealthy -- each is treated exactly the same and all are loved the same. True -- you won't usually find him among the "right social circles" -- you'll usually find him among God's small ones.

The care that Father gives to the sick, and the dying, and to the families who have lost a loved one has left lasting imprints on the hearts of his parishioners. I can attest to that personally, having lost my father-in-law this spring. Time

RT000277

and time again, public thank yous are given to Father for his constant visits, prayers and support. Our funeral liturgies are personal and joyous and beautiful, thanks to his careful involvement which includes the family members. And also under this directive is specifically mentioned the care of the migrants.

I know you are well aware of our unique situation in Madelia, and of the influx of the Hispanic people that we have been experiencing -- perhaps in larger numbers lately, than usual. "The least of the bretheren" in town are those with whom Father expends his time, energies and resources to help them feel welcome and to make their existence with us more comfortable, just and humane. Isn't it odd, that the directive from Canon Law and the directive of the Lord himself time and time again could cause such criticism? But, following in the Lord's footsteps, Father Taylor continues to comfort and heal and work for the Hispanic people in our midst. Again, oddly enough, perhaps the outspoken criticism from the people of our Parish should be taken as a supreme compliment -- because it shows that hearts have been challenged and people have been made to see and to assess a new way of thinking -- and even if they have not come to the correct conclusions -- they still have had their visions broadened.

Leadership development -- the fourth directive -- I've already mentioned the Liturgy Committees which function so well. Under Father's leadership, the Parish Councils of St. Mary's, St. Katherine's and Holy Family have restructured, and revised their Constitutions to include the working committees of Social Concerns, Liturgy, Education, Building and Finance. Constant Enrichment articles and films have been presented to lead the way in establishing parish councils which are truly pastoral and removed from the finance committees. Again, not without struggle, but some of that struggle reflects old ideas and people who are more comfortable with constraint and control rather than collaboration. We now have lay people trained and in place and comfortable with leading Lay Word and Eucharistic Services in the absence of priests. Father Taylor has enabled and empowered many people in our parishes and continues to support them in their ministries. A tribute and great compliment to him is that we can stand and function and carry on our ministries even in his absence. Little St. Katherine's continues to comment on how their services and programs are better now than when they had a resident pastor. Again, these changes have not come without struggle, but then Jesus was considered a radical in his day, too.

The fifth obligation of the pastor in the field of administration is again one of Father Taylor's gifts. He is brilliant, practical, has accomplished the new addition to the School at St. Mary's, the complete remodelling of St. Katherine's worship and classroom area, the Cemetery Centerpiece and landscaping at Holy Family, as well as many updating projects in the Church Buildings. He can assess situations and make clear and prudent decisions. He directs the Parishes' finances and budgets carefully, all the time calling attention to the projects a Church should be about. When I began working with Father Taylor in 1985, there was not enough money in our accounts to pay his salary. Since then, the contributions have been rising dramatically at Holy Family and St. Katherine's, and St. Mary's, despite being plagued by the increasing costs of maintaining her Catholic Grade School, can still fund and support and expand her Catechetical, Liturgical and Social Ministry Programs as well as provide the upkeep on her many beautiful buildings and grounds.

So, in my opinoin, if you were to evaluate Father Taylor on the job description of a priest according to Canons 528 & 529, you would have to say that he fulfills each of the directives to the fullest and beyond.

And now on a more personal and relavant note, Father Taylor has been our friend. Since he left, people have been commenting and conversing with one another about all the good things that have happened since he has been with us. They are sorry they have never told him how much he did for them -- they are saddened now, and do not know how to show their support for him.

Complaints? Surely. Those are about, too. But by people who do not want to leave their comfortable, secure lives. And by people who do not accept authority readily, or by people who do not understand that in view of the imposing issues facing us as Church today, many smaller issues may sometimes seem not quite so significant.

In the four years that I have worked with Father Taylor, I have never known him to turn anyone away, regardless of the need or the hour or the person. He is the most compassionate and generous man I know. He relates equally well with, and saves equal time for, the infant, the crying toddler, the handicapped, the downtrodden, the socialite. He has been the best teacher and friend that I have known. Others have always come first -- his own leisure and enjoyment second. Through the many days, some sometimes lasting from 7:30 am until 10 pm, I have never known Father Taylor to be anything but a perfect gentleman. He has always dealt with me in a curteous, respectful and fair way. He knows how to supervise people to bring out the best in them, and I'll be forever grateful to him for all he has enabled me to be. He has worked side by side with my three beautiful, teenaged sons who respect him and love him. The youth throughout our three Parishes, too, respect him and are asking about his return. As one little boy said on Sunday to his daddy, "But where's our real priest?"

And now I come to the struggle I am having, and I would dearly appreciate any insights into it that you could give me. It's about the boat rockers -- like Jesus and John the XXIII and Paul the VI and Father Taylor. Why is it that the majority of the good people continue to be silent and to let those who call us back to humanity to be persecuted? I am quite sure, that if you were to poll our Parishes, the vast majority would come out with a resounding vote of support for Father Taylor. Granted, I may be prejudiced, but having lived in Lake Crystal since 1976, I also have come to know and understand quite a number of our Parishioners. After many years of having been kept in "their place" by those who "built the Church", we now have an excited, and active and interested block of young people assuming more and more of the leadership of Holy Family Parish -- again, thank you, Father Taylor. We're not home yet -- if we just could have Father around us for a few more years, we maybe could arrive. And as for our Hispanic "problem", the seeds of prejudice, as you know, are planted deep -- it is not a new problem for us and certainly not one brought about soley by our Hispanice Ministry Program. And, as Father Taylor continues to reassure us, "our hope lies in our children -- perhaps a generation will have to pass away before we can begin to see the fruits of our labors."

I am asking you to allow Father Taylor to return to us after his leave of absence, if he so chooses. And I'm asking you, too, to help me understand how to deal with the complaints of a vocal few which have such influence on the future of such a good and holy man. I respect your wisdom and vision, and am well aware that I do not possess it. I am simply trying to understand and to renew my faith in the goodness of humankind.

I thank you for sending us _____ in this interim period. He brings to us his own gifts and strengths, and is getting more involved in the lives of our Parishes each week.

Thank you sincerely, too, for listening and understanding and considering, and I look forward to hearing from you. Know that my prayers are with you, with our parishes, with Father Taylor, and with our Church.

Your fellow pilgrim,

RECEIVED NOV 13 1989

11-11-89

Bishop Dwayne:

I'm writing to you on behalf of
Father Taylor. Myself I haven't nothing but
good things to say about him. He was really
with me when I last . and then
when

I've never
had a Priest in my house as much as
Father Taylor was. I know nobody can
please anyone. I hear so many in
say that he better not come back here. But
I've never seen such a hard worker and a
devoted Priest.

I just wanted to let you know how
I feel about Father Taylor.

Thank you

RT000281

November 13, 1989

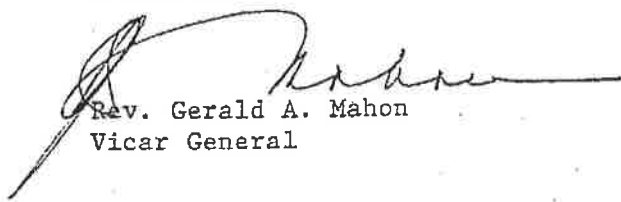
Rev. Charles Collins
Church of St. Patrick
Leroy, MN 55951

Dear Charlie,

I am writing in reference to Father Robert Taylor's salary and benefits. The policy in the Diocese of Winona which Bishop Vlazny has established is to have the parish responsible for a priest's salary and benefits for three months while he is on a leave of absence for sickness or inpatient treatment. This would mean the three parishes would be responsible for paying Father Taylor his salary until January 15, 1990. At that time, the Diocese of Winona will presume to follow-up with Bob's salary.

Thank you, Charlie, and if you have any questions, please give me a call. I hope all has gone well for you in the transition. It has been difficult no doubt because of the time of the year, but so many people have commented on your abilities and the many gifts and talents you have which will allow you to pull things together.

Sincerely in Our Lord,



Rev. Gerald A. Mahon
Vicar General

RT000467

RECEIVED NOV 16 1989

212 1ST ST. N.E.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
MADELIA, MINNESOTA 56062

(507) 642-8305

Nov 15, 1989

Dear Bishop Vlagney,

Tonight Father Taylor called. He talked a long while - and seemed very good. I'm writing you because he wants to come here for Christmas and New Year. Before I would respond to him - perhaps you could let me know if you want him to come here over the holidays.

Perhaps sometime in the new year we could visit. I have learned a great deal in the month I've been here. I would come to Wenona at your convenience.

Just let me know what you wish regarding Father Taylor's plans at Christmas.

I hope you enjoyed Rome.

Best regards,

RT000282

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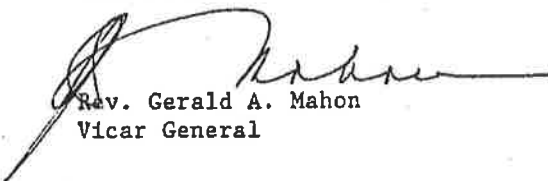
NOV 16 1988

Dear

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Thank you, and if you have any questions, please give me a call. I hope all has gone well for you in the transition. It has been difficult no doubt because of the time of the year, but so many people have commented on your abilities and the many gifts and talents you have which will allow you to pull things together.

Sincerely in Our Lord,



Rev. Gerald A. Mahon
Vicar General

RT000137

FILE COPY

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 208
Tel. 507/454-6643

November 16, 1989

Reverend Robert Taylor
Villa Louis Martin
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

Dear Bob,

Tuesday evening I returned from my travels to Baltimore and Rome. The bishops' meeting in Baltimore was interesting enough to keep me awake and the canonization ceremonies in Rome were exhilarating, particularly because of the presence of so many eastern Europeans. They were enthused and excited. So was I.

Today I called _____ at St. Mary's in Madelia to see how things are going. He seemed fine but mentioned that you were interested in coming back to the parishes over the Christmas holidays. Although he certainly seems open to that possibility, I believe that it will be best for you to stay away until you complete the program at Jemez Springs. This might be a good opportunity to visit family or friends, particularly if you are not expected to stay at Villa Louis Martin over Christmas.

Thus far I have heard very little from _____ or any of his colleagues at the Villa. I do hope that things are going well for you. It was good to talk with you earlier this month and I assure you that you continue to have a very special place in my prayers.

As you already know from Father Mahon, some of the priests were hoping to be able to write to you. If you do not want to release your address, we can certainly suggest to them that they send their letters here and we can forward them to you.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving next week, be assured of my gratitude for our fraternity in the service of God's people here in the Diocese of Winona. I know that it won't be easy to be away over Christmas, but spring will come. It always does! God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:wb

RT000283

FILE COPY

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

November 16, 1989

Dear

First of all, I want to thank you very much for your thoughtful support of Father Taylor, your pastor, at this time. I shall assure him of your continuing concern for him and request your prayers for his well-being and future priestly ministry.

Father's absence from his pastoral duties at the present time is fully in keeping with diocesan policy and has my unquestioned approval. Father Taylor has served this diocese generously and capably for many years. He is one of the family and deserves everyone's respect and appreciation. I am glad that you understand that dimension of priestly life and ministry.

As _____ begins his ministry among you as parish administrator, I hope that you will also give him your full support and come to know and appreciate his talents and goodness as you have done so with Father Taylor. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:wb

RT000284

November 19, 1989

Bishop John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona
Winona, Mn 55987

Dear Bishop Vlazny,

I am writing to you as

Just a little insight as to who I am; in addition to being

I am also the

Over the years, I have taught CCD, been the adult advisor for Senior CYO, and a member of the liturgy and finance commissions of the parish. I have sat back and observed how priests have been reassigned from this parish and have never written to anyone in authority in regard to such reassignments, even though the loss of some priests from this parish have been very difficult to understand.

At this time, I feel compelled to write to you in light of your request to Father Robert Taylor that he take an administrative leave. (Father Taylor informed the parish and myself that the request was his request) The rumors in our parish community over the past six months have been to say the least "wild". The vast majority of them are of such disgust that even reducing all of them to writing would only add to the hatred which spreads them. However, one of the rumors which is floating around the parish is that your request that Father Taylor take a leave of absence was based upon a letter writing campaign concerning his use of the English Language. This rumor did not really concern me as I was aware that at various times in private conversations with me, his language was colorful beyond that normally heard from an educated person.

Ever since this community started to experience the influx of Hispanics, the true level of "living as if Christ were in our presence" has shown forth. I have come to think that if Christ were with us in our community, he would be shot at and run out of the community. From the group which would rather send blankets to the pope's storeroom rather than allow them to be used by the less fortunate of our community, to those who are critical of the use of parish facilities to feed the Hispanics, our true faith is shining forth for all to see.

Is this just a problem of St. Mary's or is it a community problem? During the early part of this summer, the city started working with citizens living near the trailer court (where most of the Hispanics live) as the rumors and problems in this area had reached the boiling point without anyone on the community level having a real sense of the potential problems.

RT000285

Page # 2

A Lutheran Minister in the community has stated that if a Hispanic were to attend their church service on a Sunday that about one-half of the congregation would leave the service.

I have spent many hours with Father Taylor discussing not only the community problems but also the rumors as they relate to St. Mary's faith community. My philosophy as an administrator has been to listen to all complaints and concerns voiced by employees and citizens, then take the time to observe the situation, if possible, prior to reacting to the problem.

The problems are very deep and distressing in our community as they are related to a very strong undercurrent of racism. An example of this statement comes from a letter which was written to

which she shared with me.

In the letter she was accused of running Father Taylor out of the parish, because she had gotten him involved in the Hispanic problem which was dividing the parish. Unfortunately, this type of letter only strengthens that fact that our problems are deeper than what Father Taylor was doing in our parish.

I am not trying to defend all of the actions of Father Taylor, I am trying to point out to you in a very short letter; that our parish community is made up of many truly caring faith community members, but we also have some members who are either very active or respected in the parish who in may have an underlying racial problem in addition to having "turf or territorial rights" which were threatened by Father Taylor's strong will and desire to work for the poor and underprivileged of the entire community.

My letter to you could go on for a considerable number of pages, but I hope that by sharing with you some of this information that you will weigh again, all of the information which you have on hand in the determination of future assignments of priests to St. Mary's in Madelia.

As at each Mass we pray for your temporal and spiritual wellbeing, I hope and pray that you will say a special prayer during Masses said this Advent season for your faith community in Madelia.

Thank you for your time and may the Holy Spirit guide you.

Yours in faith,

RT000286

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE COPY

PO Box 508
Tel. 507/454-4643

of the
office

November 20, 1989

Dear

Please accept this acknowledgement of your recent letter of November 7. I had the opportunity to review its contents when I returned home from Rome this past week. I am grateful for your support of the priestly ministry of Fr. Robert Taylor. In reading your letter I sensed that you must understand how much he does need some time away, so absorbed has he been in his priestly ministry.

I regret to hear that you have been discouraged by some parishioners who have shared complaints with you. After my twenty-eight years as a priest I have come to realize that all of this goes with the territory. Jesus was not immune. We are not immune. But there are many people who do appreciate the work of good priests and my conversations with Fr. Taylor indicate to me that he is very well aware of the fact that there are many who are grateful for his pastoral presence among them.

It was kind of you to mention your appreciation of the priestly presence of among your people these days. It was not easy for him to leave his own parishes in Leroy and Grand Meadow to assume leadership in Madelia, Lake Crystal and Truman. I am sure that he appreciates whatever support you are able to give him.

May the Lord bless you and all the people you serve at this time of Thanksgiving and during the holy season of Advent that lies before us. Please keep Fr. Taylor and all of our priests in our prayers. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:wb

RT000287

FILE COPY

PAROCHIAL OFFICE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANDHORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

copy of the
message

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

November 28, 1989

Dear

Thank you very much for your recent letter concerning the problematic situations that have developed at St. Mary's Church in Madelia. Your report concurs with the information that has been shared with me by both Fr. Taylor and I appreciate whatever assistance you have been able to give both of these priests.

Fr. Taylor's leave from his pastoral responsibilities is fully in accord with diocesan policy. Perhaps someday Fr. Taylor will choose to share with you some other reasons for this time away from his priestly ministry. But I assure you that it has very little, if anything, to do with problematic situations at St. Mary's. They certainly didn't make life easier for him, but they did not seem to discourage him unnecessarily.

I was uncertain after reading your letter about your relationship with the present parish administrator, He has spoken highly of you and I do believe that he is an excellent choice for the many and varied duties of the three parishes Fr. Taylor has served the past five years. His is a difficult task and I encourage you to give him your full cooperation as parish trustee. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:wb

RT000288

RT

RECEIVED FEB 5 1990

Office of the
Vicar General

RC 85 55
68-577-444-44

February 5, 1990

Rev. Robert Taylor
Villa Louis Martin
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

Dear Bob,

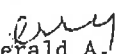
I am writing in reference to your salary and benefits, as St. Mary's Parish and the other parishes are no longer responsible for your compensation. When a priest is involved in any kind of treatment, the parish and/or institution makes payment for three months in regard to salary and benefits and then the diocese accepts this responsibility until the priest returns to his assignment. However; there is a reduction in the amount of \$200 because a priest in treatment is not in need of full compensation. The breakdown will be as follows:

Salary -	\$350.00
Longevity -	\$125.00
Car -	\$425.00
Social Security -	\$41.67
Pro-Populo -	\$108.33
Total -	\$1050.00

You will receive a check, Bob, in the amount of \$850.00 for the month of February and thereafter until you return to an assignment.

Blessings for you, and I hope all is well as you continue this important time of renewal and development both humanly and spiritually.

Sincerely in Our Lord,


Rev. Gerald A. Mahon
Vicar General

✓bcc: Bishop John G. Vlazny

RT000138

RT

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE COPY

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

MEMORANDUM

TO: Father Peter Lechner
FROM: Bishop John Vlazny
DATE: February 14, 1990
SUBJECT: VISIT OF FEBRUARY 26-27

Enclosed are copies of the Curriculum Vitae of Brother Louis DeThomasis who will accompany me on my visit to the Villa Louis Martin at the end of this month. You and others who will meet Brother Louis would perhaps benefit from reviewing his curriculum vitae so that you might understand some of the professional credentials he brings to his analysis of the financial situation of our Priests' Retirement Board and diocese.

Brother Louis and I are planning to arrive in Albuquerque on Monday afternoon at 1:23 pm aboard American Airlines Flight 297 from Chicago. We will be leaving Albuquerque on Tuesday afternoon at 3:41 pm aboard American Airlines carrier 824 to Chicago.

If we are going to be working in Albuquerque on Monday afternoon and early evening, perhaps Brother Louis and I would do better to stay there overnight in a motel and drive up to Jemez Springs in rented car early Tuesday morning for our sessions there with you. I shall plan on being the celebrant of the 11:30 am liturgy in Jemez Springs. But, if you are going to be able to provide us with transportation both to and from Jemez Springs, then maybe it would be better to stay overnight with you, if you have the room. Please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Thanks very much for arranging for this visit. I look forward to meeting you and becoming better acquainted with the work of the Paracletes. God bless.

JGV:wb

Enclosures (4)

RT000139

RT

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE COPY

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Broadwater
FROM: Bishop John Vlazny
DATE: March 13, 1990
SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 26-27 TRIP TO ALBUQUERQUE

Please make out a check payable to Brother Louis DeThomasis for \$200 to reimburse him for expenses he incurred on travel with me to Albuquerque, New Mexico on February 26 and 27.

Brother Louis stayed in Albuquerque at a hotel on the night of February 26 so that he could leave for Boston the morning of February 27. He incurred expenses for his hotel stay, dinner on Monday night and a penalty fee for changing his ticket to Boston. There was no need for him to wait for my return from Jemez Springs on the afternoon of February 27. Thank you very much.

JGV:wb

RT000140

RT

FILE COPY

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

March 14, 1990

Brother Louis DeThomasis, FSC
President
St. Mary's College of Minnesota
Winona, MN 55987

Dear Louis,

Please accept this belated expression of gratitude for your willingness to accompany me to Albuquerque on February 26. As I assured you upon your return home, your input and presence were extraordinarily invaluable in assisting the staff of Villa Louis Martin and myself in dealing appropriately with Father Taylor. Furthermore, it's always good to have an excuse to spend some time with you. You are a wonder!

Please accept the enclosed check as at least a partial reimbursement for the expenses you incurred on Monday evening, February 26, when I spent time with Father Taylor privately. I am grateful that you were able to change your planes the following day and arrive in Boston at a more convenient hour. Hopefully the check will also cover the expenses of the penalty fee for changing flights.

I regret that we must postpone our "appreciation dinner" in Lanesboro a few weeks. I shall try to find a date when all of us are available. Jerry and I hope to go visit this Friday in Minneapolis, weather permitting. After all this warmth, I expect a blizzard!

Gratefully yours in the Lord,

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:wb

Enclosure

RT000141

FILE COPY

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

May 22, 1990

Dear

Please excuse the delay in responding to your letter of April 20. I received it only this month, but set it aside without answering it immediately. That is always a mistake.

In the letter you expressed your strong conviction that bringing Fr. Taylor back to St. Mary's Parish is a very bad decision. I can understand your point of view because you are not fully acquainted with all that has transpired. The decision really seemed like the best one for both Fr. Taylor and the three parishes he has been serving.

You and _____ will continue to have a very special place in my prayers. I hope that you will have a pleasant summer. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000304

RT

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 508
Tel. 507/454-4643

July 11, 1990

Rev. Robert H. Taylor
Church of Saint Mary
212 First Street, NE
Madelia, Minnesota 56062

Dear Bob,

It is with a deep sense of appreciation and confidence that I appoint you for a term of six years as pastor of Saint Leo's Church, Pipestone and Saint Martin's Church, Woodstock, effective August 16, 1990.

Rev. Eugene Egan, dean of the Worthington deanery, will act as my delegate in receiving your Profession of Faith. Please contact him as soon as possible concerning your formal installation as pastor. I want the people to whom you are sent as pastor to celebrate these new beginnings with you and to have an opportunity to welcome you in a prayerful and public way.

Bob, I deeply appreciate your willingness to make this move after completing six years of pastoral ministry in Madelia, Lake Crystal and Truman. You have accomplished much, both personally and pastorally during these years. Your leadership in our ecclesial outreach to the newcomers in your parishes, especially the Hispanic people, has been admirable. You have also given marvelous support to Saint Mary's Catholic School and the religious education programs of all three parishes. The people at Saint Leo's and Saint Martin's need you now very much. They still grieve the loss of the recently deceased pastor. I know that you will deal with them and their concerns sensitively and prudently.

The people of God are good. There are many ways in which they show us their affection and support. You come among them as one who serves, charged with the responsibility of pastoral leadership. If you ever need me for anything, please do not hesitate to call. The diocesan curia and support staff at the Pastoral Center in Winona stand ready to assist you in your many and varied responsibilities. Furthermore, I encourage you to be an active collaborator with your brother priests in the meetings and the activities of the Worthington deanery.

As St. Paul assured Timothy in his second letter to him (1:7), the "Spirit God has given us is no cowardly spirit, but rather one that makes us strong, loving and wise." My prayer goes with you that the Holy Spirit will truly inspire and animate this new service of pastoral love which I entrust to you.

Your grateful brother in the Lord,

John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

cc: Rev. Gerald A. Mahon
Rev. Donald P. Schmitz ✓

Rev. Eugene E. Egan
Rev. Joseph W. Mountain

RT000142

RT

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I, _____, with firm faith, believe and profess all and everything that is contained in the Symbol of Faith that is:

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God
begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father,
Through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered, died, and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in fulfillment of the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

I firmly embrace and accept all and everything which has been either defined by the Church's solemn deliberations or affirmed and declared by its ordinary magisterium concerning the doctrine of faith and morals, according as they are proposed by it, especially those things dealing with the mystery of the Holy Church of Christ, its sacraments and the sacrifice of the Mass, and the primacy of the Roman Pontiff.

Robert H. Taylor

(Seal)

ATTEST.

Robert H. Taylor

Date

18 August 1990

RT000143

RT

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

November 19, 1990

Rev. Robert H. Taylor
Church of Saint Leo
106 Fourth Street, SE
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164

Dear Bob,

In recent correspondence with all the priests I referred to some expectations that, as your Bishop, I have of all of you. One of them is your participation in an annual retreat at our Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary.

We have successfully completed two of the four retreats scheduled for the 1990-91 session. One preached retreat remains on the schedule in January and a longer directed and silent retreat in April. Since you have been unable to participate in either one of the previous retreats, I am asking you to sign up for one of the remaining retreats at your earliest convenience.

So often in ministry we become preoccupied with our many duties and responsibilities. I am asking you to take this time for yourself and for your brothers in our diocesan presbyterate. Even if you need more time elsewhere for additional spiritual renewal, I do want you to participate in one of the diocesan retreats.

If there is some difficulty with the schedule that makes your participation impossible this year, please let me know and advise me of your alternate retreat plans.

This time of Thanksgiving is a very blessed one for our people in our nation. When I count my blessings as Bishop of the Diocese of Winona, I count you and all my brother priests. Thank you for your priestly life and ministry here in the Diocese of Winona.

Your brother in the Lord,

John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000144

FILE

WALTER E. WITTELLA
BISHOP SANDOR
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55907

CONFIDENTIAL
DELETED

PO Box 588
Tel. 807/454-4543

MEMORANDUM

To: File
From: Bishop John G. Vlazny
Date: November 21, 1990
Re:

asked to meet with me on Saturday, November 17, when I had plans to visit St. Mary's Church in Worthington for Confirmation. We agreed to the meeting on Friday, November 17th.

presented herself at St. Mary's Rectory on Saturday afternoon, November 18th. We had agreed to meet at 5:00pm. She was there before I arrived.

We began the meeting promptly as scheduled. She was pleasant and courteous. It was immediately clear that she wished to speak with me about some concerns she had with respect to the new Pastor of St. Leo's Church in Pipestone and St. Martin's Church in Woodstock, Fr. Robert Taylor. She inquired whether I had already heard anything from others about his life and ministry there. I said that I had not. She did indicate that she had already spoken with the Dean, Fr. Eugene Egan.

concerns were varied and I shall summarize them as follows:

1. Some of Fr. Taylor's personal behaviors and remarks are inappropriate, specifically with regard to a certain casualness in the general area of sexuality; furthermore his personal hygiene has been problematic.
2. Fr. Taylor is overly concerned about exercising his role as pastor in a very personal way and does not seem to be able to trust other people to do things that would have been regularly delegated in the past. This was a particular problem for role as parish worker.
3. Father seems overly concerned about security. There have been problems and break-ins, but she was concerned that his worries were excessive.
4. Father is a very poor communicator. He resists meetings with staff and personal meetings with She is very hopeful that communications can be improved.
5. Father shows signs of "workaholism." He fails to take a day off and leaves the parish reluctantly for other important matters, such as his visit to Jemez Springs in September and other engagements.

RT000305

Page Two
Memo to File Regarding Visit With
November 21, 1990

Generally speaking, _____ also referred to a general difficulty some people have already experienced in working with him. The cleaning ladies are unwilling to work anymore at the rectory because of Father's sloppiness. _____ was obviously also concerned about her own responsibilities as well as her future involvement in the life of the two parishes.

We discussed these matters and I strongly suggested that _____ and Father Taylor meet with the Dean, Fr. Eugene Egan, to review these concerns. I am sending this memo for _____ review before passing it on to Father Taylor and Fr. Egan. I am hopeful that an honest and sincere exchange as well as Fr. Taylor's own willingness and eagerness to be a good pastor at both parishes will help diminish some of _____ concerns.

RT000306

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

M E M O R A N D U M

To:
Fr: Bishop John Vlazny + *John Vlazny*
Date: November 21, 1990
Re: Report of Our November 17th Meeting

I am sending the enclosed report for your review before sending it on to Fr. Taylor and Fr. Egan. I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience. If you wish to clarify any further the matters we discussed and help me prepare the report more accurately, I would be most pleased to hear from you.

Thanks very much for coming to see me at The
celebration of Confirmation in both parishes was a delightful experience. God
bless.

RT000307

Dec. 6, 1990

Dear Bishop John Vlazny,

First of all, I wish to thank you for seeing me at St. Mary's in Worthington on Nov. 17, 1990. It was very helpful to me to have you listen so attentively to my concerns and then to send me a copy of the report for my review before sending it to Fr. Egan and Father Taylor.

As I shared with you in our telephone conversation of Dec. 4, I have noticed a marked improvement in the area of communication, since Nov. 18th. Fr. Taylor has been consulting me as the pastoral minister more frequently. We are also keeping each other informed regarding our activities in both parishes. At least for now, he is willing to have regular scheduled staff meetings and has agreed to a staff day in-service in January.

The other areas of my concern are still present. However, I feel I can deal with them as they reappear. In light of these recent developments, I do not see it necessary to meet with Fr. Egan and Fr. Taylor at this time. If in the future, such a meeting seems necessary, I will request it. Right now I would request that:

1. This letter be attached to the report of our visit of Nov. 17th. and be put on file.
2. Fr. Egan only, receive a copy of the report and this letter (since I had met with him once concerning these same issues).

I did follow your suggestion of talking with

so well with Fr. Taylor.

It was somewhat helpful.

I do so enjoy my rural ministry in both so
I sincerely hope Fr. Taylor & I can work together here in the Church in Southwestern Minnesota. Thank you again for your care and concern. I feel confident if I need to talk to you again in the future, that I can come to you. Have a very Blessed Advent!

Peace,

RT000308

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Rev. Eugene E. Egan
From: Bishop John Vlazny
Date: December 10, 1990
Re: Communications with

Gene, enclosed are copies of some communications between
and myself. My most recent letter, of course, has not yet had a response from
her. But I do believe that I must speak with about at least some of the
issues she raised. He tends to get rather casual about his own continuing
care.

Please don't act upon any of this for now. I will be in touch.

Enclosures (3)

RT000309

DIOCESE OF WINONA
65 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

December 10, 1990

Dear

Thanks very much for sending your letter of December 6th so promptly. I shall do as you request and forward a copy to Fr. Egan together with a copy of the report of our visit on November 18th.

Although I am satisfied with your decision about not speaking to Fr. Taylor concerning the problems that occurred initially in your working relationship with him, I still have some concerns about the issues you raised with respect to his own personal behaviors, his concern for security, his "workaholism," and the difficulty that others have experienced in working with him. It is important for me to raise these issues with him now since they are problematic, long-standing and need his continuing attention. Perhaps I could prepare a second report in which I eliminated items 2 and 4 and send that one on to him.

Please let me know at your earliest convenience if you have any difficulty with that proposal. I truly do have Fr. Taylor's well-being in mind and appreciate your candor with me. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000310



ALFS PERSON: FP
CUSTOMER NBR:

ITINERARY/INVOICE NO. 0191073
RNFNR

DATE: 10 JAN 91
PAGE: 01

TO: ZIA TRAVEL SERVICES, INC
5151 SAN FRANCISCO RD., NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87109-4641

DR: LANDRY/FATHER CLYDE

7 JAN 91 - THURSDAY

AIR	TRANS WORLD	FLT:346	ECONOMY	LUNCH
	LV ALBUQUERQUE		1250P	EQP: 727 STRETCH
	AR ST LOUIS INTL		406P	NON-STOP
AIR	NORTHWEST AIRLINES	FLT:709	ECONOMY	
	LV ST LOUIS INTL		515P	EQP: DC-9 STRETCH
	AR MINNEAPOLIS ST PL		652P	NON-STOP
AIR	MESABA AVIATION	FLT:3209	ECONOMY	
	LV MINNEAPOLIS ST PL		900P	EQP: F27
	AR ABERDEEN	SD	1100P	1-STOP

3 JAN 91 - WEDNESDAY

AIR	TRANS WORLD	FLT:207	ECONOMY	SNACK
	LV MINNEAPOLIS ST PL		445P	EQP: DC-9 STRETCH
	AR ST LOUIS INTL		621P	NON-STOP
AIR	TRANS WORLD	FLT:845	ECONOMY	BINNER
	LV ST LOUIS INTL		735P	EQP: L1011
	AR ALBUQUERQUE		921P	NON-STOP

IR TICKETS	TW1324650408/09	LANDRY FATHER CLYDE	591.00
		SUB TOTAL	591.00
		TOTAL AMOUNT	591.00

COMPLIMENTARY SHUTTLE TO THE ALBUQUERQUE AIRPORT
FROM THE HOLIDAY INN PYRAMID
PLEASE CALL FOR RESERVATIONS

HAVE A NICE TRIP
BE ADVISED OF PENALTIES AND FARE INCREASES
PLEASE RECONFIRM FLIGHTS WITH AIRLINES 72 HOURS PRIOR
TO DEPARTURE

RECEIVED JAN 17 1991



Zia Travel Services, Inc.

DATE: January 14, 1991

Most Rev John Ulazny
Diocese of Winona
Box 588
Winona, Minn 55987

RE: After care visit for Father Robert Taylor

BILLING INVOICE #: 0191073

TRAVELER'S NAME: Landry/Father Clyde

TRAVEL DATE: January 17, 1991

ROUTE: Albuquerque to Aberdeen to Albuquerque

AMOUNT DUE: \$197.00

ALL PAYMENTS ARE DUE AND PAYABLE WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS
FROM DATE OF STATEMENT. IF NOT RECEIVED WITHIN FIFTEEN
(15) DAYS FROM DATE, A LATE PAYMENT FEE WILL BE ADDED AT
THE RATE OF 1.5% PER MONTH.

THANK YOU

1420 San Pedro NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110
(505) 262-1787

Holiday Inn · Journal Center
5151 San Francisco Road, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109-4641
(505) 822-1402

RT000313

RECEIVED APR 2 1991

March 31, 1991

Bishop John G. Vlazny
55 W. Sanborn St.
Box 588
Winona, Minn. 55937

Dear Bishop Vlazny,

I was on the Church Board, probably 16 to 18 years ago and one of the years I was Chairman of the Finance Committee. We were paying for a new Church, making payments. At that time, the Priest, Council & Parish thought we were doing okay & we were all working together. I'm now 65, thought I would never be involved again. I let go & passed it on to others. I feel Someone is telling me to get involved, I feel this is a mess, I have to speak out. I feel we will loose in a short time everything we have worked for. As Finance Chairman years ago, I know the people of this Parish don't have money.

We were talking to Father Taylor one night after Mass and I was telling him the people step on the Handicap as if they were a cockroach. He didn't agree, but right now he is # 1.

Father & the Board have been having Secret Closed Door meeting about

I talked to . Last Wednesday they got wind of just such a meeting between the Trustees, Finance & Education Committee, so went to the meeting. Father said that this is a closed meeting & sat in the doorway & wouldn't let them in. The Trustees & Finance Committee were shocked because they thought they were there to discuss the Church Dinner coming up Apr. 7. There was only one Education Committee member there. The rest wanted nothing to do with it, they don't have anything to say. Father tells them and they don't go along with what's going on. The 2 Coordinators, they get \$6,000 (\$3,000 each) a year. Father wants to hire an Educated person to take over & pay \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year. This Parish does not have this kind of money. As far as I know all the other Parishes in our area, have Coordinators that are Lay people like we do. We aren't Mankato, Rochester, Winona or the Cities, We are a small town in the rural area. Even though Father wouldn't let them in, they talked from the door. The Coordinator I talked to, has taught at least 7 years, Assistant Coordinator, 1 year, and Coordinator, Preschool Thru the 5th grade for 3 years. The last three years, Father Gavin's Pilot Committee has told her that they^{he} no complaints, she was doing an excellent job & to keep up the good work. At this meeting, the only Education member that came, one of those years was on the Pilot Committee & had told her what an excellent job she does. At this meeting, he told her she wasn't qualified. This Education person has been on the Education Committee and ran again as soon as his term was up. He was education Chairman a couple of years before & wanted to be again, but Father did tell him to give some

RT000314

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one else a chance because he also h: of the Council for 4 or 5 years. All he knows is "Yes, Father" and he has been known to change sides in the middle of a sentence, if he thinks that's what Father Gavin wanted & is still doing the same thing. Also at the meeting, they just talked about numbers & this Coordinator told them the Church is not numbers, the Church is people. This Finance member then said, "This is a Business". Again she said the Church is not a Business, it is People. At a Education meeting about Father wanting a high paid Coordinator, one member said that this would cause lots of hurt feelings. Father said, "that's "Progress"". The Liturgy Committee heard Father say that our Religion Program is a "Joke". He doesn't even know what is going on. He's been down twice on Sunday Morning, just in & out. Last fall when Release classes started, the Coordinator is there every Tuesday, running stuff off in the office & he seen her many times. About 2½ months of classes, one day he wanted to know what she was doing there, and she told him she had classes for the 4th & 5th grades. He did come down for about 10 minutes to visit with the children. One day in January, he came down to the school on Tuesday, & wanted to know why all the doors were open & why all the lights & heat was on. She told him she had kids coming in a few minutes. This is how much he knows what's going on. At this meeting last week, one of the Trustees asked , if they had been informed about what is going on (about another Coordinator) & they said "No".

Father treats like dirt, he won't discuss anything with her. I myself was kind of against her, until the last couple of months, finding out all that she does, doing a good job trying to hold things together. The whole board seems to be ganging up on because no one will stand up to him, and having all these closed meetings behind their backs. I'm sure they are having lots of crying moments, we need her to understand the poor & the handicap.

This Coordinator is a Handicap, people think she's doing a tremendous job. She spent much of her young life in Rochester. Diabetic, who has had open heart surgery, on dialysis 1½ years before having a Kidney Transplant & is legally blind. She sees enough that she can do her job very well. They have 2 adopted black children. Teachers think she's doing a tremendous job & very well liked.

Father is now trying to destroy our Release time Religion classes, Father Deslauriers started years ago. Classes are on Tuesdays & Wednesdays. He wants it at night. First, we only have 4 class rooms. When they come from the school, you know you are going to have good attendance. If the Parents have to run at night, the attendance will be poor. Parents have enough other obligations than to run also for Religion Instructions and the extra money for gas to bring them each week. I'm sure this would be a disaster & our Religion Program would go right out the door. All these years, these kids, through the Public School release time, have made their First Communion, First Confession & Confirmations. For a number of years now, the High School quit the release time and just went to one night for 6 weeks night classes & sounds like attendance isn't the

best. Father Taylor seems to be in t have any discussions with Coordinators or Teachers, just Dictates. At Christmas time, had a Christmas party in January, him & I sat together. He couldn't believe all the Teachers we had. This was after Christmas (in Jan) with 4 months of Religion behind us and he didn't even know who the Teachers were. So how does he know about our Religion Program! Our Teachers are Volunteers and many have taught a number of years, they may not be back. I don't feel we need any changes at this time.

After Father Gavin was here awhile, he wanted a Youth Group started. They never could get any kids to come, if they did, only a few times. also took over the Youth Group the past 3 years, there were only 2 kids. She has built it up to right now 19 kids, 7 thru 10th grade. Now the ones leaving would like an older group, they don't want to stay with the 7 & 8th graders. So she wants to have one for the 7th & 8th graders & start another one for 9th grade & up. She has built up a lot of trust, these kids sometimes have called & talked to^{her} at 2 & 3:00 in the morning, because they had fights with their Parents. Some of these kids friends(Protestants) have even called & talked to her. So all she has done will be all gone also, because the Youth Group would be under the New Coordinator, Father wants. They will be back to square one again, trying to get the kids to come. Father doesn't seem to have any interest in these Youth.

Father doesn't want any open meetings so the Parish can give an opinion. When he came, the people seemed to accept him at first. He seems to be a dedicated Priest, but he dictates and won't listen to anyone. When they talk numbers & not people, when a Council member said Church is a Business & Father says it's "Progress", I feel this is not St. Leo's Parish anymore. When we talked to Father when he first came, he didn't even know if there were any By-laws, there were when I was on the Board.

That night after Mass, when we talked to him, he doesn't like the Janitor because he's too old. He does a good job, we need someone with a boiler license. Father said we couldn't afford hiring someone to take care of the Cemetery, mowing there & around the Church & all the inside work. Found out the Janitor only gets \$4.00 an hour. Some one else does the Cemetery work, he wants to combine the two jobs. He's convinced the Janitor to quit & he's hired a couple of kids to do the work, how long will that last?? What better place than the Church to hire the aged and handicap, as long as they do a good job & neither are getting very good pay, so they have a job. Says he can't afford to pay a Janitor, but yet he wants to hire a Coordinator for \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year!!! Doesn't make sense, does it?? I think he's picking on the handicap & the aged.

Bishop, there was an incident here last fall, after Father Taylor was here awhile. 2 rough looking men asked someone where St. Leo's Church was. To my knowledge, there was something going on in the Church, for some women (possibly Catholic Daughters). They had left their purses in the ushers room. These men had ramsacked through things & stole some of the purses. Both of these men were caught up at Marshall, burning the women's

purses & as I understand, they asked for money for. Why??? Shortly after that, some nasty words were found on the walls in the Concourse, and the symbol 666. Father told the women who were with him, not to tell anyone. I'm going to try & find out more about this. I have already contacted the Sheriff to check out the 2 men, that were here & also checking further where Father came from. I have lived here and gone to Church here all my life & have never heard of such a thing happening before.

I would like all the Council meetings stopped & have _____ take over the Council, until this mess is straightened out. She did a terrific job while working with Father Gavin and after his death. Everything went smoothly before & after Father Gavin's death. She did all the arrangements for the funeral.

We feel that you should know that

Yours truly,

P.S. According to the Bulletin, the Council meeting has been changed from Tuesday April 2nd at 7:00 TO Wednesday evening, April 3rd at 8:00.

RT000317

RECEIVED APR 12 1991

April 11, 1991

Dear Bishop Vlagay,
My name is . I have worked at
St. Leo's as for grades 6-12 for the last 3
years. At the last parish council meeting
on April 3, myself,
and were asked to re-apply for
our jobs. The Co-ordinator job was made into
a one person job? job was reduced to
4-5 hrs per week. We all felt upset by all
of this because we were not told before hand
what was going on. At 2 different staff meetings
we asked Fr. Taylor out-right, but he said
it was out of his hands. I believe he is the
one who wanted to make these changes and
because he never asked for our input, we
all felt hurt by the way it was handled.
I am not planning to re-apply for my
job- mainly because I don't care to work for
Fr. Taylor, but also because I don't feel
qualified to do the many things they added
on to the DKE's job description.
In talking with another priest from this

RT000318

area, he suggested that I write to you to let you know what's going on here.

I don't know what can be done, but I feel our church is in an upheaval right now because of this change and many others that Fr. has made since he came last Aug. We are still feeling the loss of Fr. Gavin and it has been very hard to adjust to such a different personality. My husband and I have always been very active in our church, but we are considering pulling back in some areas because of this problem.

Thank-you for your time.

P.S. I think a pastoral minister is very much needed for St. Leo's and St. Martin's. I hate to see that job reduced to 4-5 hours per week. There are many areas where Fr. needs the help - if he admits it or not is the question.

April 19, 1991

Bishop John G. Vlazny
55 W. Sanborn St.
Box 588
Winona, MN. 55987

Dear Bishop Vlazny:

I've heard you're a nice person & will listen to the people. Right now my Faith is very shaky, don't like myself very much for writing this letter. I never thought I would feel this way about a Priest. I'm wondering why the last two Priests have destroyed other Parishes and then sent here to S.W. Minn. across the State to Pipestone. We had relatives going to St. Edward's at Austin and know how Father Gavin broke them, they almost had to close the Church, they managed to hang on by selling the School. Really, the only troubles we had was the fact that he almost broke us. & there are repairs to be done. Now you sent us another one that's suppose to straighten out things here, but I've heard he made messes at Rochester & Madelia. People from Madelia don't even want to talk about him, Why??

Yes, we were in Financial trouble but otherwise we were getting along pretty good. Yes, we need Repairs and hopefully the money will come in, but when the people find out more about him, the pledges are going to mean nothing. The rest, we do not need. Doesn't he plan on doing anything?? He wants a "Sacristan", he can't even get ready for his own Masses?? I always thought doing these things were very private and sacred, no one was suppose to do these things and what ever other jobs goes under "Sacristan". Washing the robes probably would be okay. He wants someone else to train the Altar Boys, that should be his job. He wants a "Music Coordinator", all these years, we have gotten along just fine with Volunteers, he wants to pay them. The Organ players already get paid. He wants a "Parish Worker", I guess they take out Communion & visit the sick, he won't let do anything. He wants a "Religion Education Coordinator", which we already have 2. I have Volunteered 14 years of my life teaching Religion classes and I think we have a very good Religion Program. He talks of getting someone with a MASTER'S DEGREE, a small community like ours, does not need & we can not afford someone like this. Probably 90% or more Parishes in the Diocese have Religion Programs such as ours. At first he was talking \$20,000 to \$25,000, now he talking \$15,000 to \$18,000, which is \$9,000 to \$12,000 more than the 2 Coordinators we now have, they each get \$3,000. If he knew something about our Program, but He does not--He hasn't had any interest, what so ever. What kind of teachers does he want working under someone with a Master's Degree? They will be what we are now! We were in financial trouble, but before He's done, it's going to be a Heck of a lot worse than when he came. He's only going to be here a couple of years, so why do we have to change our ways. What happens when he leaves, why does he have to stir up so much trouble, for the short time he will be here?? He hung all

RT000320

these Job Descriptions up in the Conc ; for "Parish Secretary", she had to write her own, & also put in the bulletin.No one has been told they don't have a job for the next year, but don't that kind of sound like people are losing their jobs???? Then it sounds like there isn't a way you can apply for the job. I was told by someone on the Woodstock Council that ~~He knows~~, Father knows who he's getting ~~and~~ for REC or DRE He's bringing in someone from another town. WHY do we have to bring someone in from some place else?? THIS IS OUR PARISH, THIS IS OUR MONEY HE IS SPENDING!!! He's not spending any more of ours!

Is the Church "An Equal Opportunity Employer"?? You hear this on TV all the time & "Hire the Handicap". I think what we have here is called "Discrimination". When

wanted to apply for the Coordinator job 3 years ago, I tried to talk her out of it, I thought she couldn't handle it. She says, "I am not a Handicap & I can do anything I want to do". With an attitude like that, you argue no more. She does not want any sympathy, she wants to be like every one else. She has done one tremendous job as DRE and has even started some things that weren't being done before. She has gotten a Youth group going that no one else could do. She started with 2 kids and right now has 19, each year when they get out of 9th grade, they quit, so she's probably has had 30 kids or more totally over the 3 years. That is great for this Parish. Now the older ones that will be leaving want her to start an older group, so she was planning on having 7th & 8th graders as one group, & a new group with 9th grade & up. She has one ~~kid~~ kid now in 10th grade that has stayed even though he is older. So when you get a good thing going, You Don't Change Things, like Father Taylor wants to do. Her Faith in God is very strong. Where else will she find a job? All they have done is pay Doctor bills up until the last few years, after she got her Kidney Transplant, she's gotten along real good. They need the money. They filed Bankruptcy 2 years ago and got rid of \$35,000 medical bills and some other bills. They have an old car with almost 200,000 miles on it. Her husband drives about 30 miles to work each day, cleans snow off of sidewalk and mows lawns to make a little extra money. These Kids Need A Break!! Welfare doesn't consider what you actually pay out, they use the standard amount. They can't get this help because her husband makes \$18 too much--They can't get some other kind of help because he makes too much. They, most of the time can't even buy food, they have very few luxuries. They got a call the other day, NSP was going to turn off their Electricity. So can you see why we are pleading for your help for her job. Here is a Priest that has no respect for anyone or anything. Every one kicks them while their down!! I always thought of a Priest as being someone kind, good & sympathy for the poor. Priests are Prophets of God. Seems today that the Church & the Priests aren't any better than the Politicians, they also make sure they get their raises every year & cut the programs for the poor & the aged. Right now our Family hasn't much Faith because of what they are doing to our daughter and they don't even bat an eye. If they go through with letting our daughter go, we will give no more money to St. Leo's, we will go to Flandreau, S.D. for Church. May be this doesn't sound like a very Christian attitude, but what they are doing isn't

her husband works by her side for youth group with no pay. kids like in m. to?

very Christian ~~ever~~ ^{either}. My husband says: "No Mass here anymore with the Hate I feel". I feel the same way.

My husband came from a very old fashion, very Religious home. Here at St. Leo's, he has made his 1st Communion, 1st Confession, Confirmation, was an Altar Boy, is an Usher, and married in this Parish over 40 years ago. We started out with nothing, when we got married & worked hard to get what we have. The only times a Priest came to our place, was when we built the School. ^{He} came & didn't even get out of his car and accessed us \$600 for the School. We didn't even have running water & had an outhouse, but we borrowed \$600 & gave it to the Church & always gave weekly. We could have had water & a bathroom for that kind of money, back then. Then ^{he} came one time to bring ^{me} home after he was training him to be an Altar Boy. After Father Taylor came, one day I happened to be at the School getting material to get ready to start Religion classes, I met Father & he wanted to know where we lived. He said, (didn't ask) he was going to bring a big map out for me to put pins on for the people in our area. Well, he brought the map out & visited with us. We thought he was pretty nice. Well, he forgot the pins, so about 6 weeks went by before he brought the pins, I had stopped in one day, but he wasn't in. Again he visited with us. So where do you start and stop in your area? on the map, so I did the whole Pipestone County except Woodstock area--plus I had to find maps for Rock County, as there are Parishioners there & some in S.D. Moody County, so had to find maps for them, too, to make it complete. I went to a lot of work & spent many hours, but was glad to do it to help out. It was about 2 months before he came back to get it & again stayed & visited. 3 times this Priest was in our home, but a reason connected with it. When the Church went with the Church loan from the KC's to the Diocese, they needed more money, so they sold \$500 certificates and you could get your money back later. Well, we bought 2-\$500 certs (\$1,000). Again we did not have the money, but we borrowed it and donated it to the Church, we did not take ours back like the biggest share of the people did. For many years, when the Finance Committee would make up a chart on how many people gave so much money & had all the different brackets, we were always in the top 5% bracket, so we have been very good contributors. When Father Taylor came, we thought he seemed pretty nice, but figured out he just used us, pumping us for information & now how he's treating

I'm a convert. My brother married a minister's daughter, my younger brother, a few years after we were married, became a Methodist Minister. We get along fine, but do not talk about Religion. I think I have been a very good Catholic & have done much for the Church. I have been Circle Leader, General Chairman of CCW, lead Ecumenical group for World Day of Prayer, plus I have given 14 years of Volunteer as a Religion teacher. 13 yrs, 6th grade & 1 yr Kindergarten. One thing, if you did it for the Thanks, you would quit the 1st year--I do it for the children & the satisfaction I get out of it. If they let ^{me} go, my teaching quits. I love it dearly. I feel if you don't give 110% to teaching, you should not teach. I always got something going on besides the books I am given.

FILE

THE MOST REVEREND
BISHOP OF WINONA
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Office of the
Bishop

Phone: 507-263-2000
Fax: 507-263-2000

April 22, 1991

Dear

Earlier this month I received a letter from you about some concerns you raised with respect to the pastoral ministry and religious education of your parish.

In your letter you mentioned that you had spoken with another priest from the area who suggested that you write to me. The only priest from the area who has spoken to me about concerns raised at St. Leo's, apart from your own pastor, is the dean, Father Eugene Egan. If there is another priest involved, please encourage him to contact me.

I have spoken with Father Taylor about his work and leadership in sorting out the needs of religious education and pastoral ministry. Thus far, no final decision has been made, but I am satisfied that Father Taylor is pursuing a correct and legitimate process by involving the pastoral council and the finance council in his decision. He is clearly not making any judgments without hearing from a number of people.

It is the pastor's responsibility to determine the practical needs of the parish. Whenever a new pastor comes to a community, it is always my fervent prayer that people will support him and work with him. But I also know that whenever there is a change in leadership, there is also some change in "followship." I am sorry that you are not planning to work any longer in the parish program of religious education, but I certainly want you to know that I appreciate all that you have done in previous years in collaboration with Father Gavin. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000324

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

April 22, 1991

Dear

Earlier this month I received a letter from you concerning the pastoral leadership of St. Leo's Church in Pipestone. Naturally I would like to be able to send a copy of your letter to Father Taylor, your Pastor, but I believe that would not be prudent without your permission. But I did take the opportunity to discuss some of the issues raised in your letter with him.

Father Taylor is making every effort to make the important decisions about programs and personnel with care and considerable consultation. It is his responsibility to make those decisions and I am grateful that he is seeking the advice of the pastoral council and the finance council. But I know from experience that whenever changes are under consideration, it is practically impossible for all to agree.

It is my understanding that decisions about pastoral ministry and religious education are still in process. I am certainly grateful to you and your daughter for all the work that you have already done on behalf of the church of St. Leo. If any changes are made, I ask you most sincerely to cooperate with Father Taylor and the people of your parish. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000325

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

May 3, 1991

Dear

At this time I write simply to acknowledge your letter of April 19 and to assure you of my appreciation for the many ways in which you have served the parish community of Saint Leo in Pipestone for many years. Understandably, I am deeply troubled by many of the statements in your letter about Father Taylor. You do not describe the Father Taylor I have come to know over the past four years.

At any rate, I shall keep all your complaints in mind and promise to share your letter with the dean, Father Eugene Egan. coming
to visit me next week and I am sure I will hear more about the situation.

Please know that I am very sorry about the pain you are experiencing at this time of transition at Saint Leo's. I continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you and all the people of your parish so that the important work of Jesus might continue unimpaired by our human limitations. God bless you now and always.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

cc: Rev. Eugene E. Egan

RT000326

RECEIVED MAY 18 1991

May 16, 1991

Dear Bishop,

I am writing this letter as a follow up of our meeting on May 6, 1991.

After our meeting that day, I am convinced that Father Taylor is not telling you the truth. Contrary to what Father has told you about _____, she is not the problem, Father is. Father Taylor does not like _____ because she is honest, something Father knows very little about.

Father Taylor is not telling you the truth about my job. Everything was done in secret. Members of the board were told not to discuss it with anyone, not even their spouses. The job description has been posted on the bulletin board at the church, the job has been advertised in the bulletin, and in the local paper. I have also been told it is going to be advertised in the Courier. He has told members of the parish council that, "IT IS THE LAW" he has to do this. I have been told by two people that he does not. You and the Sheriff.

I checked with the Sheriff, and the F.B.I., they both said we have had no problems in this area before with the acult. He may or may not be involved, but a lot of people think it is strange that we had no problems in Pipestone til he came to town. Why was he so scared someone was going to kill him? Maybe he did know someone who had been killed, but that is no reason to think someone is going to kill him. Why? Is he running or hiding from something or someone? What or who is he hiding from?

I misspoke when I said I knew Father Taylor was homosexual. I do not know that he is homosexual, I do know of the accusations of his sexual behavior. When Father Taylor was asked the question, "Do you feel the accusations about your sexual behavior has interfered with your abilities to perform your duties as a priest?" He did not say, What accusations? or, What are you talking about?,

RT000327

or deny it in anyway, he just said no. Father Taylor can sue all he wants, YOU CAN'T GET BLOOD OUT OF A TURNIP." I guess I feel you know of these accusations or you would not know that he would sue. The man that was here this past year whom he said was his nephew, which was a lie. I was told he was the son of one of his old secretaries. Which makes me wonder, who was he really? Why did father have to lie? If he wants to talk about sueing, I think I have a pretty good case myself involving DISCRIMINTION. Father Taylor has talked to more than a few people about my disabilities.

In my opinion, Father Taylor does not belong in our parish, or in any parish. He has already destroyed our relationship with the other churches in town. He has nothing good to say about the woman pastor of the Presbyterian church. He chooses not to attend the ministerial association meetings. He does not visit the hospital. I know of one couple, the husband called Father, his wife was having surgery in the morning. Father said he would come over. He never did. Then when he was asked about it by the couple, he told THEM he knew nothing about it, and was never called.

Father Taylor is lieing to you as well as everyone else. He tells what ever story suits him at the time. He is driving people away faster than I can count. One gal went to a protestant church to get married, because, it was Father Taylors wedding, not hers. How many people does he have to chase away before you do something. Do all our parishaners have to find a different church and ours be empty? He'd probably still tell you the numbers were up. I know for a fact that people are going to church in Lake Benton, Lake Wilson, Jasper, Luverne, and Flandreau, S.D. People have told me they are not going to send their childeren to the religion program next year. They will either find another parish to get their religious education from or teach them at home. I also know of a family that is having a baby this summer that does not want Father Taylor to Baptize their baby.

Father Taylor says the parish is a business and it's about numbers. What about the people? Don't they count anymore? You have no business or numbers without the people. I am concerened with the adults, teens and childeren of this parish.

I am especially concerned about the children and the teens. They are our future church, turn them off now (which many of them are already) and there will be no future church. For some reason lately, Father has been celebrating mass with only one altar boy. WHY? It's not because we have a shortage. I have tried all year to get him to train the fourth grade boys to be altar boys. He will not. He wants someone else to do it.

You told me that I do not describe the Father Taylor that you have known for the past four years. I do describe a man that myself as well as many other people have met and dealt with. Many people have told me they would rather have a full time Nun, and a visiting priest on the week-ends than to have Father Taylor. PLEASE BISHOP, PLEASE. I guess God describes Father Taylor better than I do in these verses. Romans 1:24-32 and Mathew 7: 15.

"In Christ's Love"

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1991

Help Wanted

PARISH DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Coordinate K-12, adult education, RCIA, sacramental preparation, and youth group. **Qualifications:** Committed faith life, teaching degree preferred. Housing provided. Box 36, Pipestone, Minn. 56164. Ph. 825-3152. My16-27

What about the pre-school program - this says K-12

Why isn't the name St. Leo mentioned?

Where is this housing? And who is he hiring that he has to provide housing?

move the process one step further with the announcement that applications are open for a full time CCD Coordinator and a part time Custodian. This does not necessarily mean the filling of those exact positions; in our planning, we are in the job market; we may have to adjust the job description depending on the strength and weaknesses of the applicant. We consider these three positions, the CCD Coordinator, Music Coordinator and Custodian as pivotal positions; as we fill them we can then proceed with the whole budget process.

As many of you know, we take a head count each Saturday and Sunday. In August and September, we had an average attendance of 327; in March and April, of 633. There will be some slippage during the summer months but essentially the numbers indicate that we have more people, which means that our resources have to be shepherded even that more carefully. Our income is up dramatically for the nine months; our attendance is up; the task before the Council and Committees is how we can best, within the confines of our resources, serve your needs.

FIRST COMMUNION

Last Sunday, May 4th, thirty five children received First Communion at St. Leo Parish. They are as follows:

Welcome and congratulations to to all!

CUSTODIAL POSITION OPEN

St. Leo Parish is accepting applications for a part time custodial position for the parish plant. Please send resume/letter or personal visit to the rectory.

CCD COORDINATOR POSITION OPEN

St. Leo Parish is accepting applications for a full time CCD Coordinator, Kindergarten through 12th grade. Please send resume/letter or personal visit to the rectory.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers, whether biological or spiritual, to all women who have nurtured and inspired others, may God bless you!

LITURGICAL TEAMS FOR SAT./SUN., MAY 18/19, 1991

	<u>ST. LEO</u> <u>SATURDAY 7:30 P.M.</u>	<u>ST. MARTIN</u> <u>SUNDAY 9:15 A.M.</u>	<u>ST. LEO</u> <u>SUNDAY 10:45 A.M.</u>
Servers _____	_____	_____	_____
Commentator _____	_____	_____	_____
Lectors _____	_____	_____	_____
Gift Bearers _____	_____	_____	_____
Communion Ministers _____	_____	_____	_____
Organist _____	_____	_____	_____
Song Leader _____	_____	_____	_____
Ushers _____	_____	_____	_____
Nursery Attendants _____	_____	_____	_____

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

May 31, 1991

Dear

Thanks very much to you and your husband for coming to visit me about some of the concerns you were experiencing about life at St. Leo's. As I told you then, I repeat now, you will continue to have a very special place in my prayers.

Your letter of May 16 was a little disappointing since I realized that my counsel and advice has not been helpful to you. Father Taylor really needs your support and encouragement, but I recognize that you are unable to help him at this time. I am very sorry about that.

Perhaps you made some mistake in the mailing of your correspondence to me, but I did not receive the original copy of your letter. Perhaps you kept it or someone else has it. At any rate, I wanted you to know. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000334

RECEIVED

May 31, 1991

Bishop John G. Vlazny
55 W. Sanborn St.
Box 588
Winona, MN. 55987

Dear Bishop Vlazny:

It's really sad, Father nor St. Leo's Council, gave a Farewell Party. We have a small Prayer group in the Church, these are the People that gave her a Farewell Party. It was in the Bulletin, 2 weeks, but how many people even read the Bulletin. Father wouldn't even announce it over the Altar. He never showed up at the Party (but I'm sure everyone was glad he didn't) and only 2 Council Members came. It's really a shame all the work this has done for this Parish and the treatment she has received. There was only a small group, but these were People that appreciated her.

We ran into some friends the other day and they mentioned that they hadn't been going to St. Leo's lately. They have been going to Jasper (Father Eagen can verify this) and they said there was a number of others from St. Leo's there, too. They said they were not going back to St. Leo's or donate anymore money until Father Taylor is OUT of here. We didn't miss him because We've been going over to Flandreau, S.D. quite a bit. Over there, we have seen one of the husband's of a Council Member. I was up to Usher this month, so I decided I would do this, so I could see the Count. Father Taylor told me that it was the Bishop's orders to count each week, because if the count was down, the Bishop would go to one Mass. He told me to up the Count a little bit, to stay ahead of the Bishop. This Man lies to us Parishioners and He lies to You. I don't think he even knows what the Truth is. Take this Man back to Winona as an Assistant to Something, he should not be in charge of anything. He seems to be a First Class Liar. He is a False Prophet. We need a Sister to help out, until this Mess is straightened out.

It's really a shame, is treated the way she is. I think a lot of People owe her an apology. The biggest share of the Council are nothing but Brown Nosers. There are a few that don't like whats going on but they are out numbered and everyone is Scared of Him. No one should have to be Scared of a Priest. You can't call him a Priest.

Like we told you before--He has ruined our Relationship with the Protestant Churches, which they were finally accepting the Catholics. I think we owe a lot of credit for that to Father Gavin and don't like him either.

Woodstock, no longer wants him there.

I know of one lady, that wants to join the Church, but will not, while Father is here. A family is going to have a baby later on, but says they won't have Father

RT000332

Baptize their Baby. A Mother says she is going to teach her children Religion at home until he is gone. One young girl cancelled her Wedding in the Church and went to a Protestant Church, because it wasn't her Wedding, it was Father Taylor's Wedding. I have heard this about some other Weddings, also. I have heard, the elderly shut-ins women are very upset that _____ will no longer be coming to visit them. Who will be doing it? It does not mean as much to have a Lay Person, as it does to have _____ or a Priest come. I have experienced this myself, while in the Hospital.

A highly Religious person, coming from _____ Farewell Party, made the remark to me, that no one can keep Lying like he is doing and continue getting away with it, he will eventually get caught. I think he is a very sick man and he needs some kind of help. He still continues to have Secret Meetings, we as Parishioners, have a right to know what is going on. According to St. Leo's Constitution, all meetings are suppose to be published in the Bulletin a week in advance and open to the Public.

I understand _____ hasn't as yet signed her New Contract, where she is going. I think you owe her an apology for the treatment she has received and the lies about her. The 3 times Father came out to visit us, he was brain washing us about her and we were believing him, until we found out different.

I am 65 years old and have been in this Parish _____ and I have never seen anything like this Man in my Life. I have had several others tell Me the same thing. I _____ never thought it could ever happen in St. Leo's. I couldn't sleep thinking about him and I got up at 3:30 AM and starting making notes as to what I wanted to say in this letter.

I do not want this letter sent to him or inform him on this situation. I kind of think he thinks I'm working with him. How can he be so stupid with the way he is treating

Sincerely,

RT000333

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE COPY

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

June 3, 1991

Dear

Thanks very much for the kind words of support which you sent me on behalf of who is leaving St. Leo's and St. Martin's this month. We are grateful to her for her assistance to Father Gavin during the last year of his life and also for the help she gave both parishes during the time of transition between pastors.

Change is always hard on everyone. I can see all of this has been very hard on you. I promise to keep you and your family in my prayers.

Please continue to pray for and with Father Taylor, your pastor. He is a good man and wants to serve you as best he can. I promise to keep all of you in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jmh

RT000335

RECEIVED JUN 15 1991

June 13, 1991

Dear Bishop Vlazny,

I am writing to share my thoughts and insights as I leave serving in the Winona Diocese. I am grateful for all the help & support you have given me through Fr. Gavin's death and in the following months. You listened well and I followed through on your suggestions, especially regarding Fr. Taylor. However, after the meeting in February between Fr. Egan, myself and Fr. Taylor, I could see Fr. Taylor was not open to working with me as a team person. I know Fr. Egan reported the results of that meeting to you, however, I would like to add some of my insights too.

Two things in particular bothered me from that conference:

1. Fr. Taylor does not think the accusation of sexual misconduct has affected his ministry. I feel it has, because:
 - a. Father seems to have a very low level of trust in people; not just me, but many people. For example: he wanted to be at every catechist planning meeting, when I was He
also made the comment that he came to Woodstock's Community Vacation Bible School each day to see if any religion was being taught. This indicates to me a great need to control. From my experience, usually people who need to have so much control of external matters have something internally in their personal life that they have difficulty controlling.
 - b. Father seems to have a difficult time talking directly to the appropriate person regarding a problem. For example: last Fall, Father shifted the day of conducting Communion services at the Nursing Home in Pipestone from Wednesdays to Thursday (the day I usually worked in Woodstock). I said I was willing to change my work days at Pipestone. Father said at the time that he thought it best to do ministry to the elderly all on Thursday in Pipestone & he would do it. At the Feb. conference meeting, I brought

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this item up in the context of Father eliminating tasks for me at Pipestone. At this time, Father shared that he did that shift on purpose in the Fall, because there had been a complaint about me at . He also said he had received 10 letters of complaints about me. I asked if he would share those with me & he didn't think it was necessary. Another example of this is how he talks to parishioners about staff members. Two parishioners told me that Father came to visit them and then started to ask what they thought about me & other staff people.

Another incidence was that Father stayed away from Council meetings for 3 months after a heated discussion at the Dec. meeting. He will say he had a legitimate excuse each time. The worst example, I think, is the secret meeting of the Education Committee of St. Leo's on Superbowl Sunday at the rectory. The people were even told not to tell their spouses. One person, in conscience couldn't keep that promise. We, the rightful staff members for that committee were not included.

2. Father's apparent lack of honesty with himself and others. For example: his failure to admit he gets tired. I don't know if he is trying to prove he is a super priest or what. At first I thought it was to reassure me & the people that he is well and not to fear that the same thing would happen to him as did to Fr. Gavin. However, there seems to be a pattern of go,go, go without much time for reflection. "I never get tired" was his comment when I pointed out how tired he is sometimes when he comes for the weekday Liturgy at Woodstock. I have seen him napping myself a couple times. I can understand that he gets tired. We all get tired sometimes, but why does he deny it? I don't think he means to lie or tell only part of the truth, but in his mind, he has not wanted to say something and there-

fore he didn't say it. An example of this was before Christmas when Fr. said "I talked to _____ & she said she can play "O Come All Ye Faithful" or "Joy to the World" for the last song, _____ helped pick those songs." I said, "No, she didn't. You & _____ decided on them. You said _____ could play "O Come All Ye Faithful" or "Joy to the World". Father said, "I did not say "Joy to the World".

A more recent incident happened in May when Father came late for a Parish Council meeting at Woodstock. He told me he stopped to see a lady who had just lost her mother. So I took it for granted that he had consoled her. The next day I had to call this same lady for something & mentioned that Father said he had seen her the night before. She said, "I wasn't home." So, please Bishop, if you haven't learned it already, listen with a third ear whenever Father tells you anything. It is a definite pattern in his life.

Another pattern I notice is that after we have a difficult discussion, Father does make an effort to include me more. Ex: last Nov. and again in Feb. However, it doesn't last, because I don't see him having an attitude change. I don't see him looking upon us as co-workers. At the Feb. conference, I asked for regular staff meetings and time for briefings on Tues. & Fridays A.M. when I went into Pipestone to work. Father agreed we could do that. I had to initiate every staff meeting even when it was Father's turn to chair it. Many a time, Father was gone on a Tues. or Fri. morning when I came in. Obviously, the briefings were important to me, but not to Father.

At first glance, our whole situation may look like a personality clash between Father and me. However, he also has difficulty with others, i.e. musicians for weekend liturgies, because he does not inform them of changes in the music until 5 - 10 minutes before the liturgy and the woman who worked on banners for St. Martin's. Father gives her very little time to make them & insists they be the way he wants it. If she were included in the planning meeting, I think she would have a better understanding of what Father wants.

I feel very badly about leaving Father and I have very rich backgrounds. It is too bad we couldn't work together. The people of both places impressed me with their openness to change, but they don't like it shoved down their throats. Father has alienated so many people from himself at both parishes that the only way he will get things accomplished now is by dictating them. That is not at all necessary. There were only a few things that needed immediate change (repair project at St. Leo's, some liturgical reforms and Rite III Communal Penance). The rest could have been done more slowly & there would not have been this upheaval in the parishes. I told Father this last Fall. The comment was made to me by one of Father's former parishioners that Father's technique is "divide and conquer". That's not my idea of Jesus' command to serve others.

Father also says of himself "They call me the white tornado". A tornado leaves a lot of destruction in its path. My recommendation is that since Fr. Taylor can go no farther west in the diocese, you recycle him back to Winona where you can meet with him on a more regular basis, truly get to know him & insist he go for counseling as a regular routine to work out his personal problems which are affecting his ministry.

I do pray for Fr. Taylor everyday & the people he affects in a negative way. He is good with the sick & their families usually and fairly good when someone dies, but most of the time, his PR skills are so poor, that he is driving more people away from the parishes & even from the Catholic Church than he is bringing back. I would double check any statistics he gives you about how many people are attending weekend liturgies.

My prayers are also for you, Bishop, because I know how much you care for your priests & the people of the diocese of Winona. You have my permission to share all of the contents of this letter.

May the Spirit continue^{to} guide you in the mission of Jesus everyday.

Peace,

RECEIVED JUN 15 1991

Church of St. Martin

Woodstock, Minn. 56186

Dear Bishop,

I am also including a section of the application form for the position of Director of Religious Education. I know this is becoming common practice in some places. However, considering everything else, this is very curious to me. I don't know if the Education Committee thought it was necessary or if Father just included it.

RT000342

FILE COPY

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

June 24, 1991

Dear

You were missed at our June workshops, but I can readily understand your absence. I want to thank you for your work at _____ over the past two years. I am sorry that the transition from one pastor to another did not turn out to be a favorable one as far as you are concerned. Be assured of my appreciation and support as you move into new responsibilities.

I would appreciate an opportunity to talk with you about the two letters you wrote to me on June 13. Once again you touched upon some rather sensitive issues and I feel impelled to pursue them with you. Your observations certainly have taken on a new tone and direction since our conversations and correspondence last fall and winter. I would certainly like to approach the parents of the youngsters with whom you spoke.

Please call my office at your earliest convenience. If this letter arrives after your departure from _____ I am hopeful that it will be forwarded to you. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jmh

RT000343

RT

Bishop John G. Vlazny
 55 West Sanborn
 Winona, MN. 55987

Dear Bishop,

It's been quite some time since we wrote to you and the "Destruction" still goes on. Pretty soon we won't have anything left. You said we did not describe the Man you have come to know the past 4 years. How well do you know him?? How often do you see him?? You are his "Boss" and naturally he puts on his smile face, puts his best foot forward and tells you everything that he knows you want to hear, whether it's true or not. This Man does not know what the truth is. So many people have caught him in so many lies. A couple of weeks ago, he put out a financial & new budget statement and he stood up in front trying to explain it to us. He proceeded to tell us how he has "doubled" the attendance. Everyone was talking about it. One lady stopped us outside, (she never talks to us otherwise) and couldn't believe the lies he was telling. Any Dumb-bell can see the attendance isn't that great. How does he know he doubled the attendance, Father Gavin never kept count. Maybe at the beginning, he did get some people to come back, as he did visit a number of homes. But, so many of the regular that attended have left. A Trustee's husband hasn't been to Church here, since shortly after Father came, he goes out of town to Church. One of the Organ Players has also been going to the same Church, had their Baby baptized back home, where they came from. We ourselves have gone to Church there many times and another Church. We have one Family, that has been married, I would say, 15 to 17 years. The husband is a Convert, they are now going to the Lutheran Church, where he came from. We have talked to several other women who husbands are Converts and they are having a very hard time, trying to get them to go to Church. I could keep writing all day about things. These are some of the things we have heard about, how many more we haven't heard about.

How many people do we have to lose, before you do something. One girl wanted to get married, she could not pin Father down, so she could get things set, so she went her future husband's way and got married in a Protestant Church. Right now, our Niece, wants to get married next April. Father had all kinds of excuses, that the Farmers are in the field, first Communion, Graduations, he doesn't want to marry them during Lent, What's wrong with it??? married during Lent, will be 2 years in April and got married during Lent, so what's the problem?? When these kids pick out a Wedding Date, they have picked it out for a reason, they plan years about what kind of Wedding they want and he destroys it. The Mother is sick, because her Daughter is now getting married out of the Church.

The people that are coming to Church and giving money, either don't know what's going on, don't want to get involved or are doing it only to fulfill their weekly obligation. It really doesn't do us much good to go to Church, because we sit there

RT000179

with so much hate. We have talked ^{RT} have quit giving all together. The Church is dividing very quickly. We wonder where he thinks all this money is going to come from, all the Employees he's hiring for big bucks. This town is going down fast. 8 buildings now on Main Street are empty, they say 5 more businesses are to close soon. He hires for everything, but he still wants to run everything. The women have always handled the kitchen and all events, the men help with dinners we have. He's down there telling the women, at events, what coffee pots they can use and which ones they can't. He has his nose in everything. He wants to be sole "Chief". He wants all the Credit. He does everything right, does nothing wrong, say one thing and claims he didn't and blames everything on someone else. You were here during the week, some time back, and he put in the Bulletin, that You told him, to tell US, that you sent your most Valuable and Talented Priest YOU had-----TRUE????

We had a Military Funeral about a month ago, the Legion and VFW participate in it. When the Casket was to leave the Church, Father would not let them put the American Flag on the Casket. These Men fought for their Country. The Legion & VFW Men were very upset, as was the Family. They usually, at the Cemetery, take and fold the Flag and give it to the Family, but they didn't get to do it. The only thing they did, was the Gun Salute, but we never heard if it was with Father's approval or not. Is he Anti-American, too??????

We had ^{RT} pass away about 6 weeks ago. Father told the CCW Chairman to start planning for a Funeral on Thursday or Friday.---She didn't die until Saturday How heartless can he be!!! The Funeral Director warned the oldest Son about Father. The Son said, "I was going to warn you about Father." Then the Family had a hard time getting what they wanted for songs and readings. Finally, one of the 13 children told him, "This is our Mother and this is what we want." The singer sang "The Old Rugged Cross". Father said singing that song, it was a Protestant Funeral. Here is a Family, a few hours before, had just lost a Love One, a wife of 48½ years and a Mother and he treats them like that. (Does it for all the Funeral) Then some time after the Funeral, the husband went in to the Rectory to give some money, I think for Masses for his Wife. Father was standing there, so the husband gave the money to Father. Father threw the money on the desk, it slid across the desk and on the floor. What kind of a Man is this guy?? The husband just lost his wife--No Sympathy at all.

Our Fall Festival, as far as the extra activities, was a "Flop". The women on the different committees fighting among themselves. At Fair time, it was put in the Bulletin for 2 weeks ahead, that the Youth Group was going to work at the KC's food stand, "Support Your Youth". Hadn't even asked the kids. ^{RT} could never get anyone to say "Support Your Youth". When ^{RT} was done, the kids all quit. The KC head, also head of the Finance Committee, would not call ^{RT} for a list of names. His wife called another woman to call ^{RT} had no list, as far as she knew, they all quit. Then Father Taylor had the Secretary call ^{RT} and she still gave them nothing. She's not good enough for the job, she's not good enough for the information, either. ~~We were at the~~

We were at the Fair quite a bit and the [redacted] stand next to the KC's, was always full and people waiting. KC's stand had only a few when ever we were there. Our Father Taylor was there waiting on people and most the time, frying hamburgers with that damn cigar in his mouth. Who knows where the ashes landed and the slobber landed that runs down the cigar. A Protestant jumped [redacted] at work, about him and his cigar. I'm sure the Protestants were talking plenty about it. The Lutheran Youth run there stand and they have a sign up saying, the Church matches whatever profit they make to go towards their trip. [redacted] could never get any money for the Youth. The trip before Father Gavin died, he did give the Youth \$100 towards the gas for their [redacted] trip. Kids made every cent they used for their trips.

[redacted] was in the Hospital recently. Some of the problem was because of stress and the anxiety that she was put through, by Father and the Council. She was there 12 days, Father never came to see her. [redacted] may be legally blind, but she sees and uses senses so much more than other people. [redacted] couldn't make ends meet with her \$300 a month. Can you imagine the problem they have now?? They have drained us to the point that we can't help anymore. They have borrowed a large sum of money, that we don't know how they can pay back. This is the situation your Priest has put

in. But then, Father says "that's Progress". Thanks for Progress!!! He has no feelings what so ever for the Handicap and Poor. [redacted] has been in contact with the

[redacted] They had her take a College test. She got 98% very Superior Rating, and the person ahead of [redacted] says it looks like she already has a College Degree and should have been able to handle that job okay.

[redacted] is also a Volunteer for the Hotline out of Worthington. She attends Workshops for it and one of the Workshops was on Satanism.

Father doesn't like women, you can see that. When he came, he was going to get rid of any woman in his way. That is why he was so mean to [redacted] to get rid of her. The treatment of [redacted] Father and the Council could have sat down with the 2 Coordinators and talked to them and told them what he wanted for his Religious Education and asked if they could have handled it. NO, but instead the sneaky, cheap underhanded way it was handled. What she was doing was outstanding, people can't believe what he did to her. She had more compliments, she knew what she was doing and doing it well and he couldn't stand that. He wouldn't have anything to do with the Religion Program because it wasn't his Program. He told the Liturgy Committee our Religion Program was a "Joke". We told you this before. 2 or 3 months after classes started, he wanted to know what [redacted] was doing there all the time.

She told him she had classes in a little while. He came down for about 10 minutes and stopped at the 4 classes that were there. The only time he was there, [redacted] had Preschool thru 3rd on Sunday, which the Mass at Woodstock interfered, but the 4th and 5th was on Tuesday afternoon. In Jan, at the Christmas Party, Father sat with [redacted] and wanted to know who all these People were, he didn't know any of them. [redacted] told him they were all teachers, he couldn't believe it. That's how interested he was in our Religion Program--he knew nothing. Then about a month later he came down to the

School and wanted to know why all the doors were open and lights and furnace on. again told him she had kids coming in a few minutes. How can you condemn something you know nothing about! There was discipline problems in the older grades, which had, but when a Teacher asked for his help, he just yelled at her, "You should have come for me when it happened, but I'm not coming now". So she quit! He could have been down there when the kids came to let them there was some one in authority there, but No--not him! The Teachers volunteer their time for 8 months each year. When Gavin was here, the Council would not approve a Christmas Party for the Teachers. ^{Teacher} took \$135 out of her own pocket, that she didn't have, had a local business prepare the food and then some Mothers served it at the Church Hall, to save money. Some Churches take their Teachers out to a Resturant. No one cares! Now they are so willing to go along with Father on anything or they don't have any say about it.

They were having all their Secret Meetings about _____ and the 2 Coordinators, so sneaky and underhanded. So when we went to the Council Meeting to help _____ several said, "Nobodies saying you don't have a job". If they had their jobs, then why were they putting out Job Descriptions and Job Applications. The Applications were the ones for Teachers for full time Schools. Your Secretary, _____ and _____ all said, there was no Diocese Application for Director of Religious. Ed talked to all 3 people. It had the Diocese sign on the top, and 4 or 5 questions on Sexual Harassment and other questions. Maybe he made it up and just put the Diocese on it. Father said he wanted someone with a Degree. _____ said, "What about experience?" Father said, "Someone with a Degree and Experience". _____ were never formally informed, that they didn't have a job, they were never told WHY they didn't have a job. As yet, there has been No reason why they don't have a job. _____ has been a member of this Church all her life and the treatment she received, no conscience what so ever! The Council has a number of members that are quite new to the Parish. Some are only here 1 or 2 years and then want to run our Parish. _____, that grew up and played ball with our kids. He's the one who said she wasn't qualified, at that one Secret Meeting that _____ went to. Then at the Council Meeting he denied saying it, after he himself had told her the year before, that there were No Complaints, You're Doing an Excellent Job and Keep Up the Good Work. This has even ruined Friendship of many years with _____

We told you all about _____ problems in one of our letters and evidently you told Father Taylor. Maybe you were trying to help. Some of the things we wrote to you, were what he brought up when he came down to _____ Office, this Spring before Religion was done for last year. I think _____ told you when she came to see you, that Father cut her and her Disabilities down for about 2 hours. Then told her if she was the last Applicant or the only Applicant, he would never hire her. If she told anyone what he said, he would DENY it. Someone was out in the Hall and heard it.

Father and the Council have all these secret meetings and the meetings are suppose to be open to the Parishioners and he told the Council, "Not to tell anyone what goes

on at the meetings, not even their That is he pulling off here???? He
 is spending our Money, this is our Church--Like I said, there isn't that kind of money
 in this town.

We were suppose to have Elections for new Council Members in May. They couldn't find anyone to run. One person had gotten called that wasn't even Catholic, his Wife was, but not him. Whoever had called, said he was the 14th one he had called, how many did the others call?? Father told the Council it was a busy time, we'll try in the Fall. Never had that problem before!! Well, we had an Election a month ago. They couldn't get anyone to run for Trustee, there's suppose to be a new one every ~~one~~ year. Finally, got 2 to run for Finance and one of his Committee ran, so they had three. They got 2 for Liturgy and 2 for Education, but they said they wouldn't run unless there were 3, so it would look legal. They couldn't find another one for each, so they had us Vote for just ONE. Of all the people in this Church, they finally got 6 people to. ^{run} I had asked one woman if she was going to teach, and she said, "No, and I'm not running for Council either until this mess is straightened out". He has this Council so Brainwashed. They think that they are helping make decisions, but they are just going through the motions, because he always makes the final decision. mentioned this to one of the Council Members, when it came to the interview. (He called in for a interview, just to make it look good, so she couldn't say she didn't have a chance.) This Council Member said Father wouldn't do that, her time was too valuable to have him do that. But everyone will say, Father makes the Final Decision. He puts in the Bulletin, the Council decided this and the Council decided that (so they get the blame) and it's all cut and dried before the Council Meeting.

We talked to the 2 Trustees and they said that Father claims the Churches have educated people running their Religion Programs, they said the one at Luverne. said the one from Luverne has done it for about 15 years, but as far as she knows, she's just a housewife and also a Convert, as the one from Slayton and probably 90% of the Parishes in the Diocese. has been going for 4 years to the Workshops and she knows a lot of these people. There are a few Nuns or Sisters, but they are the ones in small Churches that have lost their regular Priest, like Woodstock. But, Father wants a Degree and Experience. Well, he advertised and looked all Summer for a Coordinator. I don't know why he advertised all over the State and part of South Dakota, like he did, well, we have people, too. He thought he had one earlier this Summer, a Monk from around Watertown, S.D.. He came down for an interview, he could see something was not right going on, and wanted no part of it. He turned it down, we heard from a very good source, a Priest, so the Monk told Father and the Council he could get lots more money someplace else.

So, finally, the last minute (Aug) he got an ex-Principal from the small town of Verdi, whose School is just down to the grades now, no High School. He wanted a Man to in here. He got an educated one, with a degree, but how much Religion experience has he had???? Father Taylor was having a woman call asking questions about this and that. They aren't good enough for the job, so they shouldn't be good

enough for the information, either. Father thinks he's an expert about everything. They've been having one heck of a time getting teachers. The Coordinator is teaching 9th, 7th, part of 6th and 5th grades, so far. 8th are at night the last couple of years because the teacher teaches in the Public School daytime. Where the grades were divided in 2 classes, sounds like some teachers have them all, now. They finally got a 3rd grade teacher. I have taught 14 years, but I'm sure Father told the new Coordinator not to call me, --Well--who cares, I'm teaching some place where I'm appreciated. Father called our Religion Program a "Joke"? The Coordinator teaches the 9th graders, talking to some of the 9th grade kids, they said there is no discipline at all. We have a Grandson in the 5th grade. The 1st week, Father had them sing "This Little Light of Mine" to Rap Music, and practiced for the Mass the kids were going to do. 2nd week, sang the song and practiced for Sunday's Mass. 3rd week, wrote the Our Father and sang songs. We asked our Grandson, "Don't you have any books?" He said No, they didn't have any books yet. --Real great!! These are the only classes We know about. Besides, they have one Sunday a month off--never had that before, just the regular Holidays and special Sundays.

As for the Youth Group, sounds like the Coordinator is going to get an extra \$3,000 for a once a month meeting---Boy, good wages, wouldn't you say?? This is over the \$13,000 for Coordinator for the children to come for about 50 minutes to 60 min. once a week. Plus \$1500 for Youth Expenses. These are the amounts that were on his Budget Statement. couldn't get anything for the kids, they made their own money with Pancake Breakfasts, Bake Sales, etc. started out with \$4 an hour, last year got up to \$4.75. She got 1,000 to 1300 a year for Youth Group. Her husband worked with her for nothing. He took 2 & 3 days of His vacation time to take these kids on their trips to the Cities. He took His vacation time to help with Crazy Days Food and Ornament Booth. He worked for all the Pancake Breakfasts and when they had rolls and Coffee. No one cared, No one was interested in knowing what they were doing. Father and the Council had no idea what these two did for these kids. Will be interesting to see what they have for Youth Group now! One of the Trustees has 2 girls seen going to a Baptist Youth Group and his Son was a very faithful member, he still came in the 10th grade, when most kids quit at 9th. His Son and one other boy, his Mother also on the Education Committee and a complainer, their boys were always calling to talk to about their problems. One Mother said last Fall that didn't have control. When the 7th graders start coming, they are wild. They had 6 talk sessions at their meetings and discussed problems they had and after a few months they were pretty good. These kids had Faith in and trusted her. Youth members would call her sometimes at 2:00 & 3:00 in the morning, if they had had a fight with their Parents and couldn't sleep. Even their Protestant friends called sometimes. They were Free to call at any time. One Education Board person said, "They can learn to Trust someone else". His Wife, also a Social Worker, tried for 2 years with a Youth Group and couldn't get any one but her in-laws to come. She didn't have the personality for the kids. This year the older kids wanted to start a group for 9th to

12th grades. I'm sure Father Taylor never cared about any of this because he never came and never knew what they did at their meetings. The Youth Group volunteered to help the Blood Bank, collected door to door for food for the Food Shelf, collected Winter Coats for the needy, Sold Flowers for the Right to Life and much more. None of this meant anything to Father or the Education Board. When you got kids taking part in Church activities, you better hold on to them. You won't get them back, not the kids now days.

The NET Team that comes for the Teenage Retreat, 12 put it on. We heard they had about 50, not to bad, they had 77 last year. Had there 1st Youth Ministries meeting. Heard they had only one of the older ones, but did get some of the new ones coming up this year.

Had a hard time to get anything in the Bulletin about Education or Youth Group announcements. Now Father, for about the last 1½ months has a whole to ½ sheet every week full of those announcements, trying to make it look like they really have something good going on. In the past, we've had 20-22 teachers, plus 6 to 8 young kids as Aids to help the Teachers. They claim they have plenty of Teachers, then why is the Coordinator teaching so many classes??? I heard the Computer Gal in the Office comes down to help.

Isn't it funny, that the Janitor, Father and the Council interviewed, was working about a month before the interview. He just happens to come from Butterfield, which isn't far from Madelia. We have our thoughts about that, too. Why did he have to go out so far to run ads, when there probably is someone in our own Church that could have used a job.

How have you allowed him to come to this Parish, when you know he has problems, endangering our Children. He made a mess at Rochester and Madelia, so you sent him way across the state figuring we wouldn't find out about him. He may have a good head when it comes to figures, but he spends money like water over a Falls. He is a very sick Man. We realize there is a shortage of Priest, but we're better off with a visiting Priests, then what we have. He's told us a couple of times, he's for every-one--He is only for himself and gets rid of anyone in his way. It's hard to understand how he is allowed to give Mass and hear Confessions.

Evidently he doesn't get along with the _____ they don't care for him at _____, don't care for him at the _____, has ruin our relations with the other Churches, have you any idea how long it will take to get all that back??

There's a few things we don't understand. We always thought that the Gloria and the Creed were very important parts of the Mass. We haven't been saying them since before Easter, Why??? When he's got that cigar in his mouth, he talks out of the side of his mouth. When he gives Sermons, he still talks that way, you can't understand him. Everyone complains. A few have mentioned it to him and he always got a smart answer, "well, you're sitting in the wrong place, sit in front". One lady told me, You can't understand him there either.

RTHe can't get people to help ~~any more~~ any more. One Sat night, he had no Alter boys, sometimes one, sometimes more--different times, no Lectors, so he does all the readings himself, not very often a song leader shows up. A number of times lately, he has to beg for Communion Distributors. This one night, there were 2 Council members sitting in front of us, that are also Communion Distributors, that never moved to go up. Finally, some other people went up.

How much more destruction and how many people do we have to lose before you move him? He should not have a Parish, should be under someone. We need a good Priest to get us back together and we think we should start with a whole New Council. We are suppose to have a new Chairperson each year, according to the Church Constitution. Elect a new Vice-Chairperson each year and the next year moves up to Chairperson. The one on now, on his 5th year and he changes sides in the middle of a sentence, if he thinks that's what the Priest wants. He thinks he's real important!

I don't know why anyone would want to work for the Catholic Church, when your Job isn't any more secure than that. Other jobs, you can spend your whole life working but not here. No Security, at all and NO Unemployment!

has given a name of a Lawyer, out of Minneapolis, that handles Discrimination, as of yet, she has not contacted him, But-----

I'm sure we haven't heard near the things that have been going on. I wish People with a complaint would write to you. There's more we could tell you, but the Letter has to end sometime, as does the Destruction he has caused.

In Christ's Love,

SATANISM:

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE

Robert J. Barry

Satanism is on the rise in America. Hardly a day passes without reports of violent acts conducted by Satanists. Across the country law enforcement organizations are receiving reports of homicide, mayhem, assault, suicide, child abuse and animal mutilations that are linked with the satanic occult. Investigators may find it difficult to believe the strange and bizarre tales of criminal acts being committed by persons wearing priestly robes and adorned with symbols of the devil.

Law enforcement authorities have the responsibility to meet the challenge of the Satanist with education, knowledge, understanding, cooperation and appropriate resources at all governmental levels.

Only through knowledge and understanding of the organization, beliefs, rituals and practices of various occult groups, will investigators be able to successfully prosecute persons engaged in Satanistic Criminal behavior. Appropriate communication regarding satanistic activities must be shared between law enforcement agencies throughout the country. There must be a renewed awareness of satanic overtones in certain crimes.

The Beliefs of Satanism

Satanism, also referred to as black magic, has existed since the dawn of Christianity. According to the Bible, God is the father of all, including both Christ and Lucifer (the Devil). There was conflict in heaven between the forces of Christ and Lucifer, and the Lucifer forces lost and were "cast out into the earth" (Revelations 12:7-9 (2)).

Thus, people have long realized the struggle between the righteousness of God and the forces of evil in the devil. This same struggle is recognized by the Satanist, who is committed with religious fervor to winning that battle.

The Satanist believes Lucifer rules the earth, and when the end of the world comes, the forces of Lucifer will overpower the forces of God and Christ and rule in heaven. Therefore, the Satanist pledges allegiance to the devil, not only for his assistance in this world, but in the world to come.

During the early 1900s, the leading advocate of Satanism was Aleister Crowley. Crowley, born in 1875 in England, was raised a Christian and graduated from Cambridge University.¹ Eventually, he became obsessed with ancient occult beliefs. His writings in this area have probably popularized Satanism and devil worship more than any other source.²

In 1898, Crowley joined an occult organization called "The Order of the Golden Dawn" and quickly rose to a position of authority within that group. He later entered the Ordo Templi Orientis (OTO), a satanic ritual group founded by Earl Keller in 1900. Crowley organized a chapter of the OTO in Los Angeles, California, in approximately 1905.³

Crowley published his *Book of Law* in 1904, in which "do what thou wilt shall be the whole law was advocated." It was from this philosophy that Crowley developed his ritual black magic which advocated violation of every moral code known to civilized men. In a later book, *Magic(k) in Theory and Practice*, he wrote, "for nearly all purposes human sacri-

fice is the best, and a male child of perfect innocence and high intelligence is the most satisfactory and suitable victim."⁴

Crowley called himself "the beast" and "the wickedest man in the world." In 1909, his book, *The Equinox*, became the bible for the OTO.

In his later years, Crowley spent some time in an insane asylum and was reportedly a heroin addict. He died in a cheap rooming house in Hastings, England in 1947. While Crowley is gone, his philosophies and literature live on.

Authorities believe Anton La Vey, also known as the "Black Pope," is probably the best known modern proponent of Satanism. Born in 1930, he ran off to join a carnival as a magician's assistant after dropping out of high school. He was a con artist and used his theatrical showmanship to found The Church of Satan in April 1966 in San Francisco, California. The Church of Satan was the first legally recognized, tax-exempt, church of its kind.

In 1969, La Vey published *The Satanic Bible*, which outsells the *Bible* in many bookstores.⁵ In his book, La Vey wrote, "We hold Satan as a symbolic, personal savior, who takes care of mundane, fleshy, carnal things. Satanism encourages any form of sexual expression you may desire, so long as it hurts no one else."⁶ La Vey later states, "Satanism does not advocate rape, child molesting (and) sexual defilement of animals. . ."⁷

It seems contradictory for a group to encourage all forms of sexual expression, and at the same time place parameters on that activity. It is

difficult to encourage indulgence and vengeance and not to expect debauchery, mayhem and other criminal acts.

On human sacrifice, La Vey said that, in general, a Satanist should not sacrifice a human being unless, "it were to serve a two-fold purpose; that being to release the magician's wrath in the throwing of a curse, and immortality."

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...ing of several hundred persons. The membership seems obsessed with the military and the Nazi movement in particular.

Numerous smaller splinter groups have also developed; however, they seem to lack the sophistication and leadership of the larger, more formal organizations. Although these splinter groups may follow the basic satanist teachings and practices, they tend to interpret some of these to meet their individual needs. These small groups are the ones that come to the attention of law enforcement, since it is within

Satanic Cults Organized in the United States¹⁰

- Church of All Worlds
- Temple of Truth
- Shrine of Sothis
- Nemeton
- Order of Thelema
- Process Church of the Final
- Order of the Circle
- The Chingons
- The Four P Movement
- Brotherhood of the Ram
- Ordo Templi Orientis (OTO)
- The Satan Senate

their mem
ill, criminal psychopathic personality
is found.

Most black magic occult groups have certain practices and rituals that are common to all. They are usually organized into "covens," consisting of 9 or 13 members. Authorities have estimated there were approximately 1000 covens in the country in 1946, 2000 by 1976, and 135,000 by 1985.¹²

A new coven member must make a strong lifetime commitment to the group, which includes a strict vow of secrecy, not unlike the La Cosa Nostra (LCN). Members are not allowed to disassociate themselves from the group after having been exposed to their various criminal activities. A member breaking the code of secrecy places his life and the lives of his family in serious jeopardy.

This characteristic and behavior chart and they feel that he qualifies for all but don't know about animal abuse. But he does meet with women with dumb animals

The Criminal Psychopath or Sociopath¹¹

CHARACTERISTICS

Ability to experience guilt or remorse.

Inability to form lasting relationships.

Inclination to seek high levels of stimulation and excitement.

Impulsiveness.

Lack of conscience.

Aggressive and dangerous behavior.

Superficial charm and intelligence.

Unreliability and irresponsibility.

Pathological lying.

Anti-social behavior.

Egocentricity.

Lack of values.

Brutality toward dumb animals.

Lack of insight.

Casual and excessive sexual behavior.

A need to fail.

BEHAVIOR

Experiences no guilt or remorse for violent criminal acts, although he or she can express sorrow and other emotions.

Treats persons as if they are inanimate objects.

Behaves bizarrely and grotesquely as a rule, rather than an exception.

Childlike—cannot defer immediate pleasures for long range goals—lives in the present.

Fails to develop a conscience due to lack of appropriate role models.

Reacts to frustration with violent fury.

Plays role of a "confidence man."

Has short periods of responsibility coupled with irresponsibility.

Plays many roles—doctor, lawyer, soldier, Satan—according to his whims and often confuses these roles.

Impulsively commits violent acts "just for the hell of it."

Behaves parasitically because of an insatiable need to be believed, served and supported.

Fails to develop contemporary societal value system.

Tortures and kills animals.

Has little appreciation of his impact on others.

Has a casual attitude toward sex and sexual contacts. Some sex acts may be outlandish and bizarre.

Has no life plan, except perhaps the need to make a failure of himself, a born loser.

The reasons for joining the coven are as varied as the characteristics of the members themselves. The members come from all walks of life, all ethnic groups, and all social and economic levels. Some join for reasons of personal gratification from the sadistic, anti-social or sexual behavior; while others may possibly find the religious aspect meets their needs.

All members pay strict obedience to the high priest, or priestess, who has complete control over all members. The group leader uses fear, paranoia, intimidation, socialization, de-personalization, drugs, alcohol and a rewards system to maintain control over members of the coven. Child members are secretive about their involvement due to the vow of secrecy, fear and the threat of retaliation against themselves or their families. Coven members try to remain anonymous and unknown to law enforcement organizations. They believe their evil criminal acts will not be rewarded by Satan if they are identified and prosecuted by authorities.

Coven rituals are usually individualistic in nature, but certain symbols and instruments are very basic. During a ritual, a pentagram (a five-pointed star enclosed within a circle), usually nine feet in diameter, is drawn on the ground or floor. The relative position of star points and the altar determines the type of ritual or magic performed.

Devices used during a ritual usually include red or black robes, hoods or masks, hats or helmets, music or chanting, black or white candles and holders, a dagger or double edged short-sword, chalices, a cauldron for fire, an altar for the high priest and various trappings bearing satanistic symbols.

Several occultist rituals call for animal or human sacrifice. Satanists believe that a quantity of stored energy is released to those nearby when a warm-blooded animal or human is killed. These sacrifices will usually be performed inside the sign of a pentagram, or triangle, which has been drawn on the floor or ground. This drawing forms a "cone of power" which focuses escaping energy on participants. Many rituals have violent

sexual overtones. Criminal acts committed by investigators as a result of these satanic coven rituals.¹³

The Heavy Metal Music Phenomenon

One major contemporary movement exploiting Satanism is the music industry and its punk rock and "heavy metal" productions. The messages carried in this type of music include self mutilation; assault; mayhem; suicide; drugs; murder; sex; anti-establishment and anti-social rebellion against society, parents, education,

law and order. The music attempts to promote the ideals of absolute freedom, irresponsibility and violence.

In heavy metal, these ideals also encompass the use of satanic symbols. Some heavy metal record album covers are decorated with satanic violent themes.¹⁴

Some people believe this music is only a fad. That may be true for some, but for others it may lead to a way of life that drastically changes their basic ethics and value systems.

Some groups have organized to fight this heavy metal rock use of violence, sex, drugs, and Satanism for its

SIGNS OF SATAN			
AC/DC	ANTI-CHRIST DEVIL CHILD		PENTAGRAM WHITE MAGIC
ZOSO	THREE HEADED DOG CHARLES GATTI TO HELL		PENTAGRAM UPSIDE DOWN STAR SIGN OF OCCULT
S	SATAN/STONEH		HEXAGRAM CIRCLE
MARKOŞ	AURACADABRA		INFINITY- CONTAINMENT CONTROL OF EVIL POWER
FFF	ANTI-CHRIST		ANK
666	ANTI-CHRIST		OCULT NUMBERS
006	ANTI-CHRIST		HORN AND TAIL ADDED TO ANY LETTER
NATAS	SATAN REVERSED		LIGHTNING BOLT HEAVEN TO HELL STRUMENT
6,9,13,XIII	OCULT NUMBERS		SWASTIKA
	ANTI-CHRIST		ANTI-CHRIST CROSS OF CONFESSION
			MUSLIM-AKUMING STAR

major theme. One group proposes a warning label on records to inform consumers of their lyrical content. There is also a movement to have the lyrics printed on the covers of albums. These proposals have met with strong opposition from music industry and civil libertarians concerned with censorship, the stifling of creative art and freedom of speech.

Conclusion

Law enforcement managers realize this renewed interest in Satanism and the occult is a serious national problem. Authorities must meet the challenge by assuring these crimes are detected, reported and prosecuted for what they are: satanic related.

This challenge is best addressed by a multi-faceted approach:

- An increased awareness of the satanic trend by all law enforcement personnel.
- Maintenance of special records on satanic type crimes.
- Dissemination of information to appropriate organizations.
- Cooperative intelligence gathering apparatus.
- County or state task forces to co-

ordinate investigation of satanic related

- State and federal computer utilization for satanic related crimes.
- Standardized report forms for Satanic related crimes.
- The development of reliable sources of information and possible informants.
- Allocation of adequate departmental resources.
- Generalized training at recruit and in-service levels.
- In-depth training for specialized investigators.
- Involvement of both community and private sector resources in combating this threat to the basic American value system.

This response should lead to successful prosecution of persons performing satanic cult criminal acts and have important deterrent effects on persons engaged in other satanic activities. In addition, this effort should add to the strong existing paranoia of detection and prosecution present among most satanic cult members.

This challenge of Satanism will be met by progressive and innovative law enforcement administrators.

Through education, training, planning and mutual cooperation, this threat to our society will be contained. ☆

Endnotes

- ¹William J. Petersen, *Those Curious New Cults in the 1980's*, Keats, New Canaan, Conn. 1982, p. 87.
- ²Daniel Logan, *America Bewitched*, Morrow, New York, 1973, pp. 13-14.
- ³Ibid, pp. 64-65.
- ⁴Alister Crowley, *Magic(k) in Theory and Practice*, Castle, New York, date unknown, pp. 95-96.
- ⁵Petersen, p. 89.
- ⁶Ibid, pp. 89-90.
- ⁷Anton Szandor La Vey, *The Satanic Bible*, Avon, New York, 1969, pp. 69-70.
- ⁸Ibid, pp. 88-89.
- ⁹Ibid, Introduction.
- ¹⁰Ronald Noblet, Gang Consultant, Lecture at Center for the Administration of Justice, University of Southern California, February 21, 1986.
- ¹¹John Stratton, Director Psychological Services, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Interview on February 10, 1986.
- ¹²Darlyne Pettinicchio, Gang Consultant, Lecture at Center for the Administration of Justice, University of Southern California, January 23, 1985.
- ¹³Noblet.
- ¹⁴Bob Barker, "Satanism Overtones and Other Slayings," *Los Angeles Times*, September 2, 1985.

SATANIC RITUAL CALENDAR

DATE	CELEBRATION	TYPE	USAGE	AGE
Jan. 7	St. Winebold Day	Blood	Animal or Human Sacrifice (disembowelment)	15-17 (male, if human)
Jan. 17	Satanic Revels	Sexual	Oral, Anal, Vaginal	7-17 (female)
Feb. 2	*Satanic Revels	Sexual	Oral, Anal, Vaginal	7-17 (female)
Feb. 25	St. Walpurga Day	Blood	Communion of blood and disembowelment	Animal
Mar. 1	St. Elizabeth	Blood	Drinking of human blood for strength and homage to the demons	Any age (male or female)
Mar. 20	**Feast Day (Spring Equinox)	Orgies	Oral, Anal, Vaginal	Any age (male or female human or animal)
*Apr. 21-26	Preparation for the sacrifice			
Apr. 26-May 1	*Grand Climax	De Mew	Corpus De Bani	1-15 (female)
June 21	**Feast Day (Summer Solstice)	Orgies	Oral, Anal, Vaginal	Any age (male or female human or animal)
July 1	Demon Revels	Blood	Druids sexual association with demons	Any age (female)
Aug. 1	*Satanic Revels	Sexual	Oral, Anal, Vaginal	7-17 (female)
Sept. 7	Marriage to the Beast Satan	Sexual	Sacrifice, Disembowelment	Infants to 21 (female)
Sept. 20	Midnight Host	Blood	Disembowelment (hands placed)	Infants to 21 (female)
Sept. 22	**Feast Day (Fall Equinox)	Orgies	Oral, Anal, Vaginal	Any age (male or female human or animal)
Oct. 31	*All Hallow Eve	Blood	Sexual climax association with the demons	Any age (male or female)
Nov. 1	(Halloween)	Sexual	Oral, Anal, Vaginal	7-17 (female)
Nov. 4	Satanic Revels	Sexual	Oral, Anal, Vaginal	Any age (male or female human or animal)
Dec. 22	**Feast Day	Orgies	High Grand Climax	Any age (male or female)
Dec. 24	Demon Revels	De Mew	High Grand Climax	Any age (male or female)

* signifies most important holidays

** signifies holidays of lesser significance

RT

To _____
Date _____ Time _____ AM
 PM

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

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of _____
Phone _____
Area Code _____ Number _____ Extension _____

TELEPHONED	<input type="checkbox"/>	PLEASE CALL	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALLED TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message _____

Operator _____



reorder 23-700

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RECYCLED PAPER

RT000191

Please complete all of the following:

Have you ever been the subject of allegations of physical or sexual abuse?

_____ Yes _____ No

Have you ever been charged with, accused of, or convicted of child abuse or sexual abuse?

_____ Yes _____ No

Have you ever been dismissed from any position because of immoral conduct, unprofessional conduct, unfitness for service, unsatisfactory service or child abuse?

_____ Yes _____ No

Have you ever been charged or convicted of any felony or misdemeanor (other than minor traffic offenses)?

_____ Yes _____ No

Have you failed or refused to fulfill a contract of employment entered into with any school system?

_____ Yes _____ No

(If the answer to any of the above questions is "Yes," a full explanation must be given and attached to this application.)

We use the sabbler Books This was the Teachers section for last week's lesson for Kindergarten. How true this is & goes with my letter.

RT

Sin is also a hardening of the heart toward others, abandoning the way of justice and mercy:
“The Lord says, “The people of Israel have sinned again and again, and for this I will certainly punish them. They sell into slavery honest men who cannot pay their debts, poor men who cannot repay even the price of a pair of sandals. They trample down the weak and helpless and push the poor out of the way.”
Amos 2:6-7

RT

Rev. Robert Taylor
Servants of the Paraclete
Jemez Springs, NM 87025

(505)829-3586

RT000195

RECEIVED OCT 28 1991

Bishop John G. Vlazny
55 West Sanborn
Winona, MN. 55987

Dear Bishop,

It's been quite some time since we wrote to you and the "Destruction" still goes on. Pretty soon we won't have anything left. You said we did not describe the Man you have come to know the past 4 years. How well do you know him?? How often do you see him?? You are his "Boss" and naturally he puts on his smile face, puts his best foot forward and tells you everything that he knows you want to hear, whether it's true or not. This Man does not know what the truth is. So many people have caught him in so many lies. A couple of weeks ago, he put out a financial & new budget statement and he stood up in front trying to explain it to us. He proceeded to tell us how he has "doubled" the attendance. Everyone was talking about it. One lady stopped us outside, (she never talks to us otherwise) and couldn't believe the lies he was telling. Any Dumb-bell can see the attendance isn't that great. How does he know he doubled the attendance, Father Gavin never kept count. Maybe at the beginning, he did get some people to come back, as he did visit a number of homes. But, so many of the regular that attended have left. A Trutee's husband hasn't been to Church here, since shortly after Father came, he goes out of town to Church. One of the Organ Players has also been going to the same Church, had their Baby baptized back home, where they came from. We ourselves have gone to Church there many times and another Church. We have one Family, that has been married, I would say, 15 to 17 years. The husband is a Convert, they are now going to the Lutheran Church, where he came from. We have talked to several other women who husbands are Converts and they are having a very hard time, trying to get them to go to Church. I could keep writing all day about things. These are some of the things we have heard about, how many more we haven't heard about.

How many people do we have to lose, before you do something. One girl wanted to get married, she could not pin Father down, so she could get things set, so she went her future husband's way and got married in a Protestant Church. Right now, our Niece, wants to get married next April. Father had all kinds of excuses, that the Farmers are in the field, first Communion, Graduations, he doesn't want to marry them during Lent, What's wrong with it?? Our Son got married during Lent, will be 2 years in April and our oldest Daughter got married during Lent, so what's the problem?? When these kids pick out a Wedding Date, they have picked it out for a reason, they plan years about what kind of Wedding they want and he destroys it. The Mother is sick, because her Daughter is now getting married out of the Church.

The people that are coming to Church and giving money, either don't know what's going on, don't want to get involved or are doing it only to fulfill their weekly obligation. It really doesn't do us much good to go to Church, because we sit there

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with so much hate. We have talked to so many that have quit giving all together. The Church is dividing very quickly. We wonder where he thinks all this money is going to come from, all the Employees he's hiring for big bucks. This town is going down fast. 8 buildings now on Main Street are empty, they say 5 more businesses are to close soon. He hires for everything, but he still wants to run everything. The women have always handled the kitchen and all events, the men help with dinners we have. He's down there telling the women, at events, what coffee pots they can use and which ones they can't. He has his nose in everything. He wants to be sole "Chief". He wants all the Credit. He does everything right, does nothing wrong, say one thing and claims he didn't and blames everything on someone else. You were here during the week, some time back, and he put in the Bulletin, that You told him, to tell US, that you sent your most Valuable and Talented Priest YOU had-----TRUE?????

We had a Military Funeral about a month ago, the Legion and VFW participate in it. When the Casket was to leave the Church, Father would not let them put the American Flag on the Casket. These Men fought for their Country. The Legion & VFW Men were very upset, as was the Family. They usually, at the Cemetery, take and fold the Flag and give it to the Family, but they didn't get to do it. The only thing they did, was the Gun Salute, but we never heard if it was with Father's approval or not. Is he Anti-American, too??????

We had a Sister-in-law pass away about 6 weeks ago. Father told the CCW Chairman to start planning for a Funeral on Thursday or Friday.---She didn't die until Saturday How heartless can he be!!! The Funeral Director warned the oldest Son about Father. The Son said, "I was going to warn you about Father." Then the Family had a hard time getting what they wanted for songs and readings. Finally, one of the 13 children told him, "This is our Mother and this is what we want." The singer sang "The Old Rugged Cross". Father said singing that song, it was a Protestant Funeral. Here is a Family, a few hours before, had just lost a Love One, a wife of 48 1/2 years and a Mother, and he treats them like that. (Does it for all the Funeral) Then some time after the Funeral, the husband went in to the Rectory to give some money. I think for Masses for his Wife. Father was standing there, so the husband gave the money to Father. Father threw the money on the desk, it slid across the desk and on the floor. What kind of a Man is this guy?? The husband just lost his wife--No Sympathy at all.

Our Fall Festival, as far as the extra activities, was a "Flop". The women on the different committees fighting among themselves. At Fair time, it was put in the Bulletin for 2 weeks ahead, that the Youth Group was going to work at the KC's food stand, "Support Your Youth". Hadn't even asked the kids. could never get anyone to say "Support Your Youth". When was done, the kids all quit. The KC head, also head of the Finance Committee, would not call for a list of names. His wife called another woman to call had no list, as far as she knew, they all quit. Then Father Taylor had the Secretary call and she still gave them nothing. She's not good enough for the job, she's not good enough for the information, either. We were at the

We were at the Fair with a bit and the Lutheran Food stand next to the P.O.'s, and always full and people waiting. His stand had only a few when ever we were there. Father Taylor was there waiting on people and most the time, trying hamburgers with that damn cigar in his mouth. Who knows where the sales ladies and the slubber ladies that run down the cigar. A Protestant jumped our daughter-in-law at work, about him and his cigar. I'm sure the Protestants were talking about it. The Lutheran Youth ran there stand and they have a sign up saying, the Church catches whatever profit they make to go towards their trip. I could never get any money for the Youth. The trip before Father Gavin died, he did give the Youth \$100 towards the gas for their trip. Kids made every cent they used for their trips.

As in the Hospital recently. Some of the problem was because of stress and the anxiety that she was put through, by Father and the Council. She was there 12 days, Father never came to see her. She may be legally blind, but she sees more than other people. Our Daughter couldn't make ends meet with her \$300 a month. Can you imagine the problem they have now? They have drained us to the point that we can't help anymore. They have borrowed a large sum of money, that we don't know how they can pay back. This is the situation your Priest has put our Daughter in. But then, Father says "that's Progress". Thanks for Progress!!! He has no feelings what so ever for the Handicap and Poor. She has been in contact with the Minnesota Services for the Blind at Marshall. They had her take a College test. She got 98% very Superior Rating, and the person ahead of the MN services for the Blind says it looks like she already has a College Degree and should have been able to handle that job okay.

is also a Volunteer for the Hotline out of Worthington. She attends Workshops for it and one of the Workshops was on Satanism.

Father doesn't like women, you can see that. When he came, he was going to get rid of any woman in his way. That is why he was so mean to Sister Carol Ann, to get rid of her. The treatment of Father and the Council could have sat down with the 2 Coordinators and talked to them and told them what he wanted for his Religious Education and asked if they could have handled it. NO, but instead the sneaky, cheap underhanded way it was handled. What she was doing was outstanding, people can't believe what he did to her. She had more compliments, she knew what she was doing and doing it well and he couldn't stand that. He wouldn't have anything to do with the Religion Program because it wasn't his Program. He told the Liturgy Committee our Religion Program was a "Joke". We told you this before. 2 or 3 months after classes started, he wanted to know what was doing there all the time.

She told him she had classes in a little while. He came down for about 10 minutes and stopped at the 4 classes that were there. The only time he was there. had Preschool thru 3rd on Sunday, which the Mass at Woodstock interfered, but the 4th and 5th was on Tuesday afternoon. In Jan, at the Christmas Party, Father sat with and wanted to know who all these People were, he didn't know any of them. told him they were all teachers, he couldn't believe it. That's how interested is our Religion Program--he knew nothing. Then about a month later he came down to the

School and wanted to know why all the doors were open and lights and furnace on. again told him she had kids coming in a few minutes. How can you condemn something you know nothing about! There was discipline problems in the older grades, which I had, but when a Teacher asked for his help, he just yelled at her, "You should have come for me when it happened, but I'm not coming now". So she quit! He could have been down there when the kids came to let them there was some one in authority there, but No--not him! The Teachers volunteer their time for 9 months each year. When Gavin was here, the Council would not approve a Christmas Party for the Teachers. ^{"..."} took \$135 out of her own pocket, that she didn't have, had a local business prepare the food and then some Mothers served it at the Church Hall, to save money. Some Churches take their Teachers out to a Restaurant. No one cares! Now they are so willing to go along with Father on anything or they don't have any say about it.

They were having all their Secret Meetings about Sister and the 2 Coordinators, so sneaky and underhanded. So when we went to the Council Meeting to help our Daughter, several said, "Nobodies saying you don't have a job". If they had their jobs, then why were they putting out Job Descriptions and Job Applications. The Applications were the ones for Teachers for full time Schools. Your Secretary, Dr. Geibal and Sister Joanne, all said, there was no Diocese Application for Director of Religious. Ed Joan talked to all 3 people. It had the Diocese sign on the top, and 4 or 5 questions on Sexual Harassment and other questions. Maybe he made it up and just put the Diocese on it. Father said he wanted someone with a Degree. Vince said, "What about experience" Father said, "Someone with a Degree and Experience". ^{... were never formally} informed, that they didn't have a job, they were never told WHY they didn't have a job. As yet, there has been No reason why they don't have a job. ^{... has been a member} of this Church all her life and the treatment she received, no conscience what so ever! The Council has a number of members that are quite new to the Parish. Some are only here 1 or 2 years and then want to run our Parish. One is a Neighbor, that grew up and played ball with our kids. He's the one who said she wasn't qualified, at that one Secret Meeting that Sister, ^{... went to. Then at the Council Meeting} he denied saying it, after he himself had told her the year before, that there were No Complaints, You're Doing an Excellent Job and Keep Up the Good Work. This has even ruined Friendship of many years with our Neighbors.

We told you all about ^{... problems in one of our letters and evidently you told} Father Taylor. Maybe you were trying to help. Some of the things we wrote to you, were what he brought up when he came down to ^{... office, this Spring before} when was done for last year. I think ^{... told you when she came to see you, that} Father cut her and her Disabilities down for about 2 hours. Then told her if she was the last Applicant or the only Applicant, he would never hire her. If she told anyone what he said, he would DWWY it. Someone was out in the Hall and heard it.

Father and the Council have all these secret meetings and the meetings are supposed to be open to the Parishioners and he told the Council, "Not to tell anyone what goes

on at the meetings, not even their spouses!!! So that is he pulling off here???? He is spending our Money, this is our Church--like I said, there isn't that kind of money in this town.

We were suppose to have elections for new Council Members in May. They couldn't find anyone to run. One person had gotten called that wasn't even Catholic, his Wife was, but not him. Whoever had called, said he was the 14th one he had called, how many did the others call?? Father told the Council it was a busy time, we'll try in the Fall. Never had that problem before!! Well, we had an Election a month ago. They couldn't get anyone to run for Trustee, there's suppose to be a new one every ~~one~~ year. Finally, got 2 to run for Finance and one of his Committee Brown Mosers ran, so they had three. They got 2 for Liturgy and 2 for Education, but they said they wouldn't run unless there were 3, so it would look legal. They couldn't find another one for each, so they had us vote for just ONE. Of all the people in this Church, they finally got 6 people to. I had asked one woman if she was going to teach, and she said, "No, and I'm not running for Council either until this mess is straightened out". He has this Council so Brainwashed. They think that they are helping make decisions, but they are just going through the motions, because he always makes the final decision. mentioned this to one of the Council Members, when it came to the interview. (He called

in for a interview, just to make it look good, so she couldn't say she didn't have a chance.) This Council Member said Father wouldn't do that, her time was too valuable to have him do that. But everyone will say, Father makes the Final Decision. He puts in the Bulletin, the Council decided this and the Council decided that (so they get the blame) and it's all out and dried before the Council Meeting.

We talked to the 2 Trustees and they said that Father claims the Churches have educated people running their Religion Programs, they said the one at Luverne. said the one from Luverne has done it for about 15 years, but as far as she knows, she's just a housewife and also a Convert, as the one from Slayton and probably 90% of the Parishes in the Diocese. has been going for 4 years to the Workshops and she knows a lot of these people. There are a few Nuns or Sisters, but they are the ones in small Churches that have lost their regular Priest, like Woodstock. But, Father wants a Degree and Experience. Well, he advertised and looked all Summer for a Coordinator. I don't know why he advertised all over the State and part of South Dakota, like he did, well, we have people, too. He thought he had one earlier this Summer, a Monk from around Watertown, S.D.. He came down for an interview, he could see something was not right going on, and wanted no part of it. He turned it down, we heard from a very good source, a Priest, so the Monk told Father and the Council he could get lots more money someplace else.

So, finally, the last minute (Aug) he got an ex-Principal from the small town of Verdi, whose School is just down to the grades now, no High School. He wanted a Man in here. He got an educated one, with a degree, but how much Religion experience has he had???? Father Taylor was having a woman call asking questions
RT000485
about this and that. They aren't good enough for the job, so they shouldn't be good

enough for the information, either. Father thinks he's an expert about everything. They've been having one heck of a time getting Teachers. The Coordinator is teaching 9th, 7th, part of 6th and 5th grades, so far. 8th are at night the last couple of years because the teacher teaches in the Public School daytime. Where the grades were divided in 2 classes, sounds like some teachers have them all, now. They finally got a 3rd grade teacher. I have taught 14 years, but I'm sure Father told the new Coordinator not to call me, --Well--who cares, I'm teaching some place where I'm appreciated. Father called our Religion Program a "Joke" The Coordinator teaches the 9th graders, talking to some of the 9th grade kids, they said there is no discipline at all. We have a Grandson in the 5th grade. The 1st week, Father had them sing "This Little Light of Mine" to Rep Music, and practiced for the Mass the kids were going to do. 2nd week, sang the song and practiced for Sunday's Mass. 3rd week, wrote the Our Father and sang songs. We asked our Grandson, "don't you have any books?" He said No, they didn't have any books yet. --Real great!! These are the only classes we know about. Besides, they have one Sunday a month off--abover had that before, just the regular Holidays and special Sundays.

As for the Youth Group, sounds like the Coordinator is going to get an extra \$3,000 for a once a month meeting---Boy, good wages, wouldn't you say?? This is over the \$13,000 for Coordinator for the children to come for about 50 minutes to 60 min. once a week. Plus \$1500 for Youth Expenses. These are the amounts that were on his Budget Statement. Couldn't get anything for the kids, they made their own money with Pancake Breakfasts, Bake Sales, etc. started out with \$4 an hour, last year got up to \$4.75. She got 1,000 to 1300 a year for Youth Group. Her husband worked with her for nothing. He took 2 & 3 days of His vacation time to take these kids on their trips to the Cities. He took His vacation time to help with Crazy Days Food and Ornament Booth. He worked for all the Pancake Breakfasts and when they had rolls and Coffee. No one cared, No one was interested in knowing what they were doing. Father and the Council had no idea what these two did for these kids. Will be interesting to see what they have for Youth Group now! One of the Trustees has 2 girls seen going to a Baptist Youth Group and his Son was a very faithful member, he still came in the 10th grade, when most kids quit at 9th. His Son and one other boy, his Mother also on the Education Committee and a complainer, their boys were always calling to talk to about their problems. One Mother said last Fall that didn't have control. When the 7th graders start coming, they are wild. They had 1 talk sessions at their meetings and discussed problems they had and after a few months they were pretty good. These kids had Faith in and trusted her. Youth members would call her sometimes at 2:00 & 3:00 in the morning, if they had had a fight with their Parents and couldn't sleep. Even their Protestant friends called sometimes. They were Free to call at any time. One Education Board person said, "They can learn to Trust someone else". His Wife, also a Social Worker, tried for 2 years with a Youth Group and couldn't get any one but her in-laws to come. She didn't have the personality for the kids. This year the older kids wanted to start a group for 9th to

12th grades. I'm sure Father Taylor never knew or never cared about any of this because he never came and never knew what they did at their meetings. The Youth Group volunteered to help the Blood Bank, collected door to door for food for the Food Shelf, collected Winter Coats for the needy, Sold Flowers for the Right to Life and much more. None of this meant anything to Father or the Education Board. When you got kids taking part in Church activities, you better hold on to them. You won't get them back, not the kids now days.

The NET Team that comes for the Teenage Retreat, 12 put it on. We heard they had about 50, not to bad, they had 77 last year. Had there 1st Youth Ministries meeting. Heard they had only one of the older ones, but did get some of the new ones coming up this year.

Had a hard time to get anything in the Bulletin about Education or Youth Group announcements. Now Father, for about the last 1 1/2 months has a whole to 1/2 sheet every week full of those announcements, trying to make it look like they really have something good going on. In the past, we've had 20-22 teachers, plus 6 to 8 young kids as Aids to help the Teachers. They claim they have plenty of Teachers, then why is the Coordinator teaching so many classes??? I heard the Computer Gal in the Office comes down to help.

Isn't it funny, that the Janitor, Father and the Council interviewed, was working about a month before the interview. He just happens to come from Butterfield, which I isn't far from Madelia. We have our thoughts about that ,too. Why did he have to go out so far to run ads, when there probably is someone in our own Church that could have used a job.

How have you allowed him to come to this Parish, when you know he has problems, endangering our Children. He made a mess at Rochester and Madelia, so you sent him way across the state figuring we wouldn't find out about him. He may have a good head when it comes to figures, but he spends money like water over a Falls. He is a very sick Man. We realize there is a shortage of Priest, but we're better off with a visiting Priests, then what we have. He's told us a couple of times, he's for every-one--He is only for himself and gets rid of anyone in his way. It's hard to understand how he is allowed to give Mass and hear Confessions.

Evidently he doesn't get along with the Funeral Directors, they don't care for him at Good Sam Nursing Home, don't care for him at the Woodstock Treatment Center, has ruin our relations with the other Churches, have you any idea how long it will take to get all that back??

There's a few things we don't understand. We always thought that the Gloria and the Creed were very important parts of the Mass. We haven't been saying them since before Easter, Why??? When he's got that cigar in his mouth, he talks out of the side of his mouth. When he gives Sermons, he still talks that way, you can't understand him. Everyone complains. A few have mentioned it to him and he always got a smart answer, "well, you're sitting in the wrong place, sit in "front". One lady told me, You can't understand him there either.

He can't get people to help with Mass any more. One 5 a night, he had no Alter boys, sometimes one, sometimes none--different times, no Lectors, so he does all the readings himself, and you often a song leader steps up. A number of times lately, he has to beg for Communion Distributors. This one night, there were 2 Council members sitting in front of us, that are also Communion Distributors, that never moved to go up. Finally, some other people went up.

How much more leadership and how much more do we have to have before you move up? He should not have a Parish, should be under someone. We need a good Priest to get us back together and we think we should start with a whole New Council. We are suppose to have a new Chairperson each year, according to the Church Constitution. Elect a new Vice-Chairperson each year and the next year moves up to Chairperson. The one on now, on his 5th year and he changes sides to the middle of a sentence, if he thinks that's what the Priest wants. He thinks he's real important!

I don't know why anyone would want to work for the Catholic Church, when your Job isn't any more secure than that. Other jobs, you can spend your whole life working but not here. No Security, at all and NO Unemployment!

Minnesota Services for the Blind has given a name of a Lawyer, out of Minneapolis, that handles Discrimination, as of yet, she has not contacted him, But-----

I'm sure we haven't heard near the things that have been going on. I wish People with a complaint would write to you. There's more we could tell you, but the Letter has to end sometime, as does the Destruction he has caused.

In Christ's Love,

Arch Bishop John R. Roach
Chancery
226 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN. 55102

Dear Arch Bishop;

We feel you should be aware of what's happening, if you haven't already been informed. We are sending you a copy of the letter we are sending to Bishop Vlazny. We have written him several times and our Daughter, and her husband went to Winona to see him personally. All we got from him, is a thanks for what work we have done for the Church, his prayers for us and to pray for Father. We feel this is a very serious condition, WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!


First, Father Taylor is a very rude, abusive and self-centered person. He makes life a living Hell, for who ever gets in his way. Woodstock had a Sister, Sister Carol Ann, helping with their Parish, because they no longer have a full time Priest. We at Pipestone, share our Priest with them. He wanted the Sister out of there and made life very difficult for her, until she couldn't take it anymore and left. But they planned all but eliminate her job anyway, to cut the hours to 4 to 6 hours a week. We had an elderly Janitor, Father told us, he thought this Janitor would be quitting, he was too old and could get hurt. He did a good job and it was extra income to go along with his Social Security. Father made life miserable for him, too to get him to quit. The Janitor told us himself, "I have to get out^{ta} here, before he drives me crazy". The treatment of the Secretary is unbelievable, but she needs the job. He also made life Hell for our Daughter. She was a Director of Religious Education for Preschool through 5th grade. Another Gal, had the upper grades. Our Daughter is legally blind, she has only one eye and doesn't see too much with the ~~other~~ one. She has been a Diabetic since 3 years old. She was totally blind at about 27, got sight back, but lost it again and landed up losing one eye and saving one. At 28, she had 5 by-pass heart surgery. She was on Dialyses 1 1/2 years before getting a Kidney Transplant in 1984, and has felt pretty good since then. As you can see, she has been to Hell and back many times, in her short life, she doesn't need what he has done to her. She has taught Religion Classes 7 years, was Assistant Religion Coordinator for one year. She has been the Religion Coordinator and Youth Director for the past 3 years. She was doing an outstanding job, had many compliments and she knew what she was doing. She has 2 adopted black children, a boy and a girl. She needed this job badly. Each year the board told her, there were no complaints, she was doing an excellent job and to keep up the good work. They are very financially poor because of the Medical bills they have and these things aren't considered when you apply for Welfare. They haven't been able to get any, but they kept RT000476 2 years ago, they had to file Bankruptcy and got rid of \$36,000 of medical plus lots of

other bills. They have a 70 car with 200,000 mile and no motor. She had applied for Social Security Disability, she hadn't worked very many years, so she only gets a little over \$300 a month. Father Taylor started having Secret meetings with the Council all about the Sister and the 2 Coordinators. One Education member of the Council said there would be some hard feelings. Father said, "That's Progress". The Church isn't a Church anymore, it's Numbers and a Business, they told Father has no respect for the poor, handicapped or aged. He was always making remarks about her being blind. He always has a cigar hanging out of his mouth, he knew she didn't like it, so he would blow smoke in her face and this made her eye burn and smart. You just can't believe what this man is like. Anyone that has had any contact with him, wants no more to do with him. Was a hard time getting anyone to do anything any more. You will get lot of the information in the letter to the Bishop, so won't write it all here again.

The Sister told that she was informed, that Father Taylor has been accused of Sexual Misbehavior. This is what was told and later told us. He had been a teacher at the Seminary and got involved with some of the young men, training to be Priests. I think that is when he was taken out of the Seminary and then went to a Church in Rochester and understand he made a mess there. He then went to Madelia, had a full Church when he came and a half Church when he left, we were told. There must have been some Sexual Misbehavior at Madelia, because from there he was sent approximately 6 months to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for treatment. That is when our Priest, Father Gavin died and he was sent here. In Feb., the Sister, Father Eagen, Dean for this part of the Diocese, and Father Taylor had a meeting. Sister asked Father, "Do you think the accusations of your Sexual Behavior have interfered with duties as a Priest?" He said "No". He did not deny it or ask what she was talking about.

didn't think anything of the things that happened with her little girl, until she found out this information. The information is hid in the Diocese, so we have no proof. Father wasn't here very long, being Jose was Coordinator, she was at the Rectory quite a bit. He would put her little girl on his lap, not like most people do, but had her straddle his legs and he pulled her up as close as he could against him. This is a Priest, you don't think anything is wrong at the time. She is not so she saw it. I'm sure he would deny it, like he denies everything else. He also took her to get candy. So this was some time later, asked her, "Do you remember when Father gave you candy?" The girl said, "Yes." "Where does Father take you to get your candy?" Girl, "To Father's room." "Or mean in the kitchen or dining room?" Girl, "No, upstairs in Father's room." If he does, why does he have this candy in his room. All we have is a little girl's word. was called to some other mothers and yes, he does take their daughters to get candy, but they hadn't thought about where they went. The mothers were busy doing something. If it is all so innocent, why can't he bring the candy to them. We have not ever mentioned this to the bishop.

The Parents and the school's were possibly in the girls kids heads, about taking candy from strangers or they would get hurt. Sure hope this meant the case. He also hired a couple of Teenagers last Spring, after the Janitor quit, so Sister talked to the Parents of the boys to warn them. Father hired a Doctor, he was working a month before the Council and Father interviewed him. He just happened to come from Butterfield, not too far from Madelia.

The Sister, and (the 2 Coordinators) heard about a secret Meeting, Father was having with the Education and Finance Boards. So they went, Father sat in the doorway, wouldn't let them in, so they talked from the doorway. Only one Education Board Member showed up. The Finance and Trustees had no idea what the meeting was about. They thought they were there to finalize the plans for the Spring Dinner. A week or so later, they had a Council Meeting, on a Wednesday nite, so we went along to help out our Daughter. That was quite a meeting. (more in the Bishop's letter). He always has everything cut and dried, and passes out all these papers to the Council of what he decides. All the extra papers were put on the Teacher's desk of the room they used. When came in on Sunday morning for Sunday School, all the extra papers were still on the desk, so she gathered them up and took them to her Office. A couple of weeks later, she was going to check the stuff out and throw them away. There was one of those yellow legal note pads among the stuff. She didn't know whose it was, she started looking it over, there were a few pages of notes. She came to page of the notes for the meeting we were at. There was a  Swastika with 4 checks behind it. (Sending you a copy) Shortly after the Council meeting, was up in the Church office and Father had asked the Secretaries if any one had seen his notebook, but at the time, hadn't found it, yet. Our Daughter sees and senses things that other people don't. called us and we went and seen this notebook. Boy, she was concerned, figuring the checks meant for us at the meeting. She had suspected something weird about him for a long time. Shortly after ~~after~~ he had come, we started having trouble with an Occult. A couple of guys had stopped some people up town, (just happened one was the Mayor) and asked where the Catholic church was. The Catholic Daughters were having some special mass and meeting, some of their purses were in the usher's room. These men took some of the purses. Up at Marshall, a Sheriff or cop happened to see someone burning something, so he stopped, here were these purses, got enough evidents to find out they came from Pipestone. Then later on, there was a breakin at the Church, and they think some things were taken and Father claims he heard the noise through 5 closed doors, upstairs in his bedroom. The Janitor said he couldn't find any forced entry on any outside doors. It had to almost be an inside job. Then one day, some CCW women were in the Concourse, entry between the School hall and the Church, there on the bulletin board was a 666 sign. Father told them not to tell anyone. We never had any troubles like this before until he came. There are times he has this cold stare and it really scares and the weird things he does. One day he came in, she didn't know it, but she got this cold chill and turned around

and there he was, with this cold, icy stare, she was scared. After finding that Swastika, we were very concerned. We talked to the Sheriff about it, but nothing can be done until someone gets hurt. He told Joan, never let him in her house if she is alone. The Sheriff said, if he was just doodling, he would have made more than one, not just one and checks. This bothered so much, so she called up and talked to some Professor, a woman, at the University of Minnesota, to see what she thought. She was really concerned and wanted to keep in touch. After that, ~~called~~ called the F.B.I. She was telling this man all about Father, and after talking awhile, she finally said she was from Pipestone. That F.B.I. man said, sounds like Father Taylor is up to his old tricks again. She never mentioned Father Taylor's name. So they must know quite a bit about him, for him to say that. F.B.I. told her if the Bishop didn't do anything, she should get in touch with you, the Arch Bishop. It's not easy for her to write long letters, so doing it for her. You don't know how awful we feel, having thoughts like this about a Priest.

is a volunteer for the Hotline out of Worthington, MN. She has taken workshops to get information to do it. One Workshop was on Satanism and she talked special to this man, that gave the Workshop. The Swastika he made is backwards from the other. He said this one is from the Celtic movement. Celtic movement is a Satanistic Occult that is involved in human and other sacrifices. In that booklet on SATANISM, that we have enclosed, on page 2 is a Characteristic and Behavior Chart. The Sister and studied these and they feel that he qualifies for all, but don't know about animal abuse. But, he treats women like dumb animals.

There are so many things that have happened. Our daughter is involved, so we are involved. We don't have any proof, just all the things that have happened. We have not discussed this with anyone but Sister. showed the Swastika to the Bishop, but all he said, was he didn't know why he would make that. We had a Military funeral, a month ago, Father would not let the Legion or VFW put the American flag on the casket. So, between this incident and the Swastika, it doesn't look good, to us. Father's own Sister-in-law would tell Sister, at Workshops and meetings that they were at, that she was praying for us. A Niece works with a relative or friend of the family, that there is something very wrong with him.

One day Father came down to office, last Spring, before classes were over for last year. He cut her and her disabilities for about 2 hours. He told her he wouldn't hire her if she was the last applicant or the only applicant. He told her if she told anyone, he would deny it, someone in the hallway heard it. She was talking to another woman one day and telling her, and something had happened between her and Father, too. He had told her the same thing, that he would deny it, if she told anyone. I wonder how many people he has told this to. He has been caught in so many lies. He does not know what the truth is.

The Minnesota Services for the Blind could not believe the treatment that Father Taylor was doing to her, but the person at the Services for the Blind said she has heard things about him, too. She gave a name of a Lawyer in the RT000479

that handles Discrimination cases. She has not contacted him, yet.

Why is this Man still a Priest, serving Mass and hearing confessions???

Sorry, this has turned out so long, but we feel this is a very serious situation.

In Christ's Love,

RT

Arch Bishop John R. Roach
Chancery
226 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN. 55102

Dear Arch Bishop;

We feel you should be aware of what's happening, if you haven't already been informed. We are sending you a copy of the letter we are sending to Bishop Vlazny. We have written him several times and our [redacted] and her husband went to Winona to see him personally. All we got from him, is a thanks for what work we have done for the Church, his prayers for us and to pray for Father. We feel this is a very serious condition, WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!

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told that she was informed, that Father Taylor has been accused of Sexual Misbehavior. This is what was told and later told us. He had been a teacher at the Seminary and got involved with some of the young men, training to be Priests. I think that is when he was taken out of the Seminary and then went to a Church in Rochester and understand he made a mess there. He then went to Madelia, had a full Church when he came and a half Church when he left, we were told. There must have been some Sexual Misbehavior at Madelia, because from there he was sent approximately 6 months to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for treatment. That is when our Priest, Father Gavin died and he was sent here. In Feb., Father Eagen, Dean for this part of the Diocese, and Father Taylor had a meeting. asked Father, "Do you think the accusations of your Sexual Behavior have interfered with duties as a Priest?" He said "No". He did not deny it or ask what she was talking about.

didn't think anything of the things that happened with her little girl, until she found out this information. The information is hid in the Diocese, so we have no proof. Father wasn't here very long, being was Coordinator, she was at the Rectory quite a bit. He would put on his lap, not like most people do, but had her straddle his legs and he pulled her up as close as he could against him. This is a Priest, you don't think anything is wrong at the time. She is not so she saw it. I'm sure he would deny it, like he denies everything else. He also took her to get candy. So this was some time later, asked her, "Do you remember when Father gave you candy?" The girl said, "Yes." "Where does Father take you to get your candy?" Girl, "to Father's room." "You mean in the kitchen or dining room?" girl, "No, upstairs in Father's room." If he does, why does he have this candy in his room. All we have is a was. was talked to some other Mothers and yes, he does take their to get candy, but they hadn't thought about where they went. The mothers were busy doing something. If it is all so innocent, why can't he bring the candy to them. We have not ever mentioned this to the bishop.

The Parents and the schools keep on [redacted] his wide heads, about taking candy from strangers or they could get hurt. Sure hope this isn't the case. We also hired a couple of Teenagers last Spring, after the Janitor quit, so [redacted] talked to the Parents of the boys to warn them. Father hired a Janitor, he was working a month before the Council and Father interviewed him. He just happened to come from Butterfield, not too far from Madelia.

[redacted] heard about a secret Meeting, Father was having with the Education and Finance Boards. So they went, Father sat in the doorway, wouldn't let them in, so they talked from the doorway. Only one Education Board Member showed up. The Finance and Trustees had no idea what the Meeting was about. They thought they were there to finalize the plans for the Spring Dinner. A week or so later, they had a Council Meeting, on a Wednesday nite, so we went along to help out [redacted] That was quite a meeting, (more in the Bishop's letter). He always has everything cut and dried, and passes out all these papers to the Council of what he decides. All the extra papers were put on one Teacher's desk of the room they used. When [redacted] came in on Sunday morning for Sunday School, all the extra papers were still on the desk, so she gathered them up and took them to her Office. A couple of weeks later, she was going to check the stuff out and throw them away. There was one of those yellow legal note pads among the stuff. She didn't know whose it was, she started looking it over, there were a few pages of notes. She came to page of the notes for the meeting we were at. There was a  Swastika with 4 checks behind it. (Sending you a copy) Shortly after the Council meeting, [redacted] was up in the Church office and Father had asked the Secretaries if any one had seen his notebook, but at the time, [redacted] hadn't found it, yet. [redacted] sees and senses things that other people don't. [redacted] called us and we went and seen this notebook. Boy, she was concerned, figuring the checks meant for us at the meeting. She had suspected something weird about him for a long time. Shortly after ~~after~~ he had come, we started having trouble with an Occult. A couple of guys had stopped some people up town, (just happened one was the Mayor) and asked where the Catholic Church was. The Catholic Daughters were having some special mass and meeting, some of their purses were in the usher's room. These men took some of the purses. Up at Marshall, a Sheriff or cop happened to see someone burning something, so he stopped, here were these purses, got enough evidents to find out they came from Pipestone. Then later on, there was a breakin at the Church, and they think some things were taken and Father claims he heard the noise through 5 closed doors, upstairs in his bedroom. The Janitor said he couldn't find any forced entry on any outside doors. It had to almost be an inside job. Then one day, some CCW women were in the Concourse, entry between the School hall and the Church, there on the bulletin board was a 666 sign. Father told them not to tell anyone. We never had any troubles like this before until he came. There are times he has this cold stare and it really scares [redacted] and the weird things he does. One day he came in, she didn't know it, but she got this cold chill and turned around

and there he was, with this cold, icy stare; she was scared. After finding that Swastika, we were very concerned. We talked to the Sheriff about it, but nothing can be done until someone gets hurt. He told me, never let him in her house if she is alone. The Sheriff said, if he was just doodling, he would have made more than one, not just one and checks. This bothered me so much, so she called up and talked to some Professor, a woman, at the University of Minnesota, to see what she thought. She was really concerned and wanted me to keep in touch. After that, I called the F.B.I. She was telling this man all about Father, and after talking awhile, she finally said she was from Pipestone. That F.B.I. man said, sounds like Father Taylor is up to his old tricks again. She never mentioned Father Taylor's name. So they must know quite a bit about him, for him to say that. F.B.I. told her if the Bishop didn't do anything, she should get in touch with you, the Arch Bishop. It's not easy for her to write long letters, so doing it for her. You don't know how awful we feel, having thoughts like this about a Priest.

is a volunteer for the Hotline out of Worthington, MN. She has taken workshops to get information to do it. One Workshop was on Satanism and she talked special to this man, that gave the Workshop. The Swastika he made is backwards from the other. He said this one is from the Celtic movement. Celtic movement is a Satanistic Occult that is involved in human and other sacrifices. In that booklet on SATANISM, that we have enclosed, on page 2 is a Characteristic and Behavior Chart, I studied these and they feel that he qualifies for all, but don't know about animal abuse. But, he treats women like dumb animals.

There are so many things that have happened. is involved, so we are involved. We don't have any proof, just all the things that have happened. We have not discussed this with anyone but I showed the Swastika to the Bishop, but all he said, was he didn't know why he would make that. We had a Military funeral, a month ago, Father would not let the Legion or VFW put the American flag on the Casket. So, between this incident and the Swastika, it doesn't look good, to us. Father's own Sister-in-law would tell me at Workshops and meetings that they were at, that she was praying for us. works with a relative or friend of the family, that there is something very wrong with him.

One day Father came down to my office, last Spring, before classes were over for last year. He cut her and her disabilities for about 2 hours. He told her he wouldn't hire her if she was the last applicant or the only applicant. He told her if she told anyone, he would deny it, someone in the hallway heard it. She was talking to another woman one day and telling her, and something had happened between her and Father, too. He had told her the same thing, that he would deny it, if she told anyone. I wonder how many people he has told this to. He has been caught in so many lies. He does not know what the truth is.

could not believe the treatment that Father Taylor was doing to her but the person at has heard things about him, too. She gave me the name of a Lawyer in the Cities

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RT
that handles Discrimination cases. She has not contacted him, yet.

Why is this Man still a Priest, serving Mass and hearing confessions???

Sorry, this has turned out so long, but we feel this is a very serious situation.

In Christ's Love,

RT

This is a copy of his notes with the backward Sweater

~~5000~~
16,000
5,000
400
7000

24 =

Notes on job descriptions:

3 yrs planning - vertical
3 yrs budgeting -

Historical - horizontal

No Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr

8 mos \$3300

She can apply for job

Exp

Yearly evaluation & Draw up instrument :

RECEIVED NOV 1 1991

October 30, 1991

Dear

I really feel terrible about the kind of response I am going to have to make to your letter of October 27. Just the effort that you put into drafting a letter of that length, encourages me to want to do something about it. However, you must know that I have absolutely no jurisdiction over parishes in the diocese of Winona.

Further, I must tell you that I have absolute and complete faith in Bishop Vlazny. He is a superb bishop who exercises good judgment and I know for a fact, deep sensitivity to people.

Since you mention some things in your letter to me that you do not mention in your letter to Bishop Vlazny, I am assuming that you don't mind if I send your letter to him.

I pray that you will have some peace in your own hearts and that this issue will not disrupt your own faith.

I'm sorry that I can't be of more help to you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John R. Roach, D.D.
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

bcc- Bishop Vlazny

RT000344

DIocese OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

PO Box 508
Tel. 507/464-1611

November 1, 1991

Dear

Earlier this week I received a letter from you in which you expressed your continuing displeasure with the pastoral leadership of Father Robert Taylor at St. Leo's Church in Pipestone. Now Archbishop Roach has sent me a copy of the letter you wrote to him.

In your letter sent to me last spring dated May 31, 1991, stated the following: "I do not want this letter sent to him (Father Taylor) or inform him on this situation. I kind of think he thinks I'm working with him. How can he be so stupid with the way he is treating

Although I had conversed with Father Taylor about the letter I received in Easter Week and I did discuss these matters with , I did not report any further correspondence from you to Father Taylor. These most recent letters raise some very serious accusations about which Father Taylor and I must once again have some serious conversations. Unless I hear otherwise from you, by mid-November I shall share these recent letters with Father Taylor so that we can get to the bottom of this difficulty.

As I told I am deeply grateful for her generous service to St. Leo's Parish in former years. I was not a party to the decision that a full-time person be employed to direct religious education, but that is not an unusual or unrecommended procedure. I hope the new person will work out well, but I also understand the difficulties of new beginnings.

I want to assure you that Father Taylor was not assigned as your pastor to remove him from an unworkable situation. In fact, when he was on leave in the winter of 1989-90, a group of eight leaders from the three parishes he was serving came to see me to express their desire that he return as their pastor and to give him every support possible at that time. He did, in fact, return and was doing well. When Father Gavin died, I invited him to assume the pastorate at St. Leo's because he is originally from the western part of the diocese and has relatives in the area. Many of our priests prefer to be in the central or eastern part of the diocese and, in a way, an assignment at Pipestone was something akin to a return home for Father Taylor.

Furthermore, he worked extraordinarily well with the religious woman and the lay woman who served with him full-time at the three parishes of Madelia, Lake Crystal and Truman. I had every reason to believe he would serve well with

I am sorry that this did not work out.

RT000345

RT

FILE

November 4, 1991

Reverend Robert Taylor
Church of St. Leo
106 Fourth Street, SE
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164

Dear Bob,

Thanks very much for your understanding and flexibility this past weekend when I was unable to come for the celebrations of Confirmation at St. Martin's Church in Woodstock and St. Leo's Church in Pipestone. I do hope that things went well for you and the young people who were Confirmed. I was pleased to delegate you to do the Confirming in my absence and I simply remind you to send in the information about the Confirmation as usual to the office of the chancellor.

Bob, I would like to send a note to each of the young people who was Confirmed by you on Sunday since I was unable to be present myself. Please do me the favor of sending their names and addresses to my office so that a letter can be sent to each of their homes. Thanks very much. God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

John

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

MONITOR COPY SENT TO THE SECRETARY

RT000145

FILE

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Archbishop John Roach
From: Bishop John Vlazny *+ John Vlazny*
Date: November 4, 1991
Re: Correspondence from Pipestone

Thanks very much for sending me a copy of your letter to _____ of St. Leo's Parish in Pipestone. This is a very problematic situation which has not been easy to resolve. I appreciated the tone of your letter and your support.

When _____ wrote to me last June, he indicated that he did not want me to share his concerns with Father Taylor. He was saddened that his _____ lost her job to a full-time person. They paint a very bleak picture, but their family is the only one that has shared such complaints. _____ who lost her job has also been unhappy. But I shall pursue the matter further because something about it still does not seem right.

If you have any suggestions, they are always welcome. Thanks.

RT000346

Bishop John G. Vlazny
55 West Sanborn
Winona, MN. 55987

RECEIVED NOV 7 1991

Dear Bishop,

Thank You for your prompt reply.

No, we definitely DO NOT want you to send or talk to Father Taylor about the letters we wrote to the Arch Bishop and any of the ones we sent to you now or before. Maybe at a later date, we will let you know. Because when it comes to Satanism, if he is any way involved, this is a very serious subject and as you know, could involve human lives. As you know, he did make a ~~RT~~ Swastika with 4 checks, which tells us, he could be involved. Also the night of the Council meeting, the Prayer he said ended with something about "wishes and dreams, horizontal and vertical and the Devil," which we did not understand. (As he told ^{← not (at the 2 hr conversation)} and another person--"If you say anything about this to any one, I'll deny it". We are sure he will also deny all that we have told you.

You wrote that you encouraged _____ to approach Father Taylor about some kind of work, which she did, during that 2 hour conversation, and this is when he told her that "if she was the last applicant or the only applicant, he would not hire her".

When Father's own Sister-in-law told _____, a number of times, "We're Praying for you"; the Funeral Director warns the Families that Father will give them trouble; so many not wanting to help with Mass, such as Servers, Lectors, Commentators, Communion Distributors; no one wanting to run for Council; only a few volunteered to teach Religious Education; only 70 collection envelopes came in the week before last, when there are about 400 families; People aren't giving to his 10 point plan and he plans to bill them; not letting a Veteran have the American Flag on his Casket; All these things, don't tell you anything??

When People tell us about their complaints, we wish they would write to you, but we think they panic and are petrified of the fact of writing to a Bishop about a Priest. We don't like it either, you probably don't even believe the things we've said, but they are true, what we are writing, seeing, hearing, ~~██████████~~. We are trying to give you a picture of the situation here. All we want to do is to ~~SAVE~~ our Parish.

This Man has 2 Personalities. One that has a nice personality that gives Mass. The other that is rude, mean, abusive and lies. We really think this Man needs help very badly and we would like to see him get it. Even in his Sermons, he knocks people, kind of says, people without an education are idiots. For about 2 months he was preaching from the book of John about helping the poor and handicap, but he doesn't practice what he Preaches.

RT000347

has been in this Parish since he was 4-- and I have been for
This is OUR Parish and we either have to fight for it or go elsewhere, which
we Do Not want to do. We did go elsewhere for awhile last Spring and Summer, but at
present we are back at St. Leo's.

Thank You for listening to us.

In Christ's Love,

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 888
Tel. 507/454-4643

M E M O R A N D U M

To: The File of Father Robert Taylor
From: Bishop John Vlazny + *John Vlazny*
Date: May 6, 1992
Re: Call from Pipestone

, from Minnesota Corrections in Pipestone called the Pastoral Center on Wednesday, April 29. I returned his call on April 30 and spoke with him about a report circulating in Pipestone concerning misbehavior of Father Taylor in his dealings with children.

reported that he had pursued the rumor and found no substance to it. I told him that a similar report was circulating last summer when he dismissed three employees. The parents of one were particularly annoyed over the dismissal and wrote to me several times with their complaints but never had any substantive allegations to raise against Father Taylor.

Furthermore, I assured that Father Taylor was not in Pipestone because he had to be removed from his previous assignment. I explained that he had been away for treatment while in Madelia but that he had returned from Jemez Springs with a recommendation that he continue in his priestly ministry and that there were no issues to impede such pastoral work.

Father Taylor has denied any such allegations against himself in the past and no alleged victim has come forward to accuse him. He does have a way of turning people against him and some of his behaviors are crude and intimidating. This does get him in trouble. He has been trying to deal with that.

I asked to let me know if similar allegations come forward from any other people in Pipestone. is a member of the Catholic parish there and felt that Father Taylor is doing fine and that most people are glad to have him as pastor.

RT000349

Dear Bishop John G. Vlazny,

RECEIVED JUN 9 1992

Are you aware that Father Taylor has hired a Protestant to run our Catholic Religion Program??? From what we have heard, she comes from Madalia, she applied last year and Father wanted to hire her last year. The Council said "NO", being she wasn't Catholic. quit before the year was up. For some reason this Woman so conveniently, has recently moved to Pipestone. We heard she has a couple of kids, but haven't heard about a husband, so I don't know if she has one or not. There certainly aren't any jobs here for anyone to want to come and move here. Someone from the Council said he hired her for the remainder of the School year without consulting the Council. There is one lady that was talking to the Protestant and ^{she} seems to think she has the job for next year. What does she know about the RICA, the 1st Communion, Confession, and our Confirmation, that she can do the job. Being she's from Madalia, what connection is there that he wants her here? Or does he want her, because she doesn't know anything, so he will have complete control of her to do what he wants her to do. He wants complete control over everything, even though he hires & pays people to do the jobs. One Bright Council member said, "she's not completely ignorant of the Catholic Religion, she has two sister-in-laws that are Catholic". Father can't find time in his schedule for Bible School. The Priests never had anything to do with it before. The Coordinator set the date, got teachers and had Bible School. Can't do anything without him wanting all the credit. Last year, all the things suggested for 1st Communion, he wouldn't think of such a thing, but landed up doing some of them & taking all the credit.

Over the past month or so, I have talked to quite a few people. I don't ask them, they tell me things. Almost everyone mentions that he doesn't like women, they can all see that, the way he treats the women. Four people have mentioned about the Janitor, that he came from the area father was in before, when we probably had a Parish Member that may have needed a job. He worked a month before he was even interviewed, last year for the job. The same with the Coordinator, we don't need strangers!

I was at a Church dinner awhile back at an area Church. I was talking to a lady from Pipestone's Good Samaritan Home, her daughter had brought her to the dinner. She knows our daughter-in-law that works there. When she found out I was from the Pipestone Church, she starting talking about how they don't like Father Taylor at the home. She said, "HE MAKES FUN OF US". She told me this! and also he's always late, mixing up the Home's schedule. Can you imagine a Priest making Fun of the Aged & handicap??? But then he did do it to our Janitor

One young Gal says she can't get her husband to come to Church. She has 3 small children, 6, 4, & 4month old baby, she comes with the kids alone. Every-time her husband comes, Father makes some kind of a remark to him & then he won't come to Church again for 4, 5, 6 weeks and then Father says something again to him he doesn't like, and won't come again. She also said that they met their Pledge for last year, so their Pledge was increased for this year. They did not raise it themselves, Father or the Council did, she was mad! Another lady also told me they had also met their Pledge for last year and then they were sent 5 more envelopes & she was mad. I don't quite know about the envelopes, but I do know she was mad about it.

I was talking to one lady, that has probably sang in the Choir for 50 to 55 years, since a teenager, I think. She says Father doesn't want the Choir anymore. She said, "We're not professionals, but we do enjoy singing in the Choir". Years ago the Choir sang for 1 Mass every Sunday. For quite some years, now, they would only sing for special occasions, like Christmas season, Easter season, & Confirmation. I asked, "Why did Father hire & pays for a Music Coordinator"? She's wondering the same thing. She has done it for years for nothing. Since she is being paid, the only Music I have seen, is the Coordinator and her Daughter-in-law sang solos on Good Friday & she directed the Children's Christmas

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and he wants again to be the leader. During Easter, we couldn't have Organ music for Masses. Just a few things, he would have music to lead us. Again, he lead the singing. I know Jasper & Flandreau, SD had Organ music. HE makes his own rules. When Father Gavin was here, he bought 2 sets of new music books (Glory & Praise, 2 volumes in folders & the Mass & Music books, the old ones weren't that bad). Father doesn't like these books. He most of the time, makes folders for the Masses, wasting all this paper, comes up with songs we have never heard of. Always mailing stuff to the Parishioners, wasting postage and money on all this stuff. I thought he was sent here to straighten out our Financial problems. It's just unbelievable all the things he sends out. We could pick up at Church & save money, but we don't need all the stuff he sends out. Sends out the weekly envelopes every 2 months.

You can't imagine the Families that have left Church. There are 4 Lutheran Churches here and I know 2 of them have gotten a number of Families, some are Prominent Business People Families. neighbor asked them one day, "What going on in the Catholic Church? We have a number of Catholic Families coming to Church and we are wondering why". How many more Churches are getting them, I don't know, these are the ones we've heard about. the other Coordinator, that worked with is going to one of the Lutheran Churches. Her husband went to Catholic Schools, and both Families are very strong Catholics. One Lady told me, she thought they were going to start staying home and watching Mass on TV and send donations to them. Also, some are still going to Flandreau and Jasper and other towns. Some just keep coming, as ourselves, because we want to stay Catholic, and go to fulfill our weekly obligation. As for myself, I'm losing faith more all the time. I have been a Catholic for 41½ years, taught Religion classes 15 years, the last year I taught in a different Parish. I get so I don't care whether I go or not. Nobody can figure out how he can be meeting Expenses, with what little money is coming in. He's got quite a few employees..

Father won't Baptize during Lent. He was going to have a Big deal on Easter Vigil. NO ONE had a Baby Baptized. One guy was telling me that last year they wanted their Baby Baptized and Father wouldn't because it was Lent. This guy asked Father when the Law of the Church was changed. It was always necessary to Baptize during the 1st month, after the Baby was born & wanted to see where the Law was changed. Father finally admitted it was HIS Law. Different People are going back to their home towns and having Baptism done. One Gal told me, when she went to the Pre-Jordan classes, she questioned some of the things he was teaching, but she didn't say what they were.

Marriages, again I know 2 girls for sure are getting Married out of the Church. They can not pin him down to make arrangements. When they can, his schedule is so full, he says & don't want them to get married when they want to. Right now, I know of only one wedding in June & 1 in July. There could be more, this is all I've heard of.

When families have someone in serious condition in the Hospital & maybe death, Father has no words of comfort, he does not pray with the Families. The Chaplain, the Nuns, other Priests, & even Protestant Minister, if the family has Protestant, will sit down & pray with the Families & give them words of Comfort.

We have one Family, that has a son, on New Years eve, that was beat up & has been in a coma since, just starting to show a little improvement. May be a vegetable. This Family needs words of comfort, guidance & Prayers. Father doesn't give it. One of the persons involved, is the son of a Prominent Business man. His son has been in & out of the State Pen, for stealing cars & what else I don't know. But when Father comes to see the Family (he comes all hours of the evening) he talks about the poor Business man's family. How sorry he feels for them. The Family says after he leaves, they cry. The Mother said, "we don't even want him to come anymore". I told her, "then you are going to have to tell him not to come anymore". I don't ^{know} if they have told him or not. People don't want him to stop ~~to~~ see them at the Hospital and telling the Hospital not to put them on his list. The last 2 weeks in the Bulletin he's had a writeup about the people are to contact him personally if they want him to go to the Hospital.

We haven't heard anything about elections this Spring, as we always did before, but then we didn't vote until last year, because we couldn't get anyone to run for Council. With everything that is going on, almost everyone I've talked to, wants to know, "What's wrong with the COUNCIL"??? I heard there are a few mad ones, I'm waiting for some of them to quit. The Council doesn't have anything to say anyway, it's all cut & dried before the meetings. We don't even know when they have meetings anymore, and never get the minutes of the meetings with the Bulletin, like we use to get. Everything is such a big Secret, everything is so sneaky and underhanded. Some of the people on the Education Committee doesn't even know if they have hired a Coordinator or not. Last year, ~~and~~ the Council was on the hiring committee, they divided them into 2 groups. Each applicant had to appear before 2 committee. This year he is being so sneaky about the Coordinator, the rest of the Council doesn't know what's going on. He has selected a CHOICE FEW, his biggest Brown Nosers, I'm sure. As far as I know, it was only mentioned in the Bulletin once, and I only seen it once in the local paper, sure didn't want anyone local. I think each Parish should take care of it's own, and hire local people. We as Parishioners, who fork out the money, have a right to know what is going on!!! But then we told you last year, he told the Council that they were not to tell anyone what goes on in their meetings, not even their Spouses. So what's he trying to do??? If things continue the way they have, it won't be long, we won't have a Parish anymore. We know there is a shortage of Priest, but this man could use help. I never seen anyone so self-centered.

I mentioned last year, we haven't said the Gloria & the Creed for a long time. Well, we still don't. A few times we sang some of the Gloria. I always felt these 2 parts of the Mass were very important. He had Lenton classes, I don't think very many went, but one lady said he told them, not necessarily everything in the Bible is true. How does anyone know??

I suppose you still don't believe what's going on here, but it's true. And we know, he would deny everything. He doesn't know what the truth is. He does have some nice Masses and it's hard to believe when he's up there, that he is and can do the things he does. He puts so much emphases on Education, he says in his sermons, that anyone without an Education is an Idiot. You can have an Education & still not have Common Sense. There are a lot of self educated people and very successful People in this world without College Education. How can this man come in & stir up our Parish like he has? There are 400 Families here & only one of him. He could bend a little our way.

One Family confided in him, that was having problems with a son. This should be Confidential!!!! He went to a Cousin's house & told them about it. She told me, they didn't want to hear all about it, they grew up with this kid, and it certainly wasn't any of their business.

He was sent here to straighten us out Financially, but it looks to me, he is creating a Disaster. We will be much worse off than before. We were doing fine, Father Gavin spent way too much, also. The Priests don't know the value of money, it's always been easy come, easy go to them, there are hard times now. Last Fall at the beginning of Religion classes, he sent home a letter to the Parents. He claimed the Religion Program this year would cost about the same as last year, \$30,000. The two Coordinators remembered what they had ordered, and with their wages plus materials more like \$10,000. He couldn't include his wages, because she wasn't part of our Program, only helped with 1st Communion Stations. There were other things exaggerated about. He thinks people believe all this crap! He's just trying to cover up for the additional money he was paying the new Coordinator.

What gets the people is his wanting to be #1, for everthing, his dishonesty, not truthful about anything, Nobody does anything right, only he knows anything. How Educated he is, and the big "Secret" about everything. This our Parish, he is one of God's Apostles sent to Spread the Good News of God. He thinks it's his Church and he should have complete control of it. He needs to cooperate with the people of this Parish.

As you can tell when I write about him, I'm very mad. This only part of what is going on here, these are just from our small circle of friends. He caters to the money people. I've heard you have received a lot more letters than just ours, we all can't be wrong. You would get more, but, lots of people say, how can I write about a Priest to the Bishop. 2 Nuns & a Church Secretary, all gave us the same name & address for the Arch Bishop. He told us, he has no jurisdiction over the Diocese of Winona. I wrote back & asked who our Arch Bishop was & he never answered back.

Don't show him this letter, he will Deny everything anything.

As for our Daughter, you know how she was treated. When she was in 4th grade, we were told that she would make good College material. We couldn't afford to send her to College, but she did go 2 years to Vocational School, one year of Management. Last year when [redacted] was going to apply for the job, (but then he told her, if she was the last applicate or the only applicate, he wouldn't hire her), the Services of the Blind wrote a letter of what they would do for her. They would send her to Computer School, furnish her a talking Computer, & a Closed Circuit TV for her use, With No Expense for the Church. She gave her Application, her Resume & this Letter from The Services for the Blind, to Father. When she was interviewed, not one Person asked about what she had on her Resume or the Letter from the Services for the Blind. Father must have given them only, a Copy of the Application. The Services for the Blind, can not believe what this Man has done. They said with [redacted] 4 years of experience & their Letter, she should have had Top Priority for the Job.

Well, they sent [redacted] to Marshall College for a IQ test. She was ranked in the 98% percentile, very Superior. She also has Social Savy--she deals exceptionally well with People. She wasn't able to finish her test, they told her, no telling how high she may have ranked, she had finished the test.

This Winter she had 8 weeks of Schooling, mainly Computer. While there, the State gave her Tests. The first tests they gave her, came out so high, they gave her all the hardest tests they could give her, to see what she was qualified to do. She came out very high in all the tests. This is what she was told: They told, it looks like she already has a College Degree. They said,, with the knowledge she now has, she is capable of running a Business. Also, with the knowledge she has, she could go right out & get a job of Counciling. But you have to have a College Degree & Certificate to get these Jobs. She already has done Counciling & had some training, when she became a Volunteer for the Hot-Line out of Worthington. Also, when Youth Director, when the Kids called,, day or night, they needed someone to talk to and they could trust her. This is Counciling. If several of the People on the Council, only knew that it was their children that were calling [redacted] the most. [redacted] never told anyone, who they were. The People who gave [redacted] the tests, also said,, they thought she should go to College for 5 years & get her Degree, also they thought she could go for 9 years to be a Psychologist. But at her age, that is quite a challenge.

[redacted] did go & talk to Father Taylor, a couple of weeks ago and talk to him about the job and the things he said to her last Spring. Of course, he denied saying them. She told him right out, that he was doing exactly what he said he would do, deny everything he had said to her. This Man is called a Priest, one of God's Apostles. Other talents [redacted] has, is she plays the Organ, has written several songs, words & music & writes poem and stories. All uneducated People are not Idiots. I'm sure you won't believe all this either, you can talk to the Services for the Blind at Marshall and she can tell you.

This part about [redacted] you could tell Father, if you wish.

Sincerely,

RT000353

Bishop John G. Vlazonis
Diocese of Winona
Winona, Mn

Dear Bishop Vlazonis,

After much prayerful thought and reflection this past week my feelings remain the same therefore I have decided to write you about Father Taylor's personal appearance.

I am in data processing at our local hospital.

The day after the tornadoes of last week June 17, a Wednesday, Father Taylor arrived at the front desk at the hospital asking for the list of inpatients so he could "get a handle on the people here to call the area priests so they could visit their people from the disaster." I have no problem with that other than the fact that all other ministers came and visited all the casualties.

My shock and distaste came from his personal grooming. It was about 10:30 in the morning. He appeared with several days growth of whiskers

on his face, uncombed hair, dirty - or filthy - clerical suit, filthy black fingernails and dirty hands. His breath was most offensive as well as his entire body odor. He looked like a skid row bum who had been sleeping in a doorway for several days and had just come to and decided to get on with his business.

Bishop - with all due respect - I was deeply ashamed when the receptionist at the desk asked if that was our priest when he walked away. Had he been part of the rescue efforts there might have been some excuse for his appearance.

This has been a problem since his arrival here. I fear that the man does not know what soap and water are, much less a comb or toothbrush.

It is a shame to see him say the Holy Mass with shoes flopping untied and hair uncombed. This is a frequent occurrence. It is obvious that he never uses deodorant.

The rectory has become a filthy hovel and reeks of garbage.

It is inexcusable for him to cough into his hand and in the

next instant reach in and present the Sacred Host for someone to ingest.

It has come to my attention that several families have left St. Leo's and are attending other churches. This grieves me as I myself have decided not to return to St. Leo's until this situation is rectified. However, I will not leave the Catholic faith - that has been a very real part of my entire life. I will, however, attend Mass in Luverne, Jasper, Lake Benton or Glendreau.

Bishop - I realize the shortage of priests in our diocese but at this point I believe the presence of Father Taylor is equally damaging to the faith.

Please look into this matter and many other areas of concern to the people at St. Leo's. Not being a witness to the other accusations and rumors I will not even honor them with mention. I only bring to you my own distress at his appearance this past week at our medical facility. No one who is ill would want someone to

visit them with such an offensive
appearance and body odor.

Sincerely,

cc: Father Eugene Egan - Dial representative

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

June 29, 1992

Dear

Earlier this month I received your lengthy letter in which you shared with me many of your continuing concerns about the well-being of Saint Leo's parish. I am so sorry that you are displeased with the leadership that Father Taylor and I are offering the parish community. These have not been easy years for you, I know, but I really do believe that this is much more God's church than it is yours or mine or Father's. Please join me in praying to the Holy Spirit for the guidance and strength we need to face the future together.

I was very pleased to learn that you have not abandoned Saint Leo's parish. People who move to other parishes because of a priest make a big mistake, in my judgement. I am so grateful to my mom and dad that they realized where they belonged, even when it was difficult. That's the way it has to be, of course, with family. The big mistake of our culture is that people sink no roots and offer their children no stability.

Please give my warmest greetings to _____ and her husband. I still recall fondly the pleasant visit we had in Winona last year in the spring. I wish her well for the future and hope that one day she will again have the opportunity to offer her talents and service to the church. May this summertime be a season of blessings for you and all the people of Saint Leo's parish.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000358

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

June 29, 1992

Dear

This past week I received your letter in which you shared with me some concerns about your pastor, Father Robert Taylor. I am sorry about your decision not to return to St. Leo's for worship, but perhaps you will reconsider.

I had the opportunity to speak with Father Taylor with respect to some of your observations about his appearance on June 17th. He had hurried from Winona, where all of us were present for a diocesan convocation and the ordination of our new priests, to attend to those who were in distress because of all the damage to their homes and their person during the terrible June tornado storm. He had been visiting families, involved in lifting and cleaning up, and then went to the hospital to visit the sick. His poor appearance on that occasion is certainly excusable but I shall share your letter with him so that he is aware of your observations on other occasions. When I visited St. Leo's last year for the gathering with the leaders of our Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, things seemed to be in good order. But I am grateful that you do have some pride in the physical appearance of your parish buildings.

You sent a copy of your letter to Father Eugene Egan, the dean of our western deanery. If you have other concerns, please do share them with him. You mentioned "many other areas of concern" without being specific. Father Taylor has been working hard to serve the people of St. Leo's and St. Martin's and both he and I want the people of your parish to continue to be served well. If you have any specific recommendations about the way you can be better served, we shall see what we can do.

Thank you for your interest in the parish. I do hope that you will be loyal to St. Leo's. We priests come and go. The church is the people. We are your servants. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

cc: Reverend Eugene E. Egan
Reverend Robert H. Taylor

RT000359

RECEIVED JUL 07 1992

July 6, 1992

Dear Bishop Vlazny,

It's time I take the time to let you know that something must be done with the man (and I can't call him a priest) that you have as a pastor in Saint Leo Church. This past weekend (June 28) put the lid on the pot that I'm writing you. We had a birthday party in the hall and he told us we could not have the lights on in the hall and there was people present, until 10 minutes before 2 and we should be out shortly after 4 if that was end of the open house. When he walked into the hall, he walked in front of 3 people and did not acknowledge them one bit. This light bit did not set good with the rest of the family and need less to say the rest of the relatives did not have a good word to say about his attitude. He has told pepple that it is his church and not the parishioners but who supports it. NOT him. He just spends the money that he does get.

Then, I am the coordinator of our local bloodmobile and at the last drive in May he told me he had a complaint to make from the previous draw and that was that the lights and doors were left on and open in the church. I told this to my co-workers who are not Catholics and boy this hit the ceiling as they know the lights were out as I went back in the dark to shut off the bathroom lights in the school. Lights on with no one in church or hall is my pet peeve so why would I leave lights when I used the hall. We wrote Father a note that lights were all out and what doors were left open because of people in the hall and hung it up. Next morning he came in and jump all over the 2 ladies that were not Catholic and was shaking his fist at them and told them if they call him a liar again or saw another note the bloodmobile was out. He was calling us a liar but we know how he lies. Saint Paul Red Cross representative is also aware of this man's tactics. We shared our experience with the Red Cross nurses the day of the draw and they said this man is a priest and did not think it was very nice of a man in his position to act this way.

This is only 2 incidnets that I don't approve of as a parishioners but the list is going on that he is doing in the community. People are talking about "this your pastor". After Baaculate services held in our church, we had coffee and bars in the hall, he came down to the hall and told an outsider it time to break this up, the lights are going out. What an impression to leave with the non-catholics again and there was a Catholic person sitting in the group.

RT000360

Also- do you know that we had a non-catholic to finish out our religion co-ordinators contact to the end of the year. What does a non-catholic know how to conduct our religion program. I don't care how qualified or how much contact she has had with Catholic education, we don't need non-catholic running our program. I heard the new coordinator is also not catholic and wonder how much truth there is to this or if people think it is the last one.

I have friends who work in the nursing unit and when he comes to give communion, he doesn't care if the door is shut or not- he walks right in. Well-one time he did this and the nurse aid just finished giving a bath, and by luck she put up a cover and Father walk in upset because this lady was not in the chapel for communion. The nurse aid told this to the nurse in charge. He is not to well like or respect at the the nursing unit because of his tackfulness is nothing, personal hygiene smells so they aren't to impressed with him as a Catholic priest. People nowadays so not have to run around smelling.

Out at Good Sam, I have been told by a family member who mother is there that he makes fun of the catholic residents to their family and I know for a fact he is never on time to say mass as I have attended mass there. When he runs late everything else will be late and as the chaplain of Good Sam told me personally it only put the rest of the scheduled events behind. Not good PR.

Another parishioners told me that Sunday morning attendance is terrible and that they go to church just to see what "K'ous is going to take place". That man is never organized in saying mass so a lot of distraction goes on. A usher told me as well that when he takes count at weekend masses and gave the number to Father that Father said we'll add another 100 ot it to make it look good to the Bishop. NOW that tells the usher he is lying to you and he is suppose to be a man of God and set an example for us.

I have a good family friend that has left the Catholic faith and joined a Lutheran Church. bishop-people are not going or else or going to other churches. We ourselves, do not go to church in Pipestone if all can be avoided because you have never seen such a "zoo" in the mass proper that it makes you more depressed afterwards than to be able to talk about the good you should of received. We attend Jasper, Flandeau, Currie, Slayton, Sioux Falls. We have such a good feeling coming out of these churches because the priest is organized, sincere about his work and its not a zoo. It's bad when a young Catholic man and a co-worker of my husband moves into the community who attends mass here a few times came and ask my husband if we go to church here every Sunday and he did see us one weekend when he first moved in. He said he didn't know if he could continue to go here as he felt more depressed that leaving with a good feeling. For a young single man of about 27 to feel that way you definitely are going to loose him.

Grant, other churches of different faith has there problems as well but they least have a committee that they can go to and share it and maybe check into it and if need be ask the minister to leave. I do believe it is terrible when we have to leave it up to one person (you) to make that change once every 5 to 8 years. If we have to wait that long, the faith of Saint Leo will be gone. Why can't the Bishop of a Diocese listen to people letters or comments and do something about it rather than just let it go on. Grant, I realize priest our short but you could move them when problems are in a parish rather than continue to let non-Catholic and Catholics talk and be disgusted with the church. people are bringing problems to you-it would be nice to check it out and make calls to parishioners or write letters. I could give you a list of unhappy people.

Over in Woodstock, I understand he can't get any mass servers to serve mass. With his personal hygiene, I wouldn't want to get to get to close to him either. I just heard over the weekend again, that a business person noticed his Bo and that dirty cigar hanging out of his mouth. By the way, With him visiting the shut-ins with this dirty cigar handle by his fingers, how can his hand be clean to give the people communion. Nowadays, there is so much concern about germs, I would not want to touch anything he had his hands on.

This ends by disappointment with Father Taylor and will continue to have less contact with church affairs for fear how he might offend my friends outside the church and leave people saying "This is your church and pastor" Please, Bishop Vlazny, listen to people when they write and I understand I am not the first and don't believe I will be the last.

Sincerely yours,

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

July 7, 1992

Dear

Today I received your letter of concern about Father Robert Taylor, the pastor of Saint Leo's parish in Pipestone. You paint a sad picture which I would like to share with him. I shall await your permission to review your letter with him. I would do so immediately but I thought it best to check with you first in this instance.

Be assured of my prayers and support for you and all the people of Saint Leo's. I still recall the beautiful funeral celebration for Father Larry Gavin two years ago. I pray that these summer days will be a time of blessing for you and all our Catholic people in Pipestone and Woodstock.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000363

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

July 13, 1992

Dear

Your most recent letter arrived today. I continue to pray for you and all the people of Saint Leo Church and Saint Martin Church.

It is only fair to let you know that I shall not be contacting directly the people whom you mentioned in your letter. To say the least, that would be quite awkward. But if anyone wishes to write to me as you did, please encourage these folks to do so. But, as always, I must be free to use a person's name in conversing with Father Taylor. Otherwise it would be most unfair to him.

If you change your mind about allowing me to use your name, I will ask the dean to speak with Father Taylor once again. God bless you.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000364

RECEIVED JUN 13 1992

Dear Rev Bishop Vlazny,

I'm writing again in answer to your letter of July 7. You can talk to him about incidents but knowing the past of when he been called on the carpet by parishioners & maybe by you - he will deny all these incidents - so my word against him will have to be believe & I'm sure you'll believe your co-workers.

Before you contact him if my word isn't good enough on these incidents you may contact & they have given me permission to say contact them are as follows -

RT000365

28

These five ladies are the ones I
work with on the bloodmobile & will
definitely say he did this to them. Also
they worked 18 hrs a day co-ordinating
the meals for the Lake Wilson workers &
victims of the tornadoe as

I have
heard that Father Taylor told you he helped
at the tornado sight & said she
did not see Taylor there once & she spend
from Tues night to the following Monday
working with meals Is he lying again?

Birthday party incident. it's has all
happen to us & were set happy way he
treated outside people & talked to them.

Nurse and ~~to~~ at the Pipestone County
Skilled Nursing Unit is

* Chef nurse is I'm sure they
will give good answer on this because
was the one telling me what he did to her.

Oh also Red Cross nurse that aware
of Father's tactics as Head nurse ^{the} day

(2)

of the drive was if I
can read her writing. Contact her at
the

On the Baaculatate services

was the one that was visiting with
when Father told them time
to leave. mother told my mother &
she told me. People are talking how they
are being treated. is an outsider
of the church.

Now the catholic family who has
joined another church is

Ask her where her family goes on Sunday
to church. They are in Jasper most every
Sunday from what her dad tells me & I see
them there everytime we are there. Ask
what other St Lee people might be in this

Katherine's church as I haven't check
with her on the names that I have
heard about. 5 other names I have heard.

Usher that he has been telling the up the
~~number~~ number is

is ^{the} one who was
telling me about the attendance on Sunday
morning as bad. there
address & phone

Check with + she
could tell you about an episode at
parish council that she said she was going
to resign. Not happy with him is all I
know of what she told me.

Then check with
+ see why they are thinking of driving 20
miles to church in Flaxden so. Dad compared
to 7 to Pipstow. + I talked one day
about the pastor.

(3)

Your honor, you said I gain a sad picture - well it is sad when people are talking. Lot of change has taken place from 2 years when you were out here & another year it can be nothing too -

Oh I ran into a non-catholic mother of a groom who is getting married in our church one of these first weekend & the bride is catholic from out of the area I was told. Now they are having a wedding dance in the hall cause Father Taylor said they could as the place originally scheduled closed. Does the diocesan insurance liability allow this & what about liquor on the Catholic property and what license are necessary? I never thought to ask her how liquor was being handled but I hear about it later. People talked about one other wedding dance in the hall that Taylor let go on.

I visited with a neighbor lady & she was saying Father Taylor is trying

to find as she is a lady
trying to get rid of him. If Father Taylor
is going to be say this of me, I would if
you need to call him about these incidents
do not mention my name. I think you contact
these individuals & let him not know how
you found knowledge of what is taking
place. I am scared if that man would
come to me because I believe he could
be nasty and I feel if you mention my name
& he came to me he would only call me
the liar when he is lying.

We had a beautiful rain & missed the
storms again & we are thanking the Lord
for this and will thank the Lord when a
better attitude is developed in our parish.
Yours in the Lord,

RECEIVED DEC 07 1992

Dec. 4th. 1992

Dear Bishop Vlazny

Regarding the Bishops letter on Womens Issues, you stated you were wondering whether the fact that women could not recieve the Sacrement of Holy Orders was a sexist practice. It is! You say Scripture and Tradition have expressed Jesus determination that all are called to holiness but only men are called to Sacremental service. I would like to know where in Scripture Jesus says only men can follow me and preach my lessons. In Jesus day only men could do certain things, that is why he chose men at that time. He never said or intended, only men can become my ordained ministers for the rest of time even if customs change.

I know of many Nuns who are much more capable of leading a parish Spiritually than these Sacred men. I don't see how you can say women are equal with men in the Church when the Church denies women who recieve "the call" to fullfil that call.

What makes men so sacred over women?

Feeling, restrained.

RT000371

Dec 4-92
RECEIVED DEC 07 1992

Dear Bishop Vlazny

As a Catholic who has always felt very much a part of the Parish church, I am begging you, to please take Robert Taylor out of our parish. I cannot even think of him as a priest much less a spiritual advisor. Through his cruel attitude and coercion he has gotten rid of _____ who did a tremendous job visiting the sick, having Bible studies etc. And took over the parish very capably while Father Gavin was sick and when he died. Now he wants to hire a "professional" as he calls it to do the same job he said we didn't need an extra person for. He also very cruelly fired two women who were doing a great job coordinating the CCD program. He has no tact with people who work under him. He also through the same method forced the janitor and his son to quit. Anyone who worked under Father Gavin he has gotten rid of. We feel we have no say in anything, we are just here to pay for whatever he decides we need. We aren't capable to write liturgy, the other three priests we had were happy to have our input. He doesn't care about people's feelings and can be very cruel and arrogant in his attitude.

_____ were very good and active members of St. Leo, have left the church. Others are going to Jasper or Flandreau S.D. He may be fixing the buildings up, but he is not doing the same for the faithful. It is not our Parish any more it is his. A person with his problems should not be in Parish work.

I'm very concerned

RT000372

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

December 11, 1992

Dear

This past week I received two letters from you. I hope you won't mind if I respond to both in this one letter.

You expressed some confusion about your understanding of the actions of Jesus from Sacred Scripture. It is clear that, even though Jesus included many women among His disciples and friends, He chose only men to be His apostles and the first priests.

In your letter you stated, "In Jesus' day only men could do certain things, that is why He chose men at that time." I respect your opinion, but it is at odds with the official teaching of the Church for twenty centuries. You are entitled to your opinion, but you cannot promote that as the doctrine of the Church.

You also indicated that you knew many people who were more capable of leading a parish spiritually than priests. Believe me, I have no doubt about that. There are many women who are more capable of leading this diocese than I am. That's not the point. Ordination has never been seen as a validation of human ability. It is a gift from God. It does not make the person ordained more intelligent or more sacred. It is the office that is sacred, not the person.

With respect to your comments on pastoral leadership at St. Leo's Church in Pipestone, I accept your observations but assure you that they have all been investigated before. Changes in leadership are often problematic. Father Gavin would be the last person in the world to want Father Taylor criticized for doing things differently from the way he did them. Our country will be run very differently in the next four years because of the change in leadership. If people leave the country because of this change in leadership, I think they are making a mistake. I feel the same way about those who chose to leave the church because of a change in leadership style. I am sorry about that, but I do support Father Taylor as your pastor and all those who are working hard to build up the parish community in cooperation with him. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazonis

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazonis
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000373

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANDORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Vicar General

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
From: Reverend Gerald A. Mahon
Date: May 12, 1993
Re: Pastoral Council of Saint Leo's Parish, Pipestone

contacted the Pastoral Center in reference to rumors from people on the pastoral council at Saint Leo's parish concerning Father Taylor and inappropriate sexual advances on children. is on the pastoral council of Saint Leo's. who lives in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, was home for Mother's Day and received this information from her mother.

shared the fact that many people are dissatisfied with Father Taylor's leadership and they are leaving the parish to go elsewhere. He stated that several members of the pastoral council are dissatisfied.

One lady in the parish was sharing a story about Father Taylor taking their young girl to the rectory to give her some candy. He did not ask permission and the parents were offended that all of a sudden they did not know the whereabouts of their child. When they went looking for her, they found her in the rectory. As this person was relating the story, two other ladies stated, "Father Taylor has made sexual passes at our children." These same two persons are also on the council. They indicated that they no longer know where to turn.

I asked for the name of a parent or a child which would give me direction in continuing the investigation.

I would recommend that you call Father Taylor immediately and ask him about any misunderstandings or allegations. If and when gets back to me with specific information, I will follow up on the investigation.

*I called Fr. Taylor on 5-12-93.
He has heard nothing & denies any inappropriate
dealings with children. I told him we would
investigate further if & when suggests
specific info.*

+John D. Vlazny

RT000374

RT

RECEIVED MAY 20 1993



CHURCH OF SAINT LEO

South Hiawatha Avenue at 4th Street P.O. Box 36
(507) 825-3152 Pipestone, MN 56164

May 17, 1993

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny, D.D.
Bishop of Winona
55 West Sanborn
Winona, Mn 55987

Dear Bishop John,

Your letter concerning the "forgiveness" of St. Leo's contribution to your Annual Diocesan Appeal was most welcome, and even more, a healing respite to our financial woes. We thought we were making some progress, but when one is struggling for survival, and the utilities of this unexpected, long, colder than normal winter, still continue to arrive, one finds oneself, back to the kneeler, back to the drawing board!

At the same time, we must detect the subtle economic and demographic changes affecting southwest Minnesota. We should use these changes for our long range planning. It seems to me that both St. Leo's and St. Martin's physical facilities, nice as they are, are going to suffer from increasing financial stresses in the coming years. Both are probably overbuilt for the size of today's congregations. With a continuing loss of population, with one of the lowest per county average family income in the state, with our geographic location splitting loyalties to Sioux Falls, Brookings and Marshall, with the loss of a healthy economic base, I see county seat towns out here going the way of Iona, Dundee, Woodstock, and other smaller towns. It may take several decades, but the decline has begun. Regional Centers are the name of the game today. With the size of parish plants, our utilities, insurance and maintenance will more than eat up any increases from income in our dwindling population. Just this week the Methodist Church here announced they will be closing as of August 1, 1993. That makes three in the last few years.

It seems to me that our response has to be more clustering; more interparochial cooperation, more sharing of resources between parishes. At the same time, we have to insist in our planning that our human resources are not lessened. Possibly we should set a standard of one professional person - pastor, DRE, Liturgist - for every 200 families. In that way, pastors will not feel overworked. It was not too many years ago Pipestone County had four priests and four sisters. Today we have two full and two part time professionals. As our local governmental agencies and school districts scamper to get the best bang from a dollar spent, it seems we might learn from their experience.

RT000146

RT

As regards to not taking a salary, it was "my personal judgment call" to help our people to focus in our deficit. I could have donated \$5,000.00, things would appear okay, but our parishioners would not be as acutely aware of the short fall. Furthermore, we are planning some kind of Annual Fall Festival to be an ongoing source of \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00, if we are successful. As far as visiting with councils, I would advise against it at this time. With our deeply ingrained Protestant concept of governance in Pipestone, especially in the area of finance, it would seem to fly in the face of reality, when, so very recently, we have pushed and passed that the Parish Finance Council is advisory to the pastor. Now to challenge the councils that suddenly this problem becomes their responsibility would exasperate some. The Councils are acutely aware of the problem; the parishioners have been informed; I think we should be grateful that we have increased our giving by \$25,000.00 a year. That figure represents 20 to 25 percent increase over pre-1991 levels despite the economic travails of our county. Possibly the best route to address this problem would be a word of gratitude and encouragement when you come out for Confirmation in October or November. Agriculturally, last year has been a disaster, but its full impact will not be felt until next year. Certainly the recent flood postponed the planting season again. Yet one good harvest can bring about a significant reversal. So pray that our Fall Festival will be successful, as well as a good harvest in 1993. To paraphrase the tentmaker - we may have been whipped and beaten, but we are not defeated.

Again thanks for listening!

Sincerely in Christ,



Reverend Robert H. Taylor
Pastor of St. Leo

RT000147

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Vicar General

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

To: Bishop John B. Vlasek
Fr: Gerard A. Balon
Re: Pipestone
Date: May 21, 1993

I received a call from _____ and
in reference to a note found on
the door of the rectory from _____ a
person who has been living at the rectory.
The note ^{allegedly} stated: "I no longer want to be
your lover - I have found a girl friend" The
note was found by _____ the janitor.
The janitor's daughter shared the news at the
beauty parlor.

They both mentioned how pleased they are
with the staff and Father Taylor. They do not
have any other information.

Gerard A. Balon

RT000375

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55901

Office of the
Vicar General

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

To: Bishop John S. Vezary
Fr: Gerard A. Mahon
Re: Coneras - St. Leo's, Pipestone
Date: May 27, 1993

I talked to _____ about the on-going problems in reference to _____ the proposed note from _____ and Fr. Taylor. While the people involved meet with Fr. Taylor - they continue to struggle. Fr. Taylor admits there was a note and he plans to continue to allow _____ to live at the rectory when he needs room - "because it is the Christian thing to do."

I told _____ I would recommend a meeting with you and the Pastoral Council - he would appreciate the Council receiving a hearing.

Gerard A. Mahon

RT000376

RT

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

June 8, 1993

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
Saint Leo Church
P.O. Box 36
106 Fourth Street, SE
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164

Dear Bob,

In May you wrote to me with the suggestion that I not visit with your parish pastoral and finance councils this summer. You felt it would impact negatively upon their role as advisory to the pastor. I certainly would not want to be responsible for such a misunderstanding.

On the other hand, Bob, I do believe it would be useful for me to meet with you and the pastoral council about some of the lingering concerns which continue to trouble your parishioners. We need to clear the air for once and for all.

has once again been in contact with my office. He and the other concerned parties are pleased with your pastoral ministry. But they are not satisfied with your ability to resolve the lingering doubts of other parishioners. I would like to come and give him and the members of your parish pastoral council a hearing.

In many ways it would be good if I could come over a weekend, but that would not be possible for some time. I would be available to come to the parish on the evening of Tuesday, July 13, or Wednesday, July 14, for a meeting with the members of the parish pastoral council of Saint Leo's. There is no more information about their concerns than what I told you on the telephone last month. But I cannot posture myself as indifferent or uninterested when they raise concerns. I hope you understand and concur. Please contact my office and make arrangements for such a meeting with you and the members of the parish pastoral council. God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000148

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 538
Tel. 507/454-4643

June 8, 1993

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
Saint Leo Church
P.O. Box 36
106 Fourth Street, SE
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164

Dear Bob,

In May you wrote to me with the suggestion that I not visit with your parish pastoral and finance councils this summer. You felt it would impact negatively upon their role as advisory to the pastor. I certainly would not want to be responsible for such a misunderstanding.

On the other hand, Bob, I do believe it would be useful for me to meet with you and the pastoral council about some of the lingering concerns which continue to trouble your parishioners. We need to clear the air for once and for all.

_____ has once again been in contact with my office. He and the other concerned parties are pleased with your pastoral ministry. But they are not satisfied with your ability to resolve the lingering doubts of other parishioners. I would like to come and give him and the members of your parish pastoral council a hearing.

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Your brother in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazonis

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazonis
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000463

RECEIVED AUG 12 1993

August 9, 1993

Bishop John G. Vlazny
Diocese of Winona
PO Box 588
Winona MN 55987

Dear Bishop Vlazny:

This letter's intent is not in anyway to "bad mouth" the Catholic Church, or it's religious instructors, but to voice some opinions of my own beliefs.

I grew up one of eight children raised in a Catholic home. We attended Mass every Sunday, but the rest of the week, my parents battled alcoholism and financial problems. It was taught to us by the Church that if you missed Mass on Sunday, it was a mortal sin, and you would be condemned to hell. That was my understanding of the Church then. That fear stayed with me for many years. Only the last few years as I've become older, I've realized that it isn't only sitting in Mass every Sunday that makes you a good Christian, but it's what is practiced the rest of the week.

My husband and I are both Catholics. We have been married for 20 years, raised my brother's five children, and had two sons, one 16 and one 14. Our 16 year old son will not be confirmed this fall due to the fact he is not a regular Church attender. For many years I went to Mass by myself because it was easier than handling two young sons alone (my husband does not attend Mass). I felt I "did not get anything out of Mass" with taking mis-behaved children out of the Mass. I learned to regret that decision, but in no way can go back to change what I felt was right at that particular time. We only can go forward and try to raise our sons to hopefully be good Christians.

I feel that our 16 year old son is a good Christian, but he will be denied Confirmation privileges because of the lack of church attendance. In the beginning of Confirmation classes, (that he did attend almost regularly), I searched out the Religious Director, and voiced my concerns to her of the lack of church attendance, and wanted her to come to our home to visit with my son and our family. I was told by her that she could not because she was the "disciplinarian". I felt a blow by that comment. I then sought out our Parish Priest, and he did stop by once.

I am not being critical of the Director or Priest, but it did appear to me that if you did not sit in Church

RT000377

Bishop John G. Vlazny
page 02
080993

regularly, you were not worthy of being confirmed a Catholic. I have become to realize that sitting in Church on a regular basis, will not make my sons Christian, but it will be by their daily actions 365 days a year.

My husband and I are comfortable with the way our sons are growing up spiritually. They believe that there is a God, and are kind and caring young adults, ones that we are very proud of. Although, I desire (and pray), that someday they will start attending Mass, but I feel that they will come to terms with this on their own someday.

When I was a child, we had an old man that lived and worked for us as a hired hand. I never seen this man attend Mass, not once, but he was kindest, most caring man that I would ever hope to meet. I firmly believe that he is not in hell by his actions of not attending Mass, but in eternal heaven by his Christian actions. I also have a sister that has had problems with the Catholic Church. She rarely attends Mass (less than I), but she is a far better Christian than I.

I feel a sense of peace when I attend Mass, and I am hoping someday that my sons will know this inner peace. Although there are times that I don't attend Mass, does this mean that I am condemned to eternal damnation?

We will continue to raise our sons to be good and caring young men. If I had to choose between the way my sons are, and someone who sat in Church regularly on Sundays, but did not practice Christianity the rest of the week, you can be sure of which one I would choose.

Also, out of the eight children in our family, my one brother is deceased (rarely attended Mass), one is very active in the Catholic Church, one left the Catholic Church, and four are unknown to me of their religious beliefs. Myself, I find peace in attending Mass, but I no longer believe that sitting in Church every Sunday will make me a good Catholic or Christian. It's what I do the rest of the week that counts.

Sincerely,

RT000378

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

August 27, 1993

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
Saint Leo Church
106 Fourth Street, SE
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164

Dear Bob,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I received from
I am not asking you to contact her about the letter. In fact, I prefer
that you do not. But I would like you to read it and then to call me so
that you might help me as I attempt a reply to her letter. Sometimes
there are things about folks I need to know in order to answer
appropriately.

The trip to Denver was wonderful and exhausting. It seems that all our
young people made it back safely, but not without considerable
adventure. I hope the summer days have been pleasant ones for you. I
read in today's paper that I shall pray for her
and her parents. I look forward to hearing from you. God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

Enclosure

RT000379

RT

FILE

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

August 30, 1993

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
Saint Leo's Church
106 Fourth Street, SE
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164

Dear Bob,

Late last spring I suggested a pastoral visit to Saint Leo's Church in Pipestone during July. You were unable to have me come at that time. You also indicated that you did not really believe it was necessary. Things seemed to be working out quite well.

Bob, I still would like to come. I am happy that things are moving along much more smoothly for you. That makes it even easier to come!

Since I shall be in the parish for Confirmation this fall, I would simply come for an evening visit. Perhaps I could have supper with you and your staff. Then we could have a meeting with the members of the parish pastoral and finance councils. It would give me a chance to hear from them and also give them a chance to hear from me.

Allow me to suggest these dates: Wednesday, September 22; Tuesday, September 28; Sunday, October 3; Sunday, October 31; or Sunday, November 7. The plan would be to arrive for a light supper and then to meet around 7:30pm. On September 22nd I would be in St. Paul until 3:00pm. I would then head to Pipestone. On September 28th I am completely free. On October 3rd I would be coming from Albert Lea and probably would not arrive until 6:30pm. On October 31st and November 7th I will be out west for Confirmations and could easily arrive in time for an evening gathering.

As always, Bob, you have the support of my prayers and my best wishes. I hope the fall season will be a good one for you and your people.

Your brother in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazonis

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazonis
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000149

FILE

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

September 15, 1993

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
Saint Leo Church
106 Fourth Street, SE
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164

Dear Bob,

When I returned to the rectory on Sunday evening in Worthington I found the memorandum and enclosures which you had prepared for me. I am most grateful.

Thanks very much to you and _____ for giving me such direct, clear and thoughtful guidance in responding to _____ I shall be able to address her concerns more effectively as a result of your wisdom.

With respect to the pastoral visit that I proposed, I certainly recognize that you are not very enthused about my coming. "If you insist on a pastoral visit...." and "I don't believe we should disturb the peace" certainly would be enough to slow me down in most instances. But I honestly believe a visit on my part will be helpful and will support the many successful initiatives which are renewing the faith life of your people under your leadership.

Congratulations on the statutes for the pastoral council of the two parishes and the finance council of each parish. Those documents alone would be enough for a fruitful conversation involving myself and your people. I regularly make pastoral visits to a parish. They are not the occasions for dealing with problems. That is not my intention this time nor, hopefully, will it be yours.

If you will receive me back on Sunday, November 7, I shall plan to be with you that evening and the next morning for weekday Mass. A meeting and social with the members of your councils on Sunday night followed by Mass Monday morning with a few visits to shut-ins would certainly seem satisfactory at this time. I would drive back to Winona in the afternoon.

God bless you, Bob, in your pastoral leadership at Saint Leo's and Saint Martin's. It's hard to believe that three years have passed since I asked you to leave the tri-parishes of Madelia, Lake Crystal and Truman. I was happy to hear that you are accepting a salary once again. Your successor certainly will be pleased!

Your brother in the Lord,

John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000470

FILE

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

September 15, 1993

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
Saint Leo Church
106 Fourth Street, SE
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164

Dear Bob,

When I returned to the rectory on Sunday evening in Worthington I found the memorandum and enclosures which you had prepared for me. I am most grateful.

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Your brother in the Lord,

John G. Vlazon

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazon
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000380

Saint Adrian Catholic Church
Saint Mary Catholic Church - Ellsworth
512 Maine Avenue • P.O. Box 475
Adrian, Minnesota 56110-0475

December 30, 1993

TO: Reverend Gerald A. Mahon, Vicar General

FR: Reverend James D. Timm, Dean 

RE: Meeting of December 6, 1993 with

At the November 20, Deanery Council Meeting. I was approached by _____ which time she requested a meeting with me.

In a subsequent phone call the date of December 6, 1993 was agreed upon.

Her concerns were far reaching in her concern for The Reverend Robert Taylor, Pastor of Pipestone and Woodstock. They ranged from concern for Father Taylor's personal health and well being to some unsubstantiated rumors, to her personal struggle with diocesan leadership.

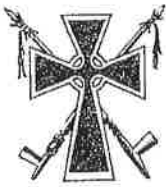
After about 45 minutes of listening to her concerns she expressed to me that she felt better just because she had the opportunity to speak about her concern. I reassured her that her concerns were heard and that I would seek the advice of the Vicar General as to her concerns for Father Taylor.

She agreed with that plan of action. She again stated that she felt great relief having been able to discuss her concerns. She felt that she could still fulfill the ministry that she was under contract to do.

I visited with _____ briefly, at the conclusion of the Advent reconciliation service and she was still grateful for our discussion.

I believe that no further action need be taken at this time.

RT000381



RECEIVED JUN 02 1984
CHURCH OF SAINT LEO

South Hiawatha Avenue at 4th Street P.O. Box 28
[507] 825-3152 Pipestone, MN 56164

The Most Reverend John J. Vlazoniy
Bishop of Winona
55 West Sanborn
Winona, Mn 55987

Dear Bishop,

After having consulted with my
confessor, spiritual director, and a
canon lawyer, I want you to inform
me of the just cause, i.e., specific
charges for asking for my resignation
as Pastor of St. Leo's, Pipestone, and
St. Martin's, and for asking me to
go for an evaluation at Philadelphia.

Thank you.

Yours respectfully
Robert H. Taylor

C: Rev. Ronald Bowers



RECORDED MAY 02 1984
CHURCH OF SAINT LEO
South Hiawatha Avenue at 4th Street P.O. Box 28
(507) 825-3152 Pipeslone, MN 56164

The Most Reverend John J. Vlodyny
Bishop of Winona
55 West Sanborn
Winona, MN 55987

Dear Bishop,

After having consulted with my confessor, spiritual director, and a canon lawyer, I want you to inform me of the just cause, i.e., specific charges for asking for my resignation as Pastor of St. Leo's, Pipeslone, and St. Martin's, and for asking me to go for an evaluation at Philadelphia. Thank you.

Yours respectfully
Robert H. Taylor

RT000382

DIOLISE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FORM 32
12-1-82

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Father Mahon
FROM: Father McGrath *efm*
DATE: May 4, 1994
RE: Complaint concerning Father Robert Taylor

Sioux Falls called 3 May at about 10:40am to talk over some concerns about Father Taylor.

identified herself as a recent tenant of Fr. Taylor, and about to sign a year long lease with him. He owns a 4-plex in Sioux Falls and she recently moved with her two children into one of the units. She said Father Taylor has been most kind, has offered to recarpet her apartment, but her neighbors have told her of concerns, she has suspicions, and she wonders whether she should sign her lease.

She had concerns about a "street person" living in Fr. Taylor's basement office near the laundry room. She is becoming convinced that "men are not safe", that there are a lot of male visitors, Fr. Taylor has been caught in lies, Fr. Taylor has entered apartments without permission and has answered the door in the nude, and she worries about her children.

After listening to her initial concerns, I asked her to describe in more detail her main concerns.

1) said that she hasn't witnessed anything herself. Father Taylor has been more than kind. She herself is very concerned about a strange man using Fr. Taylor's office space in the basement near the community laundry room. The man "appears straight, but strange". She did ask Fr. Taylor in a 'round about way about him and he said he should not be there. She is afraid to confront him directly because she does not want to jeopardize her family or her rental: it is a nice property.

requests that her name not be used.

RT000383

2) The couple in the basement apartment moved out suddenly, without notice, leaving their security deposit of \$400. said that they had been away for the weekend, but got back a day early. When they opened the door to their apartment Fr. Taylor came to the door naked. The next day the couple got a note on their door with an apology and an explanation that he had car trouble and needed a place to stay, along with a check to go out to dinner. Others in the 4-plex have told her that Fr. Taylor has gone into their apartments using his pass key without permission. She said there is video and audio tape of Fr. Taylor in apartments without permission.

3) said that the maintenance man/manager moved out after Father Taylor told him he didn't like his wife, saying "get that bitch out of here". She has heard that the woman had experienced a lot of stress from Fr. Taylor, resulting in difficulties in pregnancy and maybe a miscarriage.


I encouraged to be aware of her renter's rights, to which she responded that she is on a SD state board for renters, and is very aware of them. I told her I would take up her concerns with Fr. Mahon, and someone would be in contact with her. I also reminded her that if she is concerned about safety, that is the concern of the civil authorities.

Fr. McGrath called to add a notation to point 2 of this memo:

The couple mentioned are a pair of roommates who

DIVISION OF WILSONA
11 WEST BARNORR
WILSONA, MINNESOTA 55081

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Father Mahon
FROM: Fr. McGrath 
DATE: May 4, 1994
RE: Followup conversation with

At your direction, I called _____ back yesterday afternoon and explained to her that we would like to confront Fr. Taylor on these questions. I asked her if we could use her name, and she said no.

_____ said that she would be in contact with the young couple that moved out and ask them to contact us. She said again that there were video and audio tapes, which I said we would like to use them. She also noted that another woman, a banker, is looking for another place to live and might be willing to talk in a week or so.

It seems to me there seems to be a great deal of fear because in SD a tenant can be turned out of a rental property fairly easily, and without much recourse.

RT000385

FILE

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

May 4, 1994

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
Saint Leo's Church
106 Fourth Street, SE
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164

Dear Bob,

Thank you for coming to meet with me in Rochester on Tuesday, April 26. I can appreciate that it was not easy for you to hear some of the observations being made about your behaviors, but those present were there not to blame you for any inappropriate behaviors but rather to call them to your attention with the hope that you might be able to receive some assistance in dealing with them.

At the end of the meeting I told you that I would like you to resign the pastorate of Saint Leo's Church in Pipestone and Saint Martin's Church in Woodstock and then go for a psychological evaluation with a recommendation for whatever care would be necessary before receiving your next pastoral assignment. You indicated that this would be difficult to accept, but, as we parted, I was still hopeful that you would be willing to accede to my requests.

When your letter arrived on Monday, May 2, I realized that this was even more problematic for you than I had hoped. You asked for a statement of just cause for these requests and I shall try to provide them for you in summary fashion in this letter.

You have written to me earlier this spring suggesting that one pastor serve the three parishes in Pipestone, Woodstock and Jasper. You indicated a willingness to do this but also indicated that you would accept another assignment if I felt such a position would be more suitable for another person. I responded quickly and indicated that, in the light of our past experience when you served the three parishes in Madelia, Lake Crystal and Truman, I would prefer that another priest work on the arrangements for the possibility of another three-parish situation in the diocese. I also asked you to speak with your dean, Father James Timm, about these possibilities. It was that conversation, as you now know, which triggered our meeting in Rochester on April 26.

My purpose in requesting your resignation rather than a leave of absence from the parish is to serve the needs of the people best under these circumstances, particularly since it did seem agreeable to you that another person work with the people towards the possibility of becoming a tri-parish community. I would not want to appoint you to another assignment until some of the serious issues being raised all over again since you were in treatment in early 1990 are resolved.

RT000386

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
May 4, 1994
Page Two

My purpose in asking for the evaluation has to deal largely with many unresolved issues since your departure from the spring of 1990. Let me summarize them for you here and I am willing to discuss them again with you. Please do arrange for another visit with me about these matters:

1. Your conversation with Father Timm about "secret" allegations against me and subsequent action on the part of my superiors was intimidating and controlling. Certainly if the situation was as you reported it to Father Timm, you did not handle it professionally, responsibly or sensitively. Sharing the information with him and insisting that it be kept secret served no good purpose. It was also highly disrespectful of me.
2. In the spring of 1993 of Pipestone called about a strange note found on the door of the rectory by your janitor, It was about a man you had allowed to live in the rectory and implied an inappropriate relationship between the two of you. You explained the relationship but the two men involved thought you intimidated the janitor for the concerns he expressed about the content of the note. They really felt it would be important for me to meet with the parish pastoral council and hear any of the concerns of parishioners at the time. They were not negative about you, but they felt I could help bridge some of the differences.

When I finally did resolve to make a pastoral visit, which occurred in the fall, my time there was preceded by a series of efforts on your part to minimize the significance of the visit or keep me away from people. I tried to come in the summer and you felt it was not workable. You did not want me to visit with the parish pastoral and finance councils because you thought such a visit would impact negatively upon their role as advisory to the pastor. As it turned out, when I came, the two groups I met with were brand new. The others never did have a chance to meet with me. A number of parishioners have come forward expressing concerns, as I have told you, about your ability to resolve lingering doubts among the parishioners about your behaviors.
3. You indicated that members of your staff are satisfied in their working relationship with you. As I told you, that is not true. Your pastoral minister has already contacted my office about concerns with respect to your leadership and relational style. People want to help but find it difficult to do so.
4. In May of 1993 my office was contacted about "inappropriate sexual advances on children" by you. People refrained from offering any further specifics and you, upon being contacted by me, certainly denied any inappropriateness. Once again the people were troubled about your behavior and seeking to express more dissatisfaction.
5. In July of 1992 there was extensive correspondence from a woman by the name of about you. I pursued these matters with

RT000387

her but in the end felt that these were just lingering suspicions from people in the past who had grievances about you. In the light of recent developments I now call them to your attention. Her letters are enclosed.

6. In June of 1992 _____ complained about your appearance and your ways of dealing with people. Again, I spoke on your behalf and felt you were being dealt with too harshly because of difficulties with _____ who had been on your staff.
7. In May of 1992 a representative from the Minnesota Corrections in Pipestone called about concerns among people of Pipestone with respect to your ways of dealing with children. Once again a decision was reached that the allegations were false but that you were having relational problems with people who were turning against you. Even then I was excusing you thinking that _____ had caused these problems for you.
8. In 1991 there was extensive correspondence with _____ who had a number of allegations which they raised against you. They even contacted Archbishop John Roach and sent him a ream of materials. He responded by indicating to them that he had no jurisdiction over the parishes involved and had confidence in my good judgement in dealing with this matter. Perhaps I dealt with it too lightly.
9. As you know, _____ raised a number of concerns about you in November of 1990 and certainly at the time of her departure from the parish in the summer of 1991. I shared her concerns with you at the time. These dealt with matters of your personal behaviors, poor choice of language, personal hygiene, overbearing nature, poor communications, "workaholism," and a general difficulty in getting along with people. Father Egan, the dean at the time, met with you about these concerns.
10. _____ and her husband came to see me at the time you removed her from her position in religious education and youth ministry. I supported you as you sought a full-time staff person. She and her husband raised other grievances and they too related to your ways of dealing with people, controlling information, and misrepresenting facts.

All of this, Bob, signals that it is time for me once again to ask you to look into your personal well-being and receive assurances from a qualified professional that I can indeed certify you and support you for pastoral ministry and leadership in our church. I know I am acting responsibly, especially in the light of your personal history in the diocese, and I want to offer you this opportunity for professional assistance, if needed.

Certainly I appreciate the energy and dedication you have brought to your pastoral leadership at Saint Leo's and Saint Martin's. You know I was

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
May 4, 1994
Page Four

concerned when you were not even taking a salary. Please do contact me soon and accept my request that you go for an evaluation at Saint Luke's Institute outside Washington, D.C. Available dates would be May 30-June 8, June 12-June 22, and June 19-June 24. But they may already be unavailable. We can find a suitable time I am sure. God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm
Enclosures

RT000389

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Vicar General

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

May 6, 1994

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Coadjutor Bishop of Sioux Falls
609 West Fifth Street, Box 5033
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57117

Dear Bishop Carlson,

I am writing in reference to the Reverend Robert H. Taylor, pastor of Saint Leo's Parish in Pipestone, Minnesota. During the past years Bishop John G. Vlazny, Bishop of Winona, has confronted Father Taylor about a number of personal issues which resulted in Father Taylor's in-patient treatment at Jemez Springs, New Mexico.

During the past week Bishop Vlazny confronted Father Taylor about some ongoing concerns in reference to his recovery process and pastoral leadership which resulted in asking for Father Taylor's resignation as pastor and a professional evaluation at St. Luke Institute in Maryland. Father Taylor has refused to accept Bishop Vlazny's request but there is ongoing dialogue. He states he has sought a canonist in the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis for advice and counsel to support his position of refusing to resign and seek professional assistance.

In the course of our pastoral concerns about Father Taylor, a woman by the name of _____ notified the Pastoral Center about Father Taylor. Please find reports enclosed which are pieces we did not have last week but they only add to the seriousness of Father Taylor's ongoing problems. Please note that _____ does not want her name used at this time.

I will keep you informed as this situation progresses and dialogue about a follow-up with the persons in the apartments, if necessary. As the people of Sioux Falls continue to think through their position and possibly free us to use the information, it will certainly help us. If you desire further information or consultation, please do not hesitate to contact Bishop Vlazny. The Bishop is committed to further action with Father Taylor, but the process needs to be respected.

It was good to be with _____ recently as well as yourself and so many familiar people in the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Reverend Gerald A. Mahon
Vicar General

GAM/jm

Enclosures

cc: Most Reverend John G. Vlazny

RT000390

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Father Mahon
FROM: Father McGrath *McGrath*
DATE: May 6, 1994
RE: Further conversations with

Yesterday, when I returned to IHM, I had a message to call
She said that she had found a lot more information, and
a group of tenants and former tenants were gathering at her
apartment later in the evening and she would call me back after
that meeting. I called her at 10:45 and spoke with her for about
40 minutes. a family friend was with her.

- Two previous tenants were members of the
is now in California, and
is in Arizona or New Mexico. She spoke with the manager, who knew
all about the situation with Robert Taylor, except that he was a
priest. The manager clarified with her a few points. The two
young men were away for two weeks on a road trip, but returned
three days early. When they opened the apartment door, RT was
there, naked. The next day they left the apartment building. RT
had left a note of apology and \$50 check to go out to dinner. The
manager had them contact a lawyer. They sued, and RT settled out
of court. The manager said the two have left SF, but were very
disturbed by the incident and have taken psychological counseling.
She did not get the name of the lawyer involved. The
do not want any publicity, but the manager told that he
would contact the two men to see if they wanted to help with a
confidential church inquiry.

- was a tenant whose wife suffered some verbal abuse from Fr.
Taylor. She accounts a stressful pregnancy and premature birth to
the difficulty of living in his apartment building. RT allegedly
told him to "get his * * wife out of here".

- a current tenant, is a bisexual young man. He has had
sexual contact with RT. His current girlfriend is, according to
a strong willed young woman who wants him to confront
this situation and problem and get on with his life. smokes
marijuana and fears that RT will turn him in. He might let us use
his name and give his testimony.

RT000391

confronted the young man in the basement,
After initial confrontation - who are you? what are you
doing here? - he spoke candidly with about his story.
He is 20 years old, alcoholic (recovering?), and met RT in
Pipestone. RT spent an hour with him and got his story. He was
at a low point and RT gained his trust. RT gave him a job waxing
floors and cleaning pews at St. Leo's. He was paid very well for
that kind of work, and he stayed at the rectory. One morning he
woke up and found RT standing over him in the nude. He moved to
the apartment building in SF, where he is living in the small 8 x
10 office, sleeping on an air mattress, without bathroom facilities
and with one change of clothing. indicated that he is
getting help to find a job and another place to live, and she no
longer fears him.

- Through her telephone calls to tenants and former tenants over
the last several days, it has emerged that RT is the owner of
rental properties in SF, Wilmar, and perhaps other places. Stories
of RT's expensive gifts to folks were quite common. Many did not
know that he is a priest. Some young men apparently have received
checks from St. Leo's parish account.

- said very emphatically that she did not want her
name used. She still has to decide to unpack her boxes or move
elsewhere. She is a professional, and also on the editorial board
of the

- said that the group of tenants did a little work on
separating RT from the Church. Many were not aware that he is a
priest.

She said she would be in contact with me today. I indicated we
would have to have a priest from SF, or one of us go to SF to speak
with some of the folks affected, and stressed that we needed folks
to come forward in order for us to do anything. I thanked her for
her cooperation and the time she has put into this.

May 12, 1994

Bishop John G. Vlazny
Diocese of Winona
55 W. Sanborn Street
Winona, Mn. 55987

Dear Bishop Vlazny:

Father Taylor has shown me number 3 on an apparent evaluation of him. It mentions that Father indicated that members of his staff are satisfied in their working relationship. The letter replies, "As I told you that's not true. Your Pastoral Minister has contacted my office about concern with respect to your leadership and relational style".

I am dismayed to find myself mentioned in this letter. I have never directly contacted your office, nor was it my intent to do so. My intent was never to make accusations.

In regards to my working relationship with Father Taylor, he has always treated me as a professional. He has trusted me with the entire Religious Education Program and has been extremely supportive of my efforts to strengthen the faith formation program at St. Leo's and St. Martin's. He has in the past, and continues today, to treat me fairly and justly.

Sincerely,

Director of Rel. Ed.

RT000471

May 12, 1994

Bishop John G. Vlazny
Diocese of Winona
55 W. Sanborn Street
Winona, Mn. 55987

Dear Bishop Vlazny:

Father Taylor has shown me number 3 on an apparent evaluation of him. It mentions that Father indicated that members of his staff are satisfied in their working relationship. The letter replies, "As I told you that's not true. Your Pastoral Minister has contacted my office about concern with respect to your leadership and relational style".

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Sincerely,

RT000393

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Father Mahon
FROM: Father McGrath
DATE: 13 May 1994
RE: Telephone call with

I returned s call at 1:40 pm today. She had some more information regarding the situation with Robert Taylor. The name of the attorney who handled the law suit of the

Then I asked if we could use the information she supplied in a confrontation with R. Taylor, and asked that she carefully consider the request and that we would respect her confidentiality. Asked if I were coming to SF, I noted that there would have to be a formal complaint by one of the folks who had allegedly been offended by RT in Pipestone.

We went on to discuss the young men who arrived from Pipestone. I said again to her that for us to act, someone needed to make a formal complaint; "put their name on paper". I also noted that there was nothing we could do regarding renter's complaints. She said she had given my name and number to two men, and encouraged them to call. One assured her that he was going to come forward when he moved to a "safe" place, in other words out of the apartment. This is whose mother lives in Pipestone.

As we closed, I encouraged her to use the civil authorities if there were any problem. She said that if RT ever transgressed her apartment, she would be the first to do so. But she herself expects no problem from him. The she added that it would be alright to use the information from her concerns to confront Fr. Taylor, but that she did not want her name to be used or any circumstances that could be identifying. I assured her - no names, not the city. She added that if we did use the information to give her a call so that she would be aware of it.

In closing, I thanked her for her coming forward with her concerns and again encouraged her to use the civil route for any problems in the apartment. Then I encouraged her to distance herself from the problems, noting that she had given the alleged victims my name and number; they have a voice and they can write. She pointed out their fear. I said that we can't make a formal response, like a visit, without a formal complaint.

OFFICE OF WINOLIA
3 WEST MAIN ST
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

DATE: 5/13/94
TIME: 1:40 PM

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Father Mahon
FROM: Father McGrath *[Signature]*
DATE: 13 May 1994
RE: Telephone call with

I returned at 1:40 pm today. She had some more information regarding the situation with Robert Taylor. The name of the attorney who handled the law suit of the is:

Then I asked if we could use the information she supplied in a confrontation with R. Taylor, and asked that she carefully consider the request and that we would respect her confidentiality. Asked if I were coming to SF, I noted that there would have to be a formal complaint by one of the folks who had allegedly been offended by RT in Pipestone.

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RT000394

RT



"Jesus is Lord"

Diocese Of Sioux Falls

Office of the Bishop

Location: 609 West 5th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5033, Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5033
(605) 336-1457

R. J. Carlson

May 16, 1994

Rev. Gerald A. Mahon
Vicar General
Diocese of Winona
55 W Sanborn
Winona MN 55987

Dear Father Mahon,

I have received your letter dated May 6, 1994, which unfortunately was delayed in its delivery to the Diocese of Sioux Falls until May 12, 1994.

I have reviewed this letter and if anything in this letter is near being accurate this appears to be a rather serious situation.

If Father Robert Taylor was ever issued faculties in the Diocese of Sioux Falls they are immediately revoked pending the outcome of your investigation. I have asked our Curia staff to investigate whether or not we ever gave him faculties or any other permissions.

We are very appreciative of the information you have sent and we will be happy to cooperate with you in any way which would be helpful.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson
Coadjutor Bishop of Sioux Falls


jms

RT000150

RT

DIOCESE OF WINONA
11 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Bishop Vlazny
FROM: Fr. McGrath 
DATE: May 18, 1994
RE: Father Taylor situation

In view of Fr. Taylor's refusal to resign, in my opinion you have three options:

- 1) prepare for the formal process for removal of a pastor
- 2) appoint a parochial vicar
- 3) leave things as they are

Since #3 is not a prudent option, I suggest:

- 1) convene the presbyteral council as soon as possible
- 2) collect the proofs (reasons for requesting resignation) and begin the formal process as if nothing had previously been requested so that his rights in the process can be protected.

Since #2 is an uncomfortable situation for any priest, I am reluctant to recommend that as an option.

Other possibilities: may take some more research

1) You can bind RT under obedience to go to treatment. He remains pastor, draws salary. Warn that violation of the precept can bring a canonical penalty: suspension. Then proceed with removal.

2) You can require that he avoid contact with a class of persons and not have overnight guests in the rectory. Violation can have consequences.

3) If you have a diagnosis from his previous treatment, and indication of recurrence, you can consult experts and declare him impeded from the exercise of orders for psychic reasons. Then proceed with removal


RT000151

RT

DIOCESE OF WINONA
31 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55981

5-18-94
10:00 AM

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Bishop Vlazny
FROM: Fr. McGrath 
DATE: May 18, 1994
RE: Procedure for the Removal of a Pastor

1. An essential element of the process is 2 pastor consultants, chosen from a group proposed by the Presbyteral Council for this purpose.

The presbyteral council needs to be convened, and this business attended to. The minutes of the meeting must reflect this action of the council.

2. If the removal of a pastor is to be valid, and stand up on appeal to the Apostolic Signatura, it must be done correctly from the beginning.

3. The reasons for removal are listed in c. 1741. The list is not taxative. There can be other reasons.

4. The process:

- a. investigation, which indicates reason for removal
- b. discuss the matter with the two pastor consultants
- c. invite the pastor to resign and indicate reasons - in writing - and in writing inform the pastor he has 15 days to respond (c. 1742)
- d. A second invitation to resign is given (c. 1744) with a time limit (use certified mail)
- e. If there is no response, or no reason for refusal to resign, a decree of removal may then be issued

-however-

f. If the pastor opposes with reasons, the bishop must (c. 1745)

- 1) invite the priest to inspect the acts, rebut them and present contrary proofs
- 2) then weigh the matter with the same pastor consultants
- 3) decide for or against removal, then issue the appropriate decree.

5. If the removed priest appeals the decision, then a parochial administrator may be appointed.

Nota Bene: the notary for the process must be a priest.

RT000152

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 589
Tel. 507/454-4643

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Louise Blissenbach
From: Bishop John Vlazny *+ John Vlazny*
Date: May 23, 1994
Re: Update on Father Taylor's Situation

Louise, I thought I would send you copies of recent correspondence between Father Robert Taylor and myself. He responded to my request that he resign and go for evaluation by requesting a letter in which I would state just cause for my actions. I sent him a letter, a copy of which is enclosed. His response is also enclosed.

If you have any thoughts about this matter, I would appreciate hearing them. In fact, if you would have any professional opinion that would suggest he should cooperate with my request, I would appreciate having that in writing. But it is not necessary.

Father Mahon is away on retreat this week. I will be in Chicago and Milwaukee on Tuesday and Wednesday. Perhaps Father Taylor will follow through this week. We had a rather significant telephone conversation after both letters were received. He knows that I still am making the same request of him.

Please give my best to Dave. God bless.

Enclosures

RT000475

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 529
Tel. 507/464-4643

M E M O R A N D U M

To:
From: Bishop John Vlazny + *John Vlazny*
Date: May 23, 1994
Re: Update on Father Taylor's Situation

I thought I would send you copies of recent correspondence between Father Robert Taylor and myself. He responded to my request that he resign and go for evaluation by requesting a letter in which I would state just cause for my actions. I sent him a letter, a copy of which is enclosed. His response is also enclosed.

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Father Mahon is away on retreat this week. I will be in Chicago and Milwaukee on Tuesday and Wednesday. Perhaps Father Taylor will follow through this week. We had a rather significant telephone conversation after both letters were received. He knows that I still am making the same request of him.

Please give my best to God bless.

Enclosures

RT000395

MEMORANDUM

To: Bishop Vlazny & Father Mahon
From: Father McGrath *EM*
Date: 29 May 1994
Re: Father Robert Taylor

called the seminary this evening about 8:30 pm. I had written him asking him to contact me regarding what I had heard from Sioux Falls about Father Taylor. After several telephone calls over the last week, we finally connected.

identified himself as a former tenant of Mr. Robert Taylor in Sioux Falls. He and his roommate were out of town on a road trip, and returned to Sioux Falls several days earlier than expected. He and his roommate arrived at their apartment at 3 am one morning. They opened the door and Robert Taylor was in their living room, naked. He said both were shocked; his roommate was more upset. He said Mr. Taylor proceeded to explain that he had been working all day, he was out of gas and had no cash. He would have stayed in his son's apartment, but had guests. Mr. Taylor explained that he had read in the paper that they were out of town for a road trip, and he decided to sleep on the floor. He was naked because his clothes were wet from work and rain earlier in the day. After Taylor left, they found a cigar butt in the living room.

said they felt violated and wondered how many other times he had been in their apartment. The next day they got a note from Fr. Taylor with a \$50 check. The note gave Robert Taylor's explanation again. They told him that they wanted their money back - the deposit, the rent paid, and enough to pay for a hotel for the remainder of the summer. The next day they got a cashiers check for \$2,000. They did not cash the \$50 check, but gave it and the letter to their manager for safe keeping in case Robert Taylor came back at them for the rent money.

In the course of our conversation, we made sure that we were talking about the same Robert Taylor who is pastor of St. Leo's in Pipestone. The physical description, white hair, height, age, and cigar smoking matched. They were not aware of his identity as a priest until after the incident when other tenants told them. I asked about Robert Taylor's "son", explaining that RT did not have children. said he understood it to mean adopted son.

Neither or his roommate pursued the matter criminally or civilly because the did not want publicity. said he would try to get the letter or a copy back from the manager, and he would also write me a letter confirming what we spoke about over the telephone. I told him we would like to use his name and the information to confront Father Taylor and get him help, and said we were free to use his name and the information. I explained to at this would be a church matter, and although what happened to them was clearly on Taylor's own time and personal business, we were concerned about him as a human being and wanted to get him help because he is one of our priests. I said that I did not know religion, and he said he is Roman Catholic - to which I added that the name sounded like an E. European name, and he said yes, Czech.

PL000473

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Bishop Vlazny & Father Mahon
From: Father McGrath *CFM*
Date: 29 May 1994
Re: Father Robert Taylor

called the seminary this evening about 8:30 pm. I had written him asking him to contact me regarding what I had heard from Sioux Falls about Father Taylor. After several telephone calls over the last week, we finally connected.

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Neither or his roommate pursued the matter criminally or civilly because the did not want publicity. said he would try to get the letter or a copy back from the manager, and he would also write me a letter confirming what we spoke about over the telephone. I told him we would like to use his name and the information to confront Father Taylor and get him help, and said we were free to use his name and the information. I explained to that this would be a church matter, and although what happened to them was clearly on Taylor's own time and personal business, we were concerned about him as a human being and wanted to get him help because he is one of our priests. I said that I did not know religion, and he said he is Roman Catholic - to which I added that the name sounded like an E. European name, and he said yes,

RT000396

RT

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Bishop Vlazny
From: Fr. McGrath *SGM*
Date: 31 May 1994
Re: Fr. Taylor

Some more thoughts:

I recommend that when Fr. Taylor resigns, either orally - which is valid in the presence of 2 witnesses (c. 189), but must be noted, or by letter - which is better, accept his resignation and in the same letter require him under obedience in the form of a personal precept (cc. 48-58; the notary must be a priest) to report to whatever treatment center on whatever date for evaluation and needed treatment with full disclosure to you of the evaluation and treatment plan. In the meantime forbid the exercise of orders, withdraw his faculties. In the same letter, issue a formal canonical warning (c. 1347) that the consequence of disobedience will be suspension (c. 1333) from all acts of the power of orders and the power of governance (not really necessary if he does not have an office) for as long as he persists in the disobedience (the penalty cannot be perpetual by mere precept, but the condition can persist for a long time). If he does not go, issue a decree suspending him. Use certified mail, and if that fails, the good offices of some Sioux Falls clergy to serve the formal warning and/or decree of suspension.

If Fr. Taylor complies and goes to treatment, I suspect that there will be a formal diagnosis with which one can declare him irregular for the exercise of orders, or his pattern of thinking and behavior will have changed.

I know you don't like decrees and the formalities - but I do recommend dealing with these cases in a way that is more clear than a removal of faculties or forbidding to exercise the ministry. Priests should not be in a canonical limbo.

Consult the grey volume on my credenza concerning clerics: with sample decrees and letters and discussion of the processes.

Cheers!

RT000153



CHURCH OF SAINT LEO

South Hiawatha Avenue at 4th Street
[507] 825-3152

P.O. Box 28
Pipestone, MN 56164

The Most Reverend John J. Vladyky ^{DD}
Bishop of Winona
Winona, MN 55987

Dear Bishop,

This letter has two purposes:

- 1) To resign as Pastor of St. Leo's and St. Martin's in Pipestone, MN & Woodstock, MN, respectively; and
- 2) To resign from the active ministry and seek retirement, according to documents of the Bureau of Priest's Retirement.

I think the effective date per your plans is June 29, 1994.

Thank you.

Robert H. Taylor

RT



RECEIVED JUN 09 1994

CHURCH OF SAINT LEO
P. O. Box 36
South Hiawatha Avenue at 4th Street
Pipestone, MN 56154
(507) 825-3152

The Most Reverend John J. Magary DD
Bishop of Winona
55 W. Sebourn
Winona, MN 55987



RT000154

RT

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

June 9, 1994

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
St. Leo Parish
106 Fourth Street SE
Pipestone, MN 56164

Dear Father Taylor,

Please accept this acknowledgement of your recent letter in which you offered your resignation as pastor of St. Leo's in Pipestone and St. Martin's in Woodstock, effective June 29, 1994. I accept your resignation and I thank you for the pastoral care you have given these people over the past four years.

With respect to your request to resign from the active ministry and seek retirement, I am asking to meet with you after June 29. It will be good to clear the air about many matters and I am hopeful that I can convince you to defer your desire to retire from the active ministry for now.

My prayers and good wishes are with you always, but especially now. Please inform the people of St. Leo's and St. Martin's of your resignation this weekend and also let them know that _____ will be coming to serve as their pastor on June 29. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

cc: Reverend Gerald Mahon
Reverend Edward McGrath

RT000155

FILE

DIOCESE OF WINONA
SEBASTIAN CANBORN
BISHOP OF WINONA, MINNESOTA 55901

Office of the
Bishop

FD-302 (Rev. 11-27-70)
Tel. 507-263-0100

June 27, 1994

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
Saint Leo's Church
106 Fourth Street, SE
Pipestone, Minnesota 56164

Dear Bob,

As you complete your responsibilities as pastor of Saint Leo's Church in Pipestone and Saint Martin's Church in Woodstock, I write to repeat my request that we meet at your earliest convenience after June 29. I realize that a time of transition is not the easiest, but we do have some very important matters to discuss.

Bob, effective June 29, 1994, I am removing your faculties and instructing you not to exercise your priestly ministry or preside at sacramental celebrations publicly. Certainly that decision will be reviewed once you have complied with my request for a professional evaluation at Saint Luke's Institute and carried out whatever recommendations will be forthcoming from that evaluation.

It is my experience that an evaluation will not be possible immediately, but I would like to contact Saint Luke's for the closest available date. In our meeting I would like to share with you all my concerns and hear your side of the story as well. I shall meet with you alone. I now realize that you complained to other priests that our last meeting was not a private one. But, if you recall, at that time I was bringing you together with a brother priest who had raised a concern about you. I do believe that was helpful to both of us in that conversation.

Bob, I ask to hear from you by the end of the week so that our meeting will not be indefinitely postponed. I sincerely want to approach you in a fraternal and supportive way. I reach out to you with a genuine desire to offer the assistance of a church which you have served for so long.

Thanks for the four years of pastoral care which you have given to the people of Saint Leo's and Saint Martin's. I trust that you and Kevin Connolly were able to work out all the details involved in the transfer of leadership. God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

cc: Reverend Gerald A. Mahon
Reverend James D. Timm

RT000397

RT

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

July 7, 1994

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson
Coadjutor Bishop of Sioux Falls
609 West Fifth Street, Box 5033
Sioux Falls, SD 57117

Dear Bishop Carlson,

Several weeks ago our Vicar General, Father Gerald Mahon, notified you regarding some concerns that had arisen pertaining to Father Robert Taylor, then pastor of Saint Leo's Church in Pipestone and Saint Martin's Church in Woodstock. I write to inform you of recent developments.

Father Taylor resigned as pastor from the two parishes, effective June 29, 1994. I had asked him to come and see me again and to go for an evaluation concerning his personal problems. He is unwilling to do so presently, but I still insisted upon meeting with him once again.

Thus far, he has not complied with my request. Last week I removed his faculties and told him that I did not want him to function publicly as a priest until we had dealt with some ongoing concerns. It is my understanding that he is presently living in Sioux Falls at the following address:

317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104
605/331-2188

I simply want you to know that his faculties have been removed and that he is not allowed to celebrate the sacraments publicly here in the Diocese of Winona. I presume that you will want to deal with him similarly in Sioux Falls, particularly if he should start making himself available to neighboring pastors.

Be assured that I shall continue to try and reach out to him and encourage him to seek whatever assistance would be recommended as a result of an evaluation.

is the dean
of our Worthington deanery and will hopefully be able to assist me in reaching out to Father Taylor. I do hope that things are going well for you and I am sorry that I was unable to be with you in San Diego. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

cc: Most Reverend Paul V. Dudley

Reverend Gerald A. Mahon

RT000156

RT

FILE

DIocese of Winona
Catholic Bishops
Office of the Bishop

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 700
Tel. 507/453-9331

July 18, 1994

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Dear Bob,

This past week I talked with _____ and he seems to be adjusting quite well to his new pastoral situation in Pipestone and Woodstock. Thanks very much for making the transition as smooth as it was for

It was good to hear your voice again on Saturday morning. I had been trying to reach you, but with no success. I was glad you were home this time when I called. I am sorry that we were unable to connect for our proposed meeting on this Monday. I really do want to see you so that we can work out some plans for the future. I will be away for ten days starting July 20 or thereabouts. I must be in Madison Lake for the centennial of the parish on Sunday, July 31. I could see you on that Sunday somewhere in the middle of the diocese or I would be most happy to see you in Winona on Monday, August 1. I do have a plane out of LaCrosse after 4:00pm that day, and so we would have to be finished with our meeting by 3:00pm. If that doesn't work out, then we must meet the next week. Please try to make some arrangements with my secretary,

My prayers and good wishes are with you. We do have some serious issues to resolve and I ask you not to delay making contact with me. I had hoped that you would call after June 29, but I decided not to wait for your call. I think you understand why. God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000157

FILE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
OF THE DIOCESE
OF WINONA

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 208
Tel. 507/451-9111

July 18, 1994

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Dear Bob,

This past week I talked with Kevin Connolly and he seems to be adjusting quite well to his new pastoral situation in Pipestone and Woodstock. Thanks very much for making the transition as smooth as it was for Kevin.

It was good to hear your voice again on Saturday morning. I had been trying to reach you, but with no success. I was glad you were home this time when I called. I am sorry that we were unable to connect for our proposed meeting on this Monday. I really do want to see you so that we can work out some plans for the future. I will be away for ten days starting July 20 or thereabouts. I must be in Madison Lake for the centennial of the parish on Sunday, July 31. I could see you on that Sunday somewhere in the middle of the diocese or I would be most happy to see you in Winona on Monday, August 1. I do have a plane out of LaCrosse after 4:00pm that day, and so we would have to be finished with our meeting by 3:00pm. If that doesn't work out, then we must meet the next week. Please try to make some arrangements with my secretary, Janice Market.

My prayers and good wishes are with you. We do have some serious issues to resolve and I ask you not to delay making contact with me. I had hoped that you would call after June 29, but I decided not to wait for your call. I think you understand why. God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000462

RECEIVED JUL 27 1994

RT



"Jesus is Lord"

Diocese Of Sioux Falls

Office of the Bishop

Location: 609 West 5th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5033, Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5033
(605) 336-1457

July 25, 1994

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona
55 West Sanborn
Winona, MN 55987

Dear Bishop Vlazny,

I received your letter of July 7, 1994, concerning Father Robert Taylor who is apparently living at 317 N. Prairie, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 57104.

In the near future we will be in contact with the parishes in the Sioux Falls deanery informing them that Father Taylor does not have faculties in Winona and that I am explicitly not granting him faculties here. Further, I am checking with our diocesan attorney to see if I should send him a letter at his home on North Prairie so that he understands that he does not have faculties in this diocese. Thank you for your kind assistance with this.

If your travels in the diocese bring you towards the Minnesota/South Dakota border be sure to let me know. I would be happy to drive over and have lunch with you sometime when you are out in the "West".

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Rev. Robert J. Carlson
Coadjutor Bishop of Sioux Falls

jms

RT000158

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 599
Tel. 507/431-4613

August 1, 1994

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Dear Bob,

Thanks very much for coming to meet with me in Mankato on Sunday, July 31. I was pleased to have an opportunity to clear the air with you about some of my concerns.

As I told you, I still expect you to go for an evaluation to Saint Luke's Institute. I am more than willing to wait until you are ready. You probably do need some time to think and pray after all the events of the spring and the decision to move. Thank you once again for the energy and commitment you brought to your service of the people in Pipestone and Woodstock.

Bob, as I mentioned, I shall be leaving for my mini-sabbatical on August 25. I do hope to hear from you before then and, of course, I eagerly anticipate your acceptance of my request that you go to Saint Luke's for the evaluation. If you are not ready to go by that time, I will be back in early October, but you certainly can contact Father Rick Thomson while I am away, if and when you are ready, and he will make arrangements for your time at Saint Luke's.

As I reminded you on Sunday, your faculties are removed until you are evaluated at Saint Luke's and comply with whatever recommendations are made for your personal well-being.

Please know that you have my affection and prayerful support at this time. I look forward to seeing you in Rochester when we gather with the golden jubilarians on August 14. God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazonis

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazonis
Bishop of Winona

JGV/jm

bcc:

Rev. Gerald A. Mahon
Rev. Richard G. Thomson

RT000398

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANDPOND
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 589
Tel. 507/453-4443

August 16, 1994

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Dear Bob,

Thus far I have not been able to reach you by telephone in recent days and I do need to speak with you. A serious allegation has come forward which involves you during your tenure as pastor of Saint Pius X Church in Rochester. I need to speak with you.

On Thursday, August 25, I shall be leaving for Rome. Please call my office and arrange to see me before then. I know this is an imposition, when one considers the distance to travel, but it is a necessity with respect to the persons involved. My preference would be to visit with you on Friday or Saturday of this week, but it would be possible to see you Monday afternoon, August 22, after 3:30pm. I hope to hear from you soon. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000402

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
OF WINONA
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 498
Winona, MN 55991-0498

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

To: File of Robert H. Taylor
From: Bishop John Vlazny *+ John Vlazny*
Date: August 22, 1994
Re: Sexual Misconduct Allegation

On Saturday, August 20, 1994, I met with Father Robert Taylor at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Winona at 2:00pm to discuss the alleged sexual abuse of [redacted] in 1983-84 when Father Taylor was pastor of Saint Pius X Church in Rochester.

Father Taylor completely denied any abusive behavior with [redacted], or with anyone for that matter. He did not recall [redacted] but had vague recollections of [redacted] parents. I shared the full report of Father Gerald Mahon on this matter which was prepared on August 17, 1994. Father Taylor knows that both Father Pete and Father Mahon are aware of the allegation. He also knows that he is not to contact [redacted] or his parents.

RT000405

FILE

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

August 22, 1994

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Dear Bob,

Thank you very much for coming to visit with me on Saturday, August 20. I am sorry that I was unable to receive you when you arrived, but a previously scheduled appointment was the reason for the delay, as I told you later. As you now know, it was very important that we meet at this time.

Bob, I have thought a lot about our visit and your denial of these allegations. In all truth, I cannot be satisfied with a simple denial from yourself, given the history of concerns and allegations involving your person and your ministry. I must insist now that you go to Saint Luke's Institute for an evaluation as soon as this can be arranged. Were this an isolated matter, I might approach it differently. But now is the time to deal with issues I have been asking you to confront these past three months.

Bob, I shall be sending a copy of this letter to Father Gerald Mahon, our Vicar General, and Father Richard Thomson, my Personal Liaison for Clergy Health Concerns. They will assist you in making arrangements for this evaluation and I hope to have a report by the time I return to the diocese in early October. These are serious concerns which require our prompt and resolute attention. You know you have my prayers and encouragement at this time. From our end we shall continue to try to respond to the pastoral needs of the alleged victim. God bless.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

cc: Reverend Gerald A. Mahon
Reverend Richard G. Thomson

RT000406

FILE

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

August 24, 1994

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Dear Bob,

In my earlier letter this week, I instructed you to go to Saint Luke's Institute in Suitland, Maryland, for an evaluation. Father Thomson has been advised and will be in contact with you. It seems this will not be possible until late in September. That would be fine because I could then receive the report when I return home.

Bob, I also remind you that I have removed your faculties to minister publicly as a priest. I also direct you not to present yourself in clerical garb in public. When the evaluation is complete and we have a recommendation from Saint Luke's, I certainly will re-evaluate these directives.

Please know that you have my continued prayerful support. These are difficult steps to take but they are for your own good and for the good of the church. God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlasy

The Most Reverend John G. Vlasy
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000407

St. Bernard's Parish

116 SE 4th Ave., Box 95
Stewartville, Minn. 55976-0095

Rectory - 533-8257
Parish Center - 533-8192
533-8924

file
②

August 24, 1994

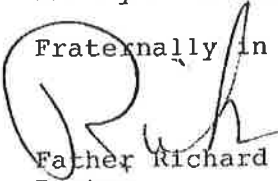
Reverend Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Dear Bob,

I am in receipt of Bishop Vlazny's letter, dated August 22. I know this must be a difficult time for you as you are confronted with this allegation. Bob, I must tell you that arranging for assessment at St. Luke's is always somewhat precarious, as they are extremely busy. I phoned St. Luke's and was told that the next open date is the week of September 25 to September 30. This would give you a month to arrange your schedule and prepare to be at St. Luke's that Sunday through Friday. Also, I would make arrangements for the Diocese to send you the airline tickets. I need to know if you are willing to comply with the Bishop's request, as I will finalize this date with St. Luke's and make the necessary travel arrangements for you. You may contact me here at St. Bernard's. My private line is (507) 533-8871. The best time to reach me is usually after 9 p.m.

Bob, I will be keeping you in my prayers, and I do need to hear from you as soon as possible.

Fraternally in Christ,


Father Richard Thomson
Pastor

RT:pc

cc: The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Reverend Gerald A. Mahon

RT000408

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Vicar General

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

September 12, 1994

Bonnie Connors
Saint Luke's Institute
2420 Brooks Drive
Suitland, Maryland 20746-5294

Dear Bonnie,

I am writing in reference to the Reverend Robert H. Taylor, a priest from the Diocese of Winona who will participate in an evaluation process beginning September 26, 1994. Bishop John G. Vlazny is in Rome attending a theological consultation and, therefore, I pass on this information at his request and in consultation with Reverend Richard Thomson.

Reverend Edward F. McGrath, former Chancellor, is preparing a summary report of complaints received whereby he must respect the anonymity of the informants. They fear reprisal from Father Taylor.

You will note that Father Taylor was in treatment at the Servants of the Paraclete in Jemez Springs from October 1989 until March 1990. You will need to contact them for any therapy reports or information.

If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Bishop Vlazny will return to the Diocese of Winona in the first week of October, but Father Rick Thomson will participate in the evaluation process.

Sincerely in the Lord,



Reverend Gerald A. Mahon
Vicar General

GAM/jm

cc: Most Reverend John G. Vlazny

Enclosures

RT000409



SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE
OF MINNESOTA

Brother Louis DeThomas, FSC, Ph.D
President

September 20, 1994

Ms. Bonnie Conner
St. Luke's Institute
2420 Brooks Drive
Suitland, MD 20746-5294

Dear Ms. Conner:

Rev. Gerald A. Mahon, Vicar General of the Diocese of Winona, asked that I write this letter to you concerning my consultations and encounter with Rev. Robert Taylor. In the description below, I will summarize briefly the facts of these encounters. I discussed all of these facts and information at a meeting several years ago held in New Mexico with Bishop Vlazny, Father Taylor, and Father Taylor's therapy team.

1. During 1985-1987, I was Consultant to the Priestly Life Committee of the Diocese of Winona concerning the Priests' Retirement Fund, which was then administered and invested by Father Taylor. I have attached three items, which will show in more detail, the substance of my review of Father Taylor's management of several million dollars of the Priests' Retirement Fund.

In as concise and candid a description as I can give, Father Taylor grossly mismanaged these millions of dollars of the Priests' Retirement Fund, and in many instances his fiduciary capacity was blatantly compromised by his conflict of interests in his administration of these funds. Father Taylor administered the funds in such an abhorrent and improper manner, that diocesan legal counsel concluded "the Diocese of Winona probably has a claim against Father Taylor for breach of fiduciary duty" (see attached). The details of my findings are also attached. One final personal observation on this matter. During all my encounters with Father Taylor concerning these matters, he would never speak to the issues honestly, and he would continually obfuscate all the facts.

2. A second item that I discussed at the New Mexico meeting concerned the complaints which I received from two male employees of Saint Mary's College

Ms. Bonnie Conner
Page 2
September 19, 1994

Taylor's attempts at sexual contact with these two men. They interpreted Father Taylor's conduct and behavior toward them as filled with sexual innuendo.

If I can be of further assistance to you with regard to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brother Louis
ccx

cc: Rev. Gerald A. Mahon ✓
Vicar General
Diocese of Winona

enclosures

RT000411

FILE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
OF THE DIOCESE OF WINONA
100 WEST 10TH STREET
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55992

Office of the
Bishop

PHONE: 507-589-1111
TEL. 507-589-1111

October 18, 1994

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Dear Bob,

My trip to Rome and the Holy Land went well. We had a good gathering of our priests at Lake Okoboji last week. You have been in my thoughts and prayers.

Yesterday I received the report of your evaluation from Saint Luke's. Today I am visiting with Father Thomson and I shall ask him to contact you. It will be important to follow the recommendations as soon as possible. Hence, I am asking him to make the arrangements for your registration at Saint Luke's immediately. These are never easy decisions, I know, but I assure you of my full support and cooperation in your efforts to confront some of the problems detailed for us in the evaluation report.

Bob, it would also be good for us to discuss your financial situation. You have been away from assigned ministry for nearly four months. I would ask you to make an appointment to visit with me before you leave for Saint Luke's. Thanks and God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

cc: Reverend Richard G. Thomson

bcc: Reverend Gerald A. Mahon

RT000424

R. Taylor

RECEIVED OCT 21 1994

St. Bernard's Parish

PO Box 95, Stewartville, MN 55976
(507) 533-8257

October 19, 1994

Rev. Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Dear Bob,

I am in receipt of the Bishop's letter to you regarding treatment at Saint Luke's. I have contacted Saint Luke's and they informed me that the next available times for in-patient treatment are: tentative - November 30, definite - December 7. I would ask that you contact me as soon as possible, as I need to confirm what you have decided with Saint Luke's.

I cannot help but think how difficult these months have been for you since leaving Pipestone. I know from personal experience that when we are confronted with the vulnerableness and fallibility of our lives, it is always a painful experience. I keep you in my prayers and as a brother priest, I hope and pray that ultimately you may draw strength from this time of difficulty.

Fraternally,



Fr. Richard Thomson

RT:pc

cc: The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny

RT000425

RECEIVED 10/31/94

St. Bernard's Parish

PO Box 95, Stewartville, MN 55976
(507) 533-8257

October 31, 1994

Fr. Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

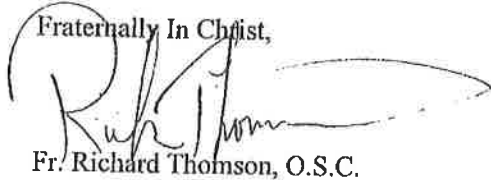
Dear Bob,

I am in receipt of your response to the request that you go to Saint Luke's for treatment as a result of the evaluation submitted by Saint Luke's. I regret that you choose to take this matter into your own hands. This action on your part is further confirmation of the extreme need you have to control this situation. I can only say that the evaluation from Saint Luke's indicated an individual who, without question, was in need of in-patient treatment.

Your concern regarding pedophilia is only one area in a whole spectrum of pathology that has consistently brought you into conflict with so many people over so many years.

As a brother priest, I can only hope and pray that you will finally and genuinely allow others to give you the help that you are truly in need of.

Fraternally In Christ,



Fr. Richard Thomson, O.S.C.

RT:pc

cc: The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny

RT000426

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 100
Tel. 507-251-1111

November 7, 1994

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Dear Bob,

This past week I received copies of the correspondence between yourself and Father Rick Thomson. Needless to say, I was both surprised and disappointed at your reaction to the thorough evaluation of the staff at Saint Luke's. Clearly your response is unacceptable and I am writing to clarify my expectations.

Bob, I expect you to comply with the recommendation of Saint Luke's Institute and prepare to go there for the treatment recommended by the staff. I remind you that you are already restricted from public ministry in the church and your are not to present yourself, either by activity or by garb, as a member of the clergy. I must warn you that, if you do not comply with my directions to report for evaluation, I will be forced to suspend you from priestly ministry and you will not even be allowed to celebrate Mass privately.

Bob, I know this is not an easy step for you to take, but I strongly encourage you not to delay the inevitable. This can be a true moment of grace for you and an opportunity to confront some of the problematic realities of your life that have remained largely untouched, for one reason or another. The people at Saint Luke's are both caring and professional in the way they go about their service. Unhealthiness is not wrongdoing but it can lead to the same. Any further delay will simply exacerbate the situation.

I am praying for you and I am asking Father Rick Thomson, via copy of this correspondence, to contact you again and to make the appointment for your admittance to the program at Saint Luke's Institute. The care you receive there will be a wise investment of the resources of this church and also of your time and energy. God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

cc: Reverend Richard G. Thomson

RT000427

confidential file

RECEIVED NOV 14 1994

R. Taylor

St. Bernard's Parish

116 4th Ave. SE, Box 95, Stewartville, MN 55976
(507) 533-8257

November 10, 1994

Rev. Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Dear Bob,

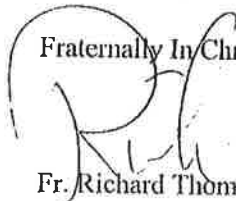
I have just reviewed the Bishop's letter to you regarding the recommendation for treatment at Saint Luke. The Bishop is requesting that you comply with Saint Luke's recommendation for treatment at Saint Luke.

In accordance with the Bishop's request, I write to inform you that the date of December 7 is still open and Saint Luke Institute is still expecting your arrival. If you are choosing not to comply with the recommendation and the Bishop's request, I would ask that you notify the Bishop personally. I assure you the Bishop is most open to talking with you.

If you choose to accept the recommendation, I need to know this as soon as possible as I will make a final confirmation regarding December 7.

Bob, I hope and pray that for your sake and the sake of the Church we both love, you will make the right decision.

Fraternally In Christ,



Fr. Richard Thomson

RT:pc

RT000428

RT

RECEIVED NOV 15 1994
R. Taylor

Saint Bernard's Parish

116 4th Ave. SE, Box 95
Stewartville, MN 55976
(507) 533-8257

November 14, 1994

Sister Gerardine A. Taylor
Saint Luke Institute
2420 Brooks Drive
Suitland, MD 20746-5294

Dear Sister Gerardine,

I'm writing to confirm our conversation of Friday, November 11. I will be arriving at Saint Luke on Monday, December 7, at 9:00 a.m. I will be staying through lunch.

It looks like _____ is making excellent progress and I am very pleased for him. I look forward to meeting with you and _____ on December 7. I appreciate your advice regarding _____ and future ministries. I assure you that there will be no decisions made during our meeting. Also, the final arbiter is always the Bishop, not myself.

Thank you again for all the good work you are doing.



Rev. Dr. Richard Thomson, OSC
Vice Chancellor

RT:pc

cc: Most Reverend John G. Vlazny

RT000159

R. Taylor
RECEIVED NOV 17 1994

Saint Bernard's Parish

116 4th Ave. SE, Box 95
Stewartville, MN 55976
(507) 533-8257

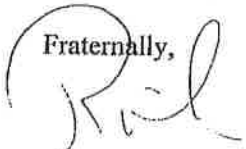
November 16, 1994

Rev. Robert Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Dear Bob,

I received a phone call from Saint Luke's today indicating that your date for arrival has been changed to December 14. Again, it is imperative that you respond to the recommendation and the Bishop's request as Saint Luke's has very limited space and is, at present, holding this open for you. I need to let Saint Luke's know whether you will be coming. They request a final disposition by November 28.

You are in my prayers.

Fraternally,


Fr. Richard Thomson

RT:pc

cc: The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny

RT000429

Saint Adrian Catholic Church
Saint Mary Catholic Church - ~~Lowell~~
512 Maine Avenue • P.O. Box 475
Adrian, Minnesota 56110-0475

RECEIVED DEC 02 1994
R. Taylor

December 1, 1994

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona
55 West Sanborn
Post Office Box 588
Winona, Minnesota

Dear Bishop Vlazny,

Greetings from Adrian!

Following our Dean's Meeting of November 21, 1994, I made inquiry concerning the role of The Reverend Robert H. Taylor :

I called

I simply inquired as to the role Father Taylor had in the wedding. [redacted] of his situation said that Father Taylor stopped just prior to the wedding to tell [redacted] and that he would have to receive the vows, because a problem with his faculties had just come up. Father Taylor said he wasn't even sure what it was all about or even who was making the accusations. [redacted] agreed to witness the marriage.

After further inquiry of [redacted], I learned that he appeared in full clerical dress, presided at the Eucharist, and Father Taylor placed himself in such a place during the ceremony that no one would have known that he didn't witness the marriage. [redacted] conclude by saying that he thought that Father Taylor had blessed the rings. [redacted] asked Father Taylor if [redacted] was aware of his situation. Father Taylor said, "No!"

I explained to [redacted] what I could concerning the situation, told him that I thought what he did was appropriate for the amount of time he had to deal with it and I appreciated his help in this matter!

Sincerely,

RT000160

Saint Adrian Catholic Church
Saint Mary Catholic Church - Ellsworth
512 Maine Avenue • P.O. Box 475
Adrian, Minnesota 56110-0475

RECEIVED DEC 02 1994
R. Taylor

December 1, 1994

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona
55 West Sanborn
Post Office Box 588
Winona, Minnesota

Dear Bishop Vlazny,

Greetings from Adrian!


Following our Dean's Meeting of November 21, 1994, I made inquiry concerning the role of The Reverend Robert H. Taylor in his brother's Wedding on October 29, 1994.

I called The Reverend David Kohner, Pastor of the Church of the Sacred Heart in Faribault, Minnesota. I simply inquired as to the role Father Taylor had in the wedding. Father Kohner said that Father Taylor stopped just prior to the wedding to tell Father Kohner of his situation and that he would have to receive the vows, because a problem with his faculties had just come up. Father Taylor said he wasn't even sure what it was all about or even who was making the accusations. Father Kohner agreed to witness the marriage.

After further inquiry of Father Kohner, I learned that he appeared in full clerical dress, presided at the Eucharist, and Father Taylor placed himself in such a place during the ceremony that no one would have known that he didn't witness the marriage. Father Kohner concluded by saying that he thought that Father Taylor had blessed the rings. Father Kohner asked Father Taylor if his brother was aware of his situation. Father Taylor said, "No!"

I explained to Father Kohner what I could concerning the situation, told him that I thought what he did was appropriate for the amount of time he had to deal with it and I appreciated his help in this matter!

Sincerely,


Reverend James D. Timm
Dean

RT000461

DIOCESE OF WINONA
BOX 588
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS
Diocese of Winona

Minutes of Meeting
December 5, 1994

Opening

Present: Bishop John G. Vlazny, Fathers Roy Literski, Donald Schmitz, Donald Grubisch, Joseph Keefe, James Timm, John Kunz, James McCauley, Thomas Jennings. Unable to attend: Fathers Gerald Mahon, Richard Feiten.

Bishop Vlazny opened the meeting at 1:50 p.m. at the Church of St. Theodore in Albert Lea with a prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were noted.

Annual Diocesan Appeal

Bishop Vlazny reported that the goal of \$750,000 has been exceeded (c. \$820,000), and thirty-six letters have been sent out concerning shortfall, substantially down from last year. Discussion was held on: (1) a prospective goal for 1995; (2) the possibility of keeping the parish assessment level; (3) the possibility of relying far more in the future on the appeal rather than the assessment; and (4) whether a rebate would be desirable for parishes which exceed their goal. The consultants: (1) were split between a goal of \$775,000 and \$800,000; (2) agreed that it was suitable not to raise the assessment; (3) recommended that it would be best to maintain the now-established system of relying on both means for several years without drastic changes; and (4) suggested that a parish rebate of two-thirds of overage from the appeal was desirable.

Some concern was expressed that any rebate less than 100% would look less generous, and that if the diocese needed the one-third of those monies, then the initial goal should reflect that need. It was suggested, however, that various discretionary needs were not well-suited to formal inclusion within the established goal, but were instead well-suited to the monies received from overage.

Clergy Personnel Issues

Bishop Vlazny reported on several matters. A canonical decree has been issued for Father Jon Moore to report to Windom as Administrator by December 15, 1994. A canonical decree will also be issued shortly for Father Robert Taylor to report to St. Luke's Institute at the latter's earliest convenience for in-patient treatment. Father Leland Smith continues to make progress at St. Luke's and may be released in about a month. Father Timothy Hodapp will excommunicate from the Diocese in June, 1995, at his own request, and begin the process of incardination to the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Father John Wilmot, MHM, has asked to begin the process of incardination in the Diocese. The question of restoring the faculties of Father Frank Ryan is delicate, but might be examined in the near future.

Audit and Financial Situation

Mr. John Broadwater entered the meeting and carefully reviewed the annual audit and financial situation of the diocese for the year ended June 30, 1994.

DOW001849

Among other things, he noted that the deficit noted in the financial statement included "paper losses" on investments which do not necessarily affect cash operation. In fact, partly because of a favorable year in the self-insurance plan, the diocese enjoyed practical overage of about \$42,000. Finally, a suggestion was made that the Finance Council review the question of the rate of interest for parish monies invested with the diocese.

Adjournment: 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Reverend William M. Becker
Acting Secretary

DIOCESE OF WINONA
BY WINE SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

December 8, 1994

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Dear Bob,

In a recent conversation with Father Richard Thomson, he advised me that you were not reporting to Saint Luke's Institute on December 14, 1994, as I requested and scheduled. This saddens me very much and I must now send you the enclosed decree. Any further postponement is unacceptable.

Bob, I continue to keep you in my prayers. These steps are not easy ones, I know, but I am confident that treatment at Saint Luke's will bring you light, healing and peace. God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

Enclosure

bcc: Reverend Gerald A. Mahon
Reverend Richard G. Thomson
Reverend James D. Timm

RT000430

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

**DECREE
INDIVIDUAL PRECEPT**

WHEREAS, FATHER ROBERT TAYLOR, UNTIL JUNE 29, 1994, PASTOR OF SAINT LEO'S CHURCH, PIPESTONE, AND SAINT MARTIN'S, WOODSTOCK, IS A PRIEST INCARDINATED IN THE DIOCESE OF WINONA.

WHEREAS, FATHER TAYLOR HAS NOT COMPLIED WITH THE AFTERCARE PROGRAM PRESCRIBED FOR HIM UPON THE TERMINATION OF HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE TREATMENT PROGRAM WITH THE SERVANTS OF THE PARACLETE IN 1990.

WHEREAS, AGAIN THIS YEAR A SERIOUS ALLEGATION OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR WITH AN ADOLESCENT WHEN FATHER TAYLOR WAS PASTOR OF SAINT PIUS X CHURCH IN ROCHESTER WAS ALSO REPORTED, NOT AT ALL DISSIMILAR TO OTHER ALLEGATIONS IN THE PAST.

WHEREAS, ALLEGATIONS OF INAPPROPRIATE RELATIONSHIPS AND BOUNDARIES CONTINUE TO BE RAISED AS RECENTLY AS THE SPRING OF THIS YEAR REGARDING THE PRESENT BEHAVIOR OF FATHER TAYLOR.

WHEREAS, ALLEGATIONS ARE RAISED BY THE PEOPLE OF SAINT LEO'S CHURCH IN PIPESTONE THAT THE BEHAVIOR OF FATHER TAYLOR WHILE SERVING AS THEIR PASTOR DID NOT COMPLY WITH BEHAVIOR PROHIBITIONS IMPOSED UPON HIM BY MYSELF IN 1990 WITH RESPECT TO GUESTS IN THE PARISH HOUSE.

WHEREAS, FATHER TAYLOR PARTICIPATED IN A RESIDENTIAL EVALUATION PROGRAM AT SAINT LUKE'S INSTITUTE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER, 1994, AND WAS RECOMMENDED FOR IN-PATIENT TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY.

WHEREAS, FATHER TAYLOR HAS NOT COMPLIED WITH MY DIRECTIVES TO REPORT FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED TREATMENT PROGRAM IN MY LETTERS TO HIM OF OCTOBER 18 AND NOVEMBER 7, 1994.

WHEREAS, THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR FATHER TAYLOR TO CONFRONT THESE PROBLEMATIC REALITIES IN FULFILLMENT OF HIS PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AS A PRIEST OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THIS DIOCESE.

I, JOHN G. VLAZNY, BISHOP OF WINONA, ORDER FATHER ROBERT TAYLOR TO REPORT TO ME AT THE DIOCESAN PASTORAL CENTER IN WINONA AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME BY DECEMBER 30, 1994, FOR A SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENT TO SAINT LUKE'S INSTITUTE, SUITLAND, MARYLAND, WHERE HE WILL TAKE UP RESIDENCE AND FULFILL ALL THE DEMANDS OF THE IN-PATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAM.

FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION FROM ALL ACTS OF THE POWER OF ORDERS, FROM ALL ACTS OF THE POWER OF GOVERNANCE, AND FROM THE EXERCISE OF ALL RIGHTS OR FUNCTIONS WHICH RESULT FROM SACRED ORDINATION. FATHER TAYLOR IS TO CONSIDER THIS A FORMAL CANONICAL WARNING, AS PRESCRIBED IN CANON 1347.

GIVEN AT WINONA THIS DAY, DECEMBER 8, 1994,

BY ME, *John G. Vlazny*
BISHOP OF WINONA

W. J. [Signature]
Notary

Seal

RT000431

D E C R E E

I, John G. Vlazny, Bishop of Winona, do hereby declare the Reverend Robert Taylor, a priest of the Diocese of Winona, to be impeded from exercising Holy Orders according to Canon 1044.2.2. I make this declaration with moral certitude and based upon the following facts:

1. Father Taylor has not complied with the aftercare program prescribed for him upon the termination of his participation in the treatment program with the Servants of the Paraclete in 1990.

2. This past year, 1994, a serious allegation of inappropriate behavior with an adolescent when Father Taylor was pastor of St. _____ was reported, an allegation not at all dissimilar to other allegations in the past. Allegations of inappropriate relationships and boundaries continue to be raised as recently as the spring of 1994 regarding the present behavior of Father Taylor. Allegations are raised by the people of _____ that the behavior of Father Taylor while serving as their pastor did not comply with the behavior prohibitions imposed on him by myself in 1990 with respect to guests in the parish house.

3. Father Taylor participated in a residential evaluation program at St. Luke's Institute at the end of September, 1994, and was recommended for in-patient treatment immediately. Father Taylor has not complied with my direct order to report to me by December 30, 1994 for assignment to St. Luke's Institute.

This decree will remain in effect until such time as I or my successor, after consultation with an expert, shall determine that the psychic defect/illness indicated by Father Taylor's past behavior and by the examination done at St. Luke's Institute which resulted in its recommendation for immediate in-patient treatment no longer exists.

Father Taylor is hereby notified of his right to petition me within ten days (tempus utile) of the receipt of this decree for its revocation or emendation. The appeal process affords Father Taylor the right to the use of an advocate and/or procurator. If Father Taylor wishes to appeal this decree and wishes an advocate and/or procurator to be provided for him, one will be so provided.

Given at Winona this day, _____.

By me, _____
Bishop of Winona

Notary

seal

RT000009

Dec 24, 1946

The Most Reverend John S. Vlazing, DD

Bishop of Winona

55 W. Sandborn St

Winona, Mn, 55987

Dear Bishop,

I received your communication on Dec 16, the 38th anniversary of my ordination, and I write to you on Christmas eve, that same eve that 38 years ago I celebrated Mass at Assisi. I recall these events because, rightly or wrongly, 38 years ago I thought the easiest way to save my soul was by becoming a priest; since then, I have come to understand how wrong that motivation was. Whatever our differences may have been in the past, saving my soul is the most important thing in my earthly life and what I write should be understood in that context.

I would like to begin with a quotation from Mr. Binaca, former head of I.T.T. "Whole chains of events and decisions for an entire management team can be put into motion, in the wrong direction with the inevitable loss of money, time and morale by one "unfactual" fact, "accepted by" - you, however, unintentional. The highest area of professional management requires the literal ability to "smell" a real fact from all the others, ... and to be sure what you have is indeed what we call an "unshakable fact".

RT000432

It is an unshakable fact that there is no
lavatory, toilet, or restroom in The Sanctuary of
; in fact there was none in the church until it was
installed after I left as the concluding part
of the Renewal Restoration Program. It is
also an unshakable fact that the bathrooms in the
school were to be renovated at the time of the
alleged misconduct; it is an unshakable fact
that during the time of the alleged misconduct, there
were literally dozens of workmen, from sunrise to
sunset trying to finish the various projects before
the opening of school. If I were going to perpetrate
an act of pedophilia, I would have chosen a less
congested area; if I were going to perpetrate
some sinful act, I would have chosen a room which
at least could be locked. It seems to me that
the driving force behind your insistence that I go
to St. Luke's is the accusation of pedophilia, yet
the "unshakable fact" upon which you base your
insistence are patently untrue, false and
unfounded.

Then you ask me to go to St. Luke's for an evaluation,
which, because of what you sent ahead, was a
reargitation of Semez plus the last four years
at P. Postone. I went there with the full
expectation of specific test to exonerate myself
(plethysmography, etc,) only to find out that this
procedure is part of treatment. I was tricked and

very upset. The more time I spent there
the more convinced that the staff had
succumbed to the secularistic and mechanistic
posture of behaviorism - without any serious
content on spirituality or grace. From my
viewpoint, I want to get on with my life,
and not waste another six to twelve months
in treatment, without any guarantees,
followed by years of aftercare, trying to
convince a treatment center that the alleged
pedophilia was not based on "unshakable"
facts.

I am not even going to respond to the
various "whereas" of your communication. In
my opinion I clearly responded to most of
them in a previous letter, yet you continue
to forward them to St. Luke's as "unshakable
facts". It just becomes a vicious circle.
For example - take my pastorate of St. Leo's.
Shake the tree of innuendo, insinuation, and
rumor, and you get just that - innuendo,
insinuation and rumor. There was not, nor
can there ever be, a single accusation of
inappropriate behavior that will stand up
to scrutiny.

I feel that you have taken my pastorate
unjustly, that you have not based your actions

upon "unshakable" facts; That you have removed my faculties, clerical dress, without due process. And, in my present state of mind, I no longer care. I offered another option which I had talked to my counsellor at St Lukes, and I got no response. Even if I am forbidden the privilege of saying Mass, I can still keep the Eucharist as the core of spiritual life; I have been and will continue to be faithful to the liturgy of the hours. I will continue to live the celibate life; I can still be present as Christ and prophet to the homeless, the poor, and the needy.

My conclusion is that your conscience and my conscience will never come together. I had requested early retirement, and again no response; I had asked for 6 mos to a year to let the dust settle, and I got nine months of pain and anxiety. Bishop - I must be true to my conscience for my own emotional and spiritual health. I know this saddens you, but I also have been saddened by the whole year.

Please pray for me, as I do pray for you each and every day.

Fraternally in Christ our Brother
Robert Taylor

RT

To Fr. Becken
 Date 4-4 Time 9:00 AM PM

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M. Fr. McGrath
 of _____
 Phone (____) _____

	Area Code	Number	Extension
TELEPHONED			
CALL TO SEE YOU			
WANTS TO SEE YOU			
		PLEASE CALL	
		WILL CALL AGAIN	
		URGENT	

RETURNED YOUR CALL

Message - 1 Scout
Falls called reporting that Fr. Taylor
is wearing his collar. He is
appearing in court on Thursday
& wears his collar to get reduced
sentences for some of his friends -
Thursday's case involved a felony
charge against one Operator SM
of the men living in
his house.



AMPAD EFFICIENCY

REORDER #23-000

Jan 2, 1995

Dear Bob,

On Saturday I received the letter you wrote on Christmas Eve. I am grateful that you finally responded to my letters even though I am saddened that you will not accept the help you need.

Tomorrow I leave for retreat with the bishops of our region. After Jan. 11 I shall be back in Winona. We clearly need to visit again. I am asking that you come to see me. You could call my secretary, and set up an hour and day that would be convenient. Evenings or weekends are certainly agreeable. Or you could wait until I return and arrange a meeting directly with me.

You show your concern about the allegations raised with respect to your behavior. I have mine. They are both past and present. My prayers are with you and I shall ask the Lord to open your heart to His healing grace. Until you do, the hurts reflected in your letter of Dec. 24 will not go away. God bless you.

Your brother in the Lord,
+ John S. Klumpp

MOST REVEREND JOHN G. VLAZNY, D.D.
55 WEST SANBORN STREET
WINONA, MN 55987
(507) 454-1644

RT000436

DIOCESE OF WINONA
45 WEST STODOLN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

Office of the
Judicial Vicar

M E M O

P.O. Box 586
Tel. 507/454-4646

To: Bishop Vlazny
Fr: Fr. Hoepfner
Re: Fr. Taylor
Date: February 3, 1995

After reading Fr. Taylor's letter of December 24, 1994, I find him saying, simply put:

Accusations have been made that have not been and cannot be substantiated about his behavior while at St. Pius in Rochester (and elsewhere too). He was tricked at St. Luke's. He wants to get on with his life and not waste time in treatment trying to convince the center the alleged behavior was not based on unshakable facts.

He will not responde to the whereases of your order as he has done so in a previous letter and you just continue to forward his responses to St. Luke's as unshakeable facts.

He feels you unjustly took his pastorate. He feels that you have removed his faculties and clerical dress, without due process. He says in his present state of mind he no longer cares.

He offered another option but got no response. He requested early retirement and there was no response. Even if he is forbidden to say Mass, he will carry on with what spiritual means are available to him. He concludes that your conscience and his will never come together. He must be true to his conscience for his own emotional and spiritual health.

Fact. You have given Fr. Taylor an order to report to you for an assignment for treatment and he will not obey it. You based your order on what you perceive to be good information, including St. Luke's recommendation for in-patient treatment. (If their recommendation includes a diagnosis, this would be good).

What to do? Options. 1. I have enclosed a copy of a decree declaring Fr. Cashman irregular for the exercise of Orders in accord with canon 1044.2.2 until such time as experts give you input that he is healthy enough for exercising Orders. Such a decree could be given to Fr. Taylor. 2. Another option would be to begin the process of suspension of Fr. Taylor for exercising Orders until he complies with your order to report.

Of course, with both of these, Fr. Taylor would be extended the right to recourse according to the canons. Thus all would be done with due process. I have not reviewed his file. Did he resign his pastorate? If so his claims regarding a lack of justice here would be different than if, in fact, he was removed from office. Then the canons on removal from office are to be followed for due process, a process which also might result in a resignation of the pastor (cc. 1740-1747). I gave you a memo on the simple process for removal of faculties. Of course, with the pastorate, the faculties and the religious garb,

RT000437

if the person goes along with what you tell him to do and does not push the matter, then you might not need to formally engage the processes. However, I think it's best to always let the party know that the processes are there and recourse is available.

At any rate, we can discuss this. I will continue to think and pray about it. If I should review the file, I certainly will (before or after we discuss this again?) Let me know.

RT000438

RT

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

FILE

Office of the
Bishop

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

February 7, 1995

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Dear Bob,

More than a month has passed since I wrote to you on January 2 asking you to make arrangements to come and visit with me here in Winona about your situation. I regret that you have not followed through on my request. This becomes all the more painful for you and for me.

Bob, I write again to ask that you come to see me. I remind you that you remain on administrative leave from your ministry as a priest. Your priestly faculties of the Diocese of Winona have been removed and I remind you not to present yourself in the public forum as a priest.

Your need for help, which is detailed so well in the evaluation from Saint Luke's, compels me, according to diocesan policy, to insist that you receive professional treatment before I allow you to return to any form of public ministry. You look for retirement as a way out, but that is no solution in terms of one's health. In fact, I worry all the more about your living in isolation.

The people at Saint Luke's are professional and caring. They will have only your best interests at heart. Please accept the grace of this opportunity to deal with all the past and present hurts. My prayers are with you and I sincerely hope that we will be meeting soon. God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000161

RT

DIOCESE OF WINONA
55 WEST SANDORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55985

Office of the
Judicial Vicar

PO Box 588
Tel. 507/454-4643

M E M O

To: Bishop Vlazny
Fr: Fr. Hoepfner
Re: Fr. Taylor
Date: February 23, 1995

Enclosed please find a draft of a decree by which you would declare Fr. Taylor impeded for the exercise of Holy Orders. Canon 1044.2.2 notes that one is impeded from exercising orders "who is afflicted with insanity or some other psychic defect until the time when the ordinary, after consultation with an expert, permits him the exercise of that order." "Psychic defect" is translated "psychological infirmity" in the Spanish Commentary English Translation. The decree in effect says that you have sufficient evidence to presume that Fr. Taylor has such a defect/illness. You have required him to seek help for this and he has refused to do so. Therefore, you are publicly declaring him impeded from exercising Orders and ordering him not to exercise Orders until such time as you or your successor permit him to do so after consulting with an expert.

RT000162

Fr. Taylor

Diocese of Winona
Inter-Office Transmittal

TO: Bishop Vlazny
FR: Janice
DATE: 4-4-95
RE: Fr. Taylor

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Your Information..	<input type="checkbox"/> Please Circulate
<input type="checkbox"/> For Your File	<input type="checkbox"/> Please Return
<input type="checkbox"/> For Your Approval	<input type="checkbox"/> Please Take Action
<input type="checkbox"/> For Your Review and comment	<input type="checkbox"/> Please Advise

Fr. McGrath called at 9:00am this morning, Tuesday,
April 4. He said that of Sioux Falls,
called reporting that Fr. Taylor is wearing his collar.
He is appearing in court on Thursday and in the past
wears his collar to get reduced sentences for some of
his friends. Thursday's case involves a felony charge
against one of the ~~men~~ living in his house.
work number is
This message also given to Fr. Becker.

COLLEGE OF CONSULTORS
Diocese of Winona

Minutes of Meeting
August 29, 1995

Opening

Present: Bishop John G. Vlazny, Fathers Roy Literski, Donald Schmitz, Gerald Mahon, Donald Grubisch, Joseph Keefe, James Timm, John Kunz, James McCauley, Thomas Jennings, Richard Feiten.

Bishop Vlazny opened the meeting at 1:30 pm at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Winona with a prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting were noted, and the NCCB documents comprising *Restoring Trust* were distributed.

Fiscal Report 1994-95

Mr. John Broadwater entered the meeting in order to review the financial report for the diocese, for which an audit is being completed.

Annual Diocesan Appeal

Bishop Vlazny reviewed the results of the appeal as of August 25, including this year's new telemarketing aspects. He indicated that the Diocese will be searching for a replacement for James Driscoll who resigned as Director of Stewardship on June 14, and that the office will probably be envisioned as comprising stewardship and evangelization. The skills required will entail a careful search for someone who consequently would not start earlier than January 1.

The possibility of shifting the relative balance of funds raised through the appeal and the assessment was discussed. It was decided to re-visit the question next year, with an eye toward the possibility of lowering the assessment and raising the appeal goal - perhaps incrementally on an annual basis. Support was also offered for continuing the two-thirds rebate to parishes which exceed their goal.

Pastoral Situations

DOW001847

After Bishop Vlazny reviewed the situation of Father Robert Taylor, the consultants resolved that, "having heard the approaches of Bishop Vlazny toward Father Taylor, we recommend that he pursue efforts to have him receive treatment already suggested by professional evaluation," moved by Schmitz, seconded by Keefe, and passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rev. William M. Becker
Acting Secretary

RT

FILE

DIOCESE OF WINONA
50 WEST SANBORN
WINONA, MINNESOTA 55901

Office of the
Bishop

P.O. Box 388
Tel. 507/454-4603

October 13, 1995

Reverend Robert H. Taylor
317 North Prairie
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Dear Bob,

Far too many months have passed since we last had the opportunity to visit. I tried calling you when I was in Adrian for funeral, but apparently things did not work out. You may not even have been interested at the time in my invitation to get together.

But, Bob, I do write with the hope that you would be willing to visit with me once again about your situation. Several weeks ago at the meeting of the Consultors I was encouraged to reach out again and seek reconciliation and resolution to the prolonged awkwardness of your situation. I will be coming to the western part of the diocese on several occasions in the coming weeks and would be delighted to visit with you once again. If you would be willing to approach me again about this matter, I would do my best to make myself available at a convenient time. If you would find it more appropriate to visit with me in the company of a brother priest, I would be open to that possibility as well.

At any rate, Bob, it would be good to hear from you and I would like to stay in touch, even if the resolution of our current dilemma is not immediately achievable. Please know that you have the support of my prayers and I assure you that I write with your personal well-being uppermost in my mind and heart. God bless.

Your brother in the Lord,

+ John G. Vlazny

The Most Reverend John G. Vlazny
Bishop of Winona

JGV:jm

RT000163

June 27, 2002

Robert Taylor
Apt. 1
109 N Duluth Ave.
Sioux Falls SD 57104

Dear Father Taylor:

It has been three and a half years now since I have been appointed the Bishop of the Diocese of Winona. During this time, I have not had the occasion to meet with you.

I would like to have the opportunity of sitting down with you and talking about your present status and situation in life. I will be on vacation the first two weeks of July but I would like to arrange a time and a place to meet with you. I am willing to come to visit you in your home city or invite you to come to Winona or to meet at any designated place that is mutually convenient for both of us. May I ask you to please call my secretary, (507-454-4643) and arrange an appropriate time before September 1, 2002.

I hope that you are in good health and that you have adjusted well to your present situation. I look forward to meeting with you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Rev. Bernard J. Harrington
Bishop of Winona

BJH/jt

Memo

From: ☒ Bernard J. Harrington
Date: August 16, 2002
Subject: Pastoral visit with Father Robert Taylor

On Friday, August 16, 2002, I met with Father Robert Taylor, a priest of the diocese, at the rectory of St. Adrian, Adrian, Minnesota.

Father Taylor was suspended in 1995 by Bishop Vlazny. Having resigned his pastorate at the parishes of St. Leo, Pipestone and St. Martin's, Woodstock and refused the assignment of going for therapy at St. Luke's Institute in Maryland.

At the present time, Bob Taylor is 73 years of age and he is living in Sioux Falls, South Dakota approximately two blocks from the Cathedral. I assume that this is his apartment building that he owns.

Since being relieved of his pastoral responsibilities, Father worked with recently released prisoners in the process of rehabilitation. This past year, he has been working on migrant problems with Hispanics. He has self educated himself in immigration law and tries to assist illegal immigrants with their status and immigration problems.

Bob has mentioned that he has many friends and that there are always people at his home. He has extended an invitation to stop in at any time. At the same time, he does not seem to have much contact with priests of the diocese.

Bob Taylor still categorically denies any sexual abuse with a young man at St. Pius Church.

He does not have obvious anger or animosity against Bishop Vlazny or the institutional church at this time. He does keep the Sunday obligation (as he says, "Why not."). He does celebrate Mass privately "as the Spirit moves him." He seems to keep the big Feast Days. He does say his breviary, but once again as the Spirit moves him. He mentions that he does more spiritual reading now than ever before. He has done quite a bit of reading in Indian spirituality especially the Lakota.

I asked him how he felt about the present situation of the Church. He did not express any strong feelings one way or another. He had one interesting comment that many of the people that he deals with now think that all priests are molesters.

He does not function in any formal ministries nor does he ever present himself as a priest nor dress as a priest. Most people do not know of his priestly background. However, he does direct many Hispanic people back to the Church. He encourages them to go to the Guadalupe Chapel on the east side of Sioux Falls. He mentions that he has probably brought back more people to the Church during the past six years than the previous twenty years.

I initiated a discussion about his future status. I outlined three possibilities. 1. That he come back to the diocese and go for treatment as was directed by Archbishop Vlazny. 2. That he write a letter seeking retirement and then resign from any formal form of ministry. 3. To voluntarily ask for laicization. With regards to the first proposition, he doesn't agree that he needs treatment and is not too open to this suggestion. With regards to the proposal for laicization, he is opposed to such an action. He feels he is priest and he is not interested in laicization. With regards to retirement and resignation from formal priestly ministry, I mentioned that I feel uncomfortable with this proposal since I have no safeguards in place about his conduct. However, I would look into the proposal. I asked Bob Taylor to write me a letter commenting on these three proposals and this would continue the dialogue.

One thing that he does feel bad about at the present time is that none of the neighboring diocesan clergy have any contact or visit him. He feels an alienation although maybe he has taken no steps to alleviate the alienation. Secondly, the difficulty with family situations, for example, at funerals. Bob does not perform any priestly roles but he has taken the wake. He considers that a prayer leader at a wake service is not a priestly function.

In the course of our final discussion, I did mention to him that the diocese has divested itself of the Atlanta, Georgia and the Arizona properties.

ARTICLE X

0301320-0196
1730783

The names and addresses of the incorporators:

MIGUEL A PUNTES	109 N DULUTH AVE SIOUX FALLS, S.D	ZIP 57104
ROBERT H TAYLOR	109 N DULUTH AVE SIOUX FALLS, S.D	ZIP 57104
CODY DEAN PHIPPS	6200 N CLIFF AVE # 113 SIOUX FALLS, S.D	ZIP 57104
		ZIP

These articles may be amended in the manner authorized by Law at the time of amendment.

Executed on the 3rd day of December, 2002

Signature of Incorporators:

[Signature]
[Signature]
[Signature]

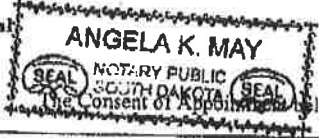
STATE OF South Dakota
COUNTY OF Minnehaha

On this the 3rd day of December, 2002, before me personally appeared Miguel A. Puentes, Robert H Taylor & Cody Dean Phipps known to me or satisfactorily proven to be the person(s) who are described in, and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged to me that she/he/they executed the same.

5-24-2004
My Commission Expires

[Signature]
Notary Public

Notarial Seal:



CONSENT OF APPOINTMENT BY THE REGISTERED AGENT

I, MIGUEL A PUNTES, hereby give my consent to serve as the registered agent for HISPANIC SERVICE CENTER

Dated 12/14/02.

[Signature]
(Signature of Registered Agent)

FILING FEE: \$20 Make check payable to the Secretary of State

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Three or more natural persons of the age of majority may act as incorporators of a corporation
2. The signatures of each of the incorporators is to be signed in the presence of a notary public.
3. Every corporation is required to continuously maintain a resident of this state as a registered agent for service of process. The Consent of Appointment must be signed by the registered agent listed in Article VIII.
4. An ORIGINAL and ONE EXACT OR CONFORMED COPY of the Articles of Incorporation must be submitted.
5. The filing fee of \$20 must accompany the articles for filing

nsartinc.pdf

RT

SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE CAPITOL
500 E. CAMPBELL
PIERRE, S.D. 57501
605-771-4845
Fax 605-771-4550

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

0301320 0186
1730703

Filed this 20th day of December, 2002
Joyce Magallana
SECRETARY OF STATE

RECEIVED
DEC 09 02 WSO/218'
S.D. SEC. OF STATE
RECEIVED
DEC 20 02
S.D. SEC. OF STATE

Executed by the undersigned for the purpose of forming a South Dakota Corporation under SDCL 47-22
South Dakota Nonprofit Corporation Act.

The name of the corporation is HISPANIC SERVICE CENTER

The period of existence is UNLIMITED

The purposes for which the corporation is organized.

TO ASISST THE HISPANIC COMMUNITY WITH IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS , WITH TAX DECLARATIONS WITH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTIONS AND TRANSLATIONS, WITH REFERRALS TO VARIOUS COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.

Check (X) one: The corporation will have members. The corporation will not have members.

If the corporation is to have one or more classes of members, any provision which the incorporators elect to set forth designating the class or classes of members and stating the qualifications and rights of the members of each class.

- 1) ONE PERSON OF HISPANIC NATIONALITY
- 2) ONE PERSON OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP
- 3) ONE ORDAINED MINISTER OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

If the directors are not to be elected or appointed by one or more classes of members, a statement of the manner in which such directors shall be elected or appointed.

VOTING MEMBERS ONLY SHALL ELECT DIRECTORS

Any provisions which the incorporators elect to set forth for the regulation of the internal affairs of the corporation, including any provision for the distribution of assets on dissolution or final liquidation.

BY THE DIRECTION OF VOTING MEMBERSHIP

The street address, or a statement that there is no street address, of its initial registered office is
109 N DULUTH AVE SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA ZIP 57104

and the name of its initial registered agent at such address is MIGUEL A PUENTES

The number of directors constituting the initial board of directors is 3 and the names and addresses of the persons who are to serve as the initial directors:

<u>MIGUEL A PUENTES</u>	<u>109 N DULUTH AVE SIOUX FALLS, S.D</u>	<u>ZIP 57104</u>
<u>ROBERT H TAYLOR</u>	<u>109 N DULUTH AVE SIOUX FALLS, S.D</u>	<u>ZIP 57104</u>
<u>CODY DEAN PHIPPS</u>	<u>6200 N CLIFF AVE # 113, SIOUX FALLS S.D</u>	<u>ZIP 57104</u>
		<u>ZIP</u>

State of South Dakota



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

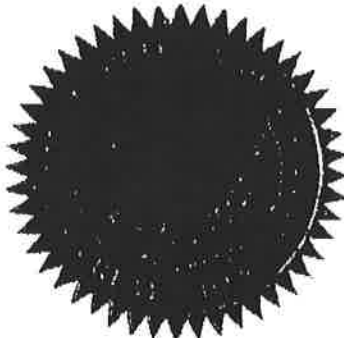
Certificate of Incorporation Nonprofit Corporation

ORGANIZATIONAL ID #: NS012189

I, **JOYCE HAZELTINE**, Secretary of State of the State of South Dakota, hereby certify that the Articles of Incorporation of **HISPANIC SERVICE CENTER** duly signed and verified, pursuant to the provisions of the South Dakota Corporation Act, have been received in this office and are found to conform to law.

ACCORDINGLY and by virtue of the authority vested in me by law, I hereby issued this Certificate of Incorporation and attach hereto a duplicate of the Articles of Incorporation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, at Pierre, the Capital, this December 20, 2002.



Joyce Hazeltine
Secretary of State

Cert of incorp Non Profit Merge.doc

RT

0301320.0196
1730703

Receipt Number: 1164234

File Number **NS012189**



* N S 0 1 2 1 8 9 *



* C E R T I F I C A T E O F I N C O R P O R A T I O N *

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

For


HISPANIC SERVICE CENTER

Filed at the request of:

**MIGUEL PUENTES
109 N DULUTH AVE
SIOUX FALLS SD 57104**

*State of South Dakota
Office of the Secretary of State*

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State on: **Friday, December 20, 2002**


Secretary of State

Fee Received: \$20

RT

0301320.0196
1730703

ADDENDUM ARTICLE III

TO PROMOTE DIFFERENT CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OF THE VARIOUS
HISPANIC COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN THE AREA. TO GIVE
ORIENTATION IN PERTINENT MATTERS OF CONCERN.

RT

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SIOUX FALLS

523 NORTH DULUTH AVENUE, SIOUX FALLS SD 57104-2714
PHONE: (605)334-9881 FAX: (605)334-2092

TRANSMITTAL

REC'D APR 02 2003

TO: Michael Cronin

FROM: Jerome Klein

Pages: 6 (including cover)

Date: 4-1-03

.....

It's sending up-side-down
 this time. It has
 staple holes, maybe they
 are sticking the papers together

C. Lally, Sec.

April 29, 2003

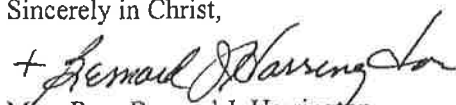
Joyce Hazeltine
Secretary of State
State of South Dakota
500 E Capitol
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Secretary of State:

It has recently come to my attention that the Articles of Incorporation for the Hispanic Service Center, a South Dakota corporation under SDCL 47-22 of the South Dakota non-profit corporation act, said Articles filed on December 3, 2002, lists as a director of the initial Board of Directors, Robert H. Taylor, 109 N Duluth Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57104 and note that one person of the corporation is an ordained minister of the Catholic church.

I write to inform you that Robert H. Taylor is an ordained priest of the Catholic church of the Diocese of Winona. However, Robert Taylor is on a leave of absence from ministry in the Catholic church and is not authorized by the church to minister in its name. The work he is doing in conjunction with the Hispanic Service Center is not official work of the Catholic church.

Sincerely in Christ,


Most Rev. Bernard J. Harrington
Bishop of Winona

BJH:kve

cc: Most Rev. Robert Carlson, Bishop of Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls
Robert H. Taylor

RT

Dear Father Thomson

I have carefully and repeatedly read & reread the evaluation from St. Lukes Institute. I have carefully compared them to the evaluation from Jemery Springs. The most substantial and significant difference is obviously the accusation of pedophilia. I had thought that integral to the evaluation of St. Lukes would be specific testing in the area of pedophilia. About the only thing stated in the report is that they could not rule out the such possibility and that a plethysmography exam be done earlier in the treatment.

Accordingly, I want to take this matter into my own hands and responsibly submit to such plethysmography, at my own choosing, see the results and then determine whether I go to St. Lukes. I had talked to Luise Saffranke about doing just that while at St. Lukes evaluation. I am now in the process of setting up an appointment.

Also I will be contacting a psychiatrist here in Sioux Falls, (or if need be, elsewhere) to undergo any care he/she may deem necessary until the above results are back.

Thank you.

Robert W. Taylor

CC: Bishop John G. Vlaziney

RT000172

From: Hennessy, Joel
sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 2:34 PM
To: Ann Merchlewitz
Subject: RE: Release of Names

Ann,

Bishop Quinn asked me to update you on information we received from a reporter this morning. The reporter divulged that she had received phone calls from three separate persons in regards to Fr. Taylor. The calls basically just expressed shock according to the reporter. It may be nothing but it may also be an indication that you will receive phone calls. This is just a courtesy message, no response needed.

Please don't hesitate to call me, if needed. We will continue to keep you informed.

Joel Hennessy
Diocese of Winona Pastoral Center
Director, Office of Mission Advancement & Communications
55 W. Sanborn, PO Box 588, Winona, MN 55987
507.858.1249 Office 507.254.3948 Mobile

From: Ann Merchlewitz [mailto:amerchle@smumn.edu]
sent: Monday, December 09, 2013 3:57 PM
To: Hennessy, Joel
Subject: Release of Names

Joel,

Brother William had a conversation with Monsignor Colletti on Friday indicating that one of the names that will be released by the Diocese of Winona as a result of credible accusations is Rev. Robert Taylor. Monsignor Colletti reported that Father Taylor was employed at Saint Mary's from 1967-1980. I have two questions to which I was hoping you could respond. First, did the credible accusation occur when Father Taylor was at Saint Mary's? Second, does the Diocese have general talking points on the release of names that you would be willing to share with me? I think Saint Mary's might get some calls since, I assume, most the names that will be released are Saint Mary's alumni.

Thanks!

Ann

--
Ann E. Merchlewitz
Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
100 Terrace Heights #30
Winona, MN 55987

507.457.1587 (Work Phone)

507.457.1566 (Fax)

amerchle@smumn.edu

<http://www.smumn.edu>

NOTICE: The foregoing message (including all attachments) is covered by the Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. Sections 2510-2521, is CONFIDENTIAL and may also be protected by ATTORNEY-CLIENT or other PRIVILEGE. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, use of or reliance on, the contents of this e-mail is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify me immediately by replying to sending e-mail address and delete this e-mail message from your computer.

To: Hennessy, Joel
Subject: FW: Priest Abuse Situation

Joel,

What are your thoughts on the below request?

From: Stenzel, Marsha
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2014 1:40 PM
To: Martin, Peter
Subject: FW: Priest Abuse Situation

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2014 1:37 PM
To: Stenzel, Marsha
Subject: Priest Abuse Situation

Hi Marsha,

I hope you had a Blessed Christmas with family and friends and that the New Year is a good one for you.

I'm not sure if you are the proper person to contact, but I realize you will know where to forward this letter. As you are aware, one of the priests listed in the Winona Diocese release that listed priests accused of sexual misconduct has listed Robert Taylor as one of the accused. Father Taylor served several years in our parish, St. Mary's of Madelia. Two of my children served with Father Taylor at many Masses. My children have no comments on any type of abuse relating to them. However, a parent in our parish called and was very upset with the news, as her son also was a server for Father Taylor. She read in the Star Tribune where there may be personal visits made to each parish where Father Taylor (and other accused priests) worked. She would like to see this happen with a notice put in the bulletin announcing that someone is coming to talk to our parish and to any parishioners who may have questions. She also would like to know what types of abuse he may have been charged with. In addition, I know there are other parishioners who may also have questions.

I promised this parent I would contact you after the holiday season. I'm sending this off to you in hopes of receiving some type of answer. I know this parent is concerned over possible ramifications that may have occurred within their family. I'm hoping there is a plan to follow through with the plans that were listed in the Star Tribune. I would appreciate it if there is some type of positive feedback I can relay. More than ever, we Catholics need to continue to pray for our church and our parish families. We need to provide hope and healing to those affected by any abuse they may have been subjected to.

I see your articles in the Courier and I thank you for all you do for the Diocese.

Blessings to you...

St. Mary's Parish in Madelia

From: Gerald Kosse <pastor@triparishmn.org>
Content: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 2:35 PM
To: Colletti, Msgr. Richard
Subject: Bulletin article on the sexual abuse by priests
Attachments: DOW Child Sexual Abuse Policy Information with the names of the four priests.docx

Dear Msgr. Richard Colletti,

Here is the article that I revised which I will insert in a future bulletin with the names of the four priests that served at St. Joseph, St. Leo, and St. Martin. I did not translate it into Spanish as it did not affect them. Again, a parishioner approached me saying that we should name them as they served in the three parishes. No one has so far come to me and spoke to any abuse by these four priest.

I will wait for your response.

Thanks!

Msgr. Gerald Kosse

diócesis para recibir asistencia pastoral. El Coordinado de Asistencia a la Victim le proveerá tal asistencia.

<http://www.dow.org/Departments/Life/SafeEnvironmentProgram.aspx>

Robert H. Taylor

Status: Deceased

DOB: 6/13/1930 in Adrian Minnesota
DOD: 5/10/2012

Parents: Bryan C. and Carolyn (Krapfl) Taylor

Education:

1950 - 1953 – Attended Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona

1953 - 1957 – Attended North American College in Rome

Ordained 12/16/1956 at North American College in Rome by Most Rev. Martin J. O'Connor

Assignments:

8/13/1957 - Parochial Vicar for Saint John in Rochester

8/30/1960 - Parochial Vicar for Saint Stanislaus in Winona

8/30/1960 - Instructor for Cotter High School in Winona, in addition to above

6/16/1961 - Instructor for Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona

6/16/1961 - Instructor for Saint Mary's College in Winona

1962-1963 - Graduate study Latin and Greek at the Catholic University in Washington DC

2/1964 - Instructor for St Mary's College in Winona with residence at IHM Seminary in Winona

8/18/1982 - Pastor for Saint Pius X in Rochester

10/4/1984 - Pastor for Saint Mary in Madelia

6/5/1985 - Pastor for Holy Family in Lake Crystal

8/1/1985 - Pastor for Saint Katherine in Truman - in addition to above

8/16/1990 - Pastor for Saint Leo in Pipestone, Saint Martin in Woodstock

6/29/1994 - Leave of absence granted and faculties removed - residence in Sioux Falls South Dakota

5/10/2012 - Died at Sioux Falls South Dakota

5/14/2012 - Visitation at the Dingmann Funeral Home in Adrian

5/15/2012 - Mass of Christian Burial at Saint Adrian in Adrian with Very Rev. Richard M. Colletti, Vicar General, presiding and priests of the diocese concelebrating with burial at Saint Adrian Cemetery in Adrian