



Office of The Vicar General

DIOCESE OF WINONA
PASTORAL CENTER

January 30, 2003

Mr. William Beardmore
1205 Noble Hills Place
Boone, IA 50036

Dear Mr. Beardmore:

Bishop Harrington has reviewed the accusation you have brought forward and the investigation that has been conducted, including the typed transcripts of your most recent voice-mail messages to me. After consulting our diocesan attorney, Bishop Harrington asked me to convey clearly to you the following: He understands:

that you have accused Tom Adamson of sexually abusing you
when you were 12 years old;
that Tom Adamson denies that he ever sexually abused you;
that you have brought forward no corroborating evidence whatsoever
to substantiate your claim;
and that, as in the civil arena, so too in the Church, a person is presumed
innocent until proven guilty.

Therefore, the Diocese of Winona cannot in justice and will not pay you the \$250,000 your most recent demand asks. Bishop Harrington has offered to arrange for and pay for some counseling for you in Rochester, Minnesota or closer to you there in Iowa, to help you. However, he understands that, presently, you have declined this offer.

Sincerely,

Rev. Michael J. Hoepfner
Vicar General