

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

MEMO

MEMO TO: The File of Father Robert Thurner

DATE: June 7, 1990

FROM: Fr. Michael J. O'Connell

I met with Fr. Robert Thurner on June 1, 1990, and we reviewed his situation since the lawsuit was brought against him last fall. We also talked at some length about how he is doing personally and what he is doing to take care of himself.

He has commenced a counseling relationship with Dr. John Gonsiorek in Minneapolis and also a spiritual relationship with Fr. Gene Merz, S.J. I am urging him to consider joining a special priests 12-Step group. I have asked him to discuss that with Dr. Gonsiorek and Fr. Gene Merz. I am encouraged by the fact that he does not seem to be as paranoid as last fall about anyone discovering his difficulties. Also, I think he seems to be well on his way to working on his own personal issues. I do not have any doubt at this time that he is acting out or that he has acted out in inappropriate sexual ways since we made our commitment with him upon his confrontation in 1982. Because he did follow up on the recommendations made to him in 1982, that is, he saw Dr. Gendron for the better part of the year, and because our evaluation with him with Dr. Gary Schoener in 1988 also confirmed that he has not acted out, we continue to support and believe his story that he had no further sexually inappropriate relationships with the young man that brought allegations against him in 1982 after the confrontation was made.

Father Thurner indicated that he has kept up an on-and-off social relationship with this young man. The young man has over the years since 1982 asked him at various times for financial help. Fr. Thurner indicated that probably since 1982, he has given him in the area of \$1,000 whenever he has asked for help. I indicated to Fr. Thurner that under no circumstances should he be in any kind of contact with this young man now that he has brought suit.

Fr. Thurner and I discussed some specific goals that he will be looking at in the near future:

1. He would get much more grounded with his therapist, Dr. John Gonsiorek.
2. He would also work much more intensely with Fr. Gene Merz.
3. He would talk to both of the above about joining a priest 12-Step group and let me know at our next meeting whether he was open to that.
4. He will begin meeting with a new medical doctor because his old doctor retired. He will speak directly to his doctor about the stress issues in his life.