

STATE OF MINNESOTA IN DISTRICT COURT
 COUNTY OF POLK NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

 RONALD VASEK,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON,
 Defendant.

 DOE 457,
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 DIOCESE OF CROOKSTON and ST. MARY'S MISSION
 CHURCH a/k/a ST. MARY'S MISSION CHURCH, RED
 LAKE,
 Defendants.

Videotape deposition of BISHOP
 MICHAEL HOEPPNER, taken pursuant to Notice of
 Taking Deposition, and taken before Gary W.
 Hermes, a Notary Public in and for the County
 of Ramsey, State of Minnesota, on the 27th day
 of November, 2018, at 366 Jackson Street, St.
 Paul, Minnesota, commencing at approximately
 9:01 o'clock a.m.
 AFFILIATED COURT REPORTERS, 2935 OLD
 HWY. 8, ST. PAUL, MN 55113 (612)338-4348

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1 APPEARANCES:
 2 JEFFREY R. ANDERSON, ESQ., and ELIN
 3 M. LINDSTROM, ESQ., Attorneys at Law, 366
 4 Jackson Street, Suite 100, St. Paul, Minnesota
 5 55101, appeared for Plaintiff.
 6 THOMAS R. BRAUN, ESQ., Attorney at
 7 Law, 117 East Center Street, Rochester,
 8 Minnesota 55904, appeared for Diocese of
 9 Crookston.
 10 DAVID E. CAMAROTTO, ESQ., Attorney at
 11 Law, 100 South 5th Street, Suite 1500,
 12 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402, appeared for
 13 Diocese of Crookston.
 14
 15 ALSO PRESENT:
 16 Tim Schultz
 17 Adam Wallin, videographer

* * *

P R O C E E D I N G S

* * *

1 P R O C E E D I N G S
 2 * * *
 3 MR. WALLIN: We are on the record.
 4 This is the video deposition of Bishop Michael
 5 Hoepfner taken on November 27, 2018. The time
 6 now is 9:01 a.m. This deposition is being
 7 taken in the matter of Doe 457 versus Diocese
 8 of Crookston et al. in the State of Minnesota
 9 District Court, County of Red Lake, Ninth
 10 Judicial District, court file number
 11 63-CV-17-267; and also in the matter of Ronald
 12 Vasek versus the Diocese of Crookston in the
 13 State of Minnesota District Court, County of
 14 Polk, Ninth Judicial District, court file
 15 number 60-CV-17-921. This deposition is
 16 taking place in St. Paul, Minnesota. My name
 17 is Adam Wallin. I'm the videographer
 18 representing Affiliated Video.
 19 Will counsel please identify
 20 themselves for the record?
 21 MR. ANDERSON: For the plaintiff,
 22 Jeff Anderson and Elin Lindstrom. Also
 23 present is Tim Schultz.
 24 MR. BRAUN: On behalf of the Diocese
 25 of Crookston, Thomas Braun, B-r-a-u-n,

1 Restovich Braun & Associates, Rochester
2 Minnesota.
3 MR. CAMAROTTO: And on behalf of the
4 diocese, David Camarotto, C-a-m-a-r-o-t-t-o,
5 Bassford Remele.

6 MR. WALLIN: Will the court reporter
7 please swear in the witness?

8 BISHOP MICHAEL HOEPPNER,
9 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
10 was examined and testified as follows:

11 EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. ANDERSON:

13 Q. Bishop, good morning. Would you please state
14 your full name for the record?

15 A. **Good morning. Bishop Michael Hoepfner,**
16 **seventh bishop of Crookston.**

17 Q. And you have been the bishop of Crookston and
18 appointed by the Holy See as the ordinary in
19 Crookston now for 11 years?

20 A. **Correct.**

21 Q. And in that 11 years as bishop of the Diocese
22 of Crookston, has it been your policy and
23 practice to keep secret among yourself and
24 your closest advisors any allegations, reports
25 or suspicions of sexual abuse by priests of

1 the Diocese?

2 A. **No.**

3 Q. Has it been your policy and practice in those
4 11 years to do what you can as the bishop to
5 protect the priests who have been either
6 accused or suspected of sexual abuse?

7 A. **No.**

8 Q. Have you in the 11 years as bishop of the
9 Diocese of Crookston engaged in an effort to
10 keep confidential, that is, among yourself and
11 your closest advisors, any information that
12 surfaces that is suspicious of sexual abuse of
13 minors by clerics in the diocese?

14 A. **When asked for confidentiality, I give it some**
15 **consideration, yes.**

16 Q. So when were you asked for confidentiality and
17 you kept it confidential because you were
18 asked?

19 A. **Pertinent to this investigation, Mr. Ron Vasek**
20 **in 2011, in September, came to my office and**
21 **wanted to tell his story. I listened to his**
22 **story. He asked for absolute confidentiality**
23 **because no one knew of this. His wife did not**
24 **know of it, his son, his family did not know**
25 **of it and he asked that I keep his story**

1 **confidential.**

2 Q. So are there any other instances when you have
3 kept it confidential because you were
4 responding to a request that it be kept
5 confidential?

6 A. **I don't recall any right now. This one is the**
7 **one I'm thinking of.**

8 Q. Okay. So at any time, then, while bishop,
9 have you ever reported any information
10 received by you suspicious of sexual abuse by
11 any of the clerics to any individual outside
12 of your office, that is, outside of your
13 review board or your closest advisors?

14 A. **I don't recall myself personally doing that.**
15 **I, through my judicial vicar, we would report,**
16 **for example, credible accusations.**

17 Q. Okay. And let's -- I'm asking you now
18 personally first. There is a policy that was
19 adopted pursuant to the United States Catholic
20 Conference of Bishops in the charter that was
21 implemented in the Diocese of Crookston, was
22 there not?

23 A. **Correct, it is.**

24 Q. Okay. So the question now pertains to you as
25 the bishop of the last 11 years. Have you

1 ever shared any information in which there was
2 a report or a suspicion of sexual abuse of a
3 minor with anybody outside of your inner
4 circle? And your inner circle would be your
5 top officials and your review board.

6 A. **I don't recall any.**

7 Q. Is the answer no?

8 A. **I don't recall any, no.**

9 Q. How many times have you received, you
10 personally received information that was
11 suggestive of sexual misconduct by a priest of
12 the diocese pertaining to a minor?

13 A. **I would say a few. I don't recall a number.**

14 Q. Give me your best estimate of that number.

15 A. **Maybe three or four.**

16 Q. And what names would that three or four
17 include, as you recall?

18 A. **Well, I'm thinking of two recently. One was**
19 **an anonymous note. There was no name with it.**
20 **And I don't recall the other -- the name on**
21 **it.**

22 Q. I'm talking about the priests that were
23 suspected of having committed or accused of
24 having engaged in sexual misconduct pertaining
25 to a minor. What are the names of the three

- 1 or four priests to whom you referred?
- 2 **A. I -- I don't -- I don't recall the names. Our**
- 3 **diocesan policy calls for reports of sexual**
- 4 **abuse of minors to be reported to the vicar**
- 5 **general.**
- 6 **Q.** Is it your testimony, then, that as bishop and
- 7 the one who has the ultimate decision to place
- 8 or remove a priest by reason of risk of sexual
- 9 abuse that you had never chosen to protect the
- 10 priest at the risk of minors?
- 11 **A. That is correct.**
- 12 (Discussion out of the hearing of
- 13 the court reporter)
- 14 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 15 **Q.** I'm going to show you an exhibit, Bishop, we
- 16 have marked for identification as Exhibit 40.
- 17 And you can see that we marked it Exhibit 40,
- 18 but there's also Bates stamps -- or it's been
- 19 stamped, that means produced by the diocese to
- 20 us in this litigation under Vasek, and then
- 21 you'll see the first page is 67. Do you see
- 22 that, that number?
- 23 **A. I do.**
- 24 **Q.** And then this particular exhibit has three
- 25 pages, 67 through 69, correct?

- 1 **A. I see that.**
- 2 **Q.** And this is a letter addressed to you, is it
- 3 not, from one of the employees of the Diocese
- 4 of Crookston, Jim Clauson?
- 5 **A. Mr. Clauson has been an employee up until**
- 6 **recently, yes. He retired.**
- 7 **Q.** And did you ask him to retire or demote or
- 8 fire him?
- 9 **A. No.**
- 10 **Q.** Is it your testimony that he retired on his
- 11 own?
- 12 **A. That's my understanding. Father Foltz is the**
- 13 **moderator of the curia and he hires the curia**
- 14 **folks.**
- 15 **Q.** Okay. The ultimate hire is your decision to
- 16 make and you've delegated that to Monsignor
- 17 Foltz?
- 18 **A. Father Foltz does the hiring.**
- 19 **Q.** It's Father Foltz, not Monsignor?
- 20 **A. It's Monsignor.**
- 21 **Q.** Okay. Do you remember receiving this Exhibit
- 22 40 from Jim Clauson?
- 23 **A. Yes, I believe I do.**
- 24 **Q.** Did he discuss it with you in advance, his
- 25 concerns as to why he wrote you this exhibit

- 1 and this letter on October 27th, 2014?
- 2 **A. Yes, I believe so.**
- 3 **Q.** What did he tell you in advance of you having
- 4 received this letter about why he was
- 5 concerned?
- 6 **A. Well, as -- as he explained in the letter, I**
- 7 **remember receiving the letter and then sitting**
- 8 **and talking with him about it. So as the**
- 9 **letter says, he -- he was on the -- the team**
- 10 **that followed after he came**
- 11 **-- returned from treatment.**
- 12 **Q.** And he was at that time the safe environment
- 13 coordinator, was he not?
- 14 **A. He was.**
- 15 **Q.** And that was a position in the diocese in
- 16 which his responsibility was to ultimately
- 17 answer to you through Monsignor Foltz and to
- 18 make sure that the diocese and you as bishop
- 19 were in compliance with the Charter for
- 20 Protection of Children?
- 21 **A. Yes, he was -- he was safe environment**
- 22 **director and so he was responsible for the**
- 23 **work that we did in the safe environment and**
- 24 **in implementation of the charter, yes.**
- 25 **Q.** And in advance of receiving this letter from

- 1 him dated October 27th, 2014, what did Jim
- 2 Clauson tell you about why he was so concerned
- 3 or did Jim Clauson tell you, before you
- 4 received this letter, that he was concerned
- 5 about the practice that you were employing in
- 6 protecting priests who were suspected of
- 7 sexual abuse?
- 8 **A. No. I don't remember any conversation,**
- 9 **certainly not about protecting priests. I**
- 10 **remember sitting with Mr. Clauson and**
- 11 **reviewing this letter.**
- 12 **Q.** So it's your testimony that he never told you
- 13 that he was concerned about you protecting
- 14 priests?
- 15 **A. He may have. I don't recall. I do remember**
- 16 **sitting and talking with him about this**
- 17 **letter.**
- 18 **Q.** Do you recall him expressing concerns to you
- 19 about you keeping suspicions of priests who
- 20 had been accused and may be a risk a secret?
- 21 **A. No.**
- 22 **Q.** I'm going to direct your attention to the
- 23 third page of this letter, and in the
- 24 second-to-the-last paragraph he writes -- and
- 25 look in the middle of it, "I know one employee

- 1 who was terminated for not living a moral life
 2 consistent with Catholic teaching.
 3 has violated as many as 15 to 20 code of
 4 conduct rules." Are you aware of
 5 having violated code of conduct rules in the
 6 diocese pertaining to sexual misconduct?
 7 **A. Not since -- since he returned from treatment,**
 8 **no. And that's when this was written.**
 9 **Q.** What rules had he violated pertaining to
 10 minors prior to treatment?
 11 **A. I don't remember any referring to minors.**
 12 **Q.** What do you remember?
 13 **A. I remember his visiting, for example, adult**
 14 **book stores.**
 15 **Q.** And no conduct pertaining to suspicions
 16 pertaining to minors at all?
 17 **A. No misconduct in that regard.**
 18 **Q.** No suspicions?
 19 **A. No -- of misconduct, no.**
 20 **Q.** No suspicions ever brought to your attention?
 21 MR. BRAUN: Objection, asked and
 22 answered.
 23 MR. CAMAROTTO: Join.
 24 BY MR. ANDERSON:
 25 **Q.** What about inappropriate conduct with minors,

- 1 any information ever received by you
 2 pertaining to inappropriate conduct with
 3 minors?
 4 MR. BRAUN: Objection as to vague.
 5 BY MR. ANDERSON:
 6 **Q.** Not just sexual abuse, but inappropriate
 7 conduct with minors.
 8 MR. BRAUN: What exactly are you
 9 talking about, counsel, so he's aware of what
 10 you're asking? "Inappropriate," how do you
 11 define that?
 12 BY MR. ANDERSON:
 13 **Q.** I'm asking you.
 14 **A. Inappropriate, no. I wouldn't say**
 15 **inappropriate.**
 16 **Q.** So what do you remember about the 15 to 20
 17 code of conduct rules that has
 18 violated, according to Jim Clauson, the safety
 19 coordinator?
 20 **A. I don't know to what Mr. Clauson would be**
 21 **referring.**
 22 **Q.** Did you ask him?
 23 **A. You'd have to ask him.**
 24 **Q.** No. Did you ask him when you met with him?
 25 **A. I don't recall.**

- 1 **Q.** Did you meet with him after you received this
 2 letter?
 3 **A. I did.**
 4 **Q.** And weren't you concerned that he had
 5 enumerated 15 to 20 code of conduct
 6 violations?
 7 **A. I don't recall discussing this specific**
 8 **sentence with him.**
 9 **Q.** Weren't you alarmed about
 10 **A. was doing okay at this moment,**
 11 **according to his team and according to his**
 12 **pastor and supervisor, and so I was monitoring**
 13 **that situation.**
 14 **Q.** So how were you monitoring that situation?
 15 **A. Well, in conversations with his pastor and,**
 16 **seems to me, I spoke for -- for a number of**
 17 **months every Monday morning with on**
 18 **the phone, see how his week was.**
 19 **Q.** Well, if he's engaged in inappropriate conduct
 20 with minors, how is a phone conversation with
 21 him monitoring that conduct?
 22 MR. BRAUN: Objection, misstates the
 23 evidence. He never said he was involved with
 24 inappropriate contact with minors.
 25 MR. CAMAROTTO: Join.

- 1 BY MR. ANDERSON:
 2 **Q.** I'm just saying, if he were to be, how would
 3 monitoring him or having phone conversations
 4 monitor that kind of conduct?
 5 MR. BRAUN: Objection, states a
 6 hypothetical.
 7 BY MR. ANDERSON:
 8 **Q.** He can answer.
 9 **A. To my knowledge, there was no -- that kind of**
 10 **behavior.**
 11 **Q.** Well, your knowledge consisted of a
 12 conversation with his pastor and, at that
 13 point in time, Monday morning phone
 14 conversations with him, correct?
 15 **A. Yes, and with the team.**
 16 **Q.** When you say, "the team," to whom are you
 17 referring?
 18 **A. To the team that Mr. Clauson's resigning from**
 19 **here with this letter.**
 20 **Q.** It's actually Clauson's job to help you make
 21 sure is safe, isn't it?
 22 **A. He was the safe environment coordinator, yes.**
 23 **Q.** And isn't he bringing to you, as you recall
 24 the conversation and this letter that you just
 25 identified, to you concerns that he is a risk

- 1 and not safe?
- 2 **A. This was his opinion, yes, obviously, because**
- 3 **of the letter.**
- 4 **Q. You overrode his opinion, didn't you?**
- 5 **A. I listened to him, I took what he said into**
- 6 **consideration and I continued to check myself,**
- 7 **as I mentioned with others and with**
- 8 **and with his supervisor.**
- 9 **Q. And you relied on** _____ **and his denials**
- 10 **of any misconduct or inappropriate conduct**
- 11 **with minors, didn't you?**
- 12 **A. That was one piece.**
- 13 **Q. And then you also relied upon who else in**
- 14 **disregarding Jim Clauson's concerns?**
- 15 **A. His pastor and --**
- 16 **Q. Who was --**
- 17 **A. -- and the rest of the team.**
- 18 **Q. Who was the pastor?**
- 19 **A. I believe Father Chuck Huck.**
- 20 **Q. H-u-k?**
- 21 **A. H-u-c-k, I believe.**
- 22 **Q. And what did Chuck Huck tell you?**
- 23 **A. That -- to the best of my recollection, that**
- 24 **was engaged in ministry and not**
- 25 **anything inappropriate.**

- 1 **Q. How many times did you discuss** _____ **with**
- 2 **him?**
- 3 **A. Numerous times. I don't remember a number.**
- 4 **Q. How many?**
- 5 **A. I don't know.**
- 6 **Q. How often?**
- 7 _____ **MR. BRAUN: Objection, asked and**
- 8 **answered.**
- 9 **A. I don't remember how many, but fairly**
- 10 **regularly, I would say.**
- 11 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**
- 12 **Q. Well, you said you had Monday phone**
- 13 **conversations with**
- 14 **A. Correct.**
- 15 **Q. Did you have phone conversations with his**
- 16 **pastor, Father Huck?**
- 17 **A. I did.**
- 18 **Q. Did you have personal meetings pertaining to**
- 19 **progress and/or risk with Father**
- 20 **Huck?**
- 21 **A. I believe I did.**
- 22 **Q. How many?**
- 23 **A. I don't remember how many.**
- 24 **Q. When?**
- 25 **A. I don't remember how many and when.**

- 1 **Q. So you relied upon** _____ **denial, you**
- 2 **relied upon his pastor, Father Huck; anybody**
- 3 **else you relied upon in making the decision to**
- 4 **disregard the concerns brought to you by the**
- 5 **safety coordinator, Jim Clauson?**
- 6 **A. As I mentioned, I visited -- I mean, I relied**
- 7 **on his support team with his supervisor,**
- 8 **Father Chuck, and with my own contact with**
- 9 _____
- 10 **Q. When you say, "the support team," whom are you**
- 11 **referring to?**
- 12 **A. The team that Mr. Clauson's referring to here**
- 13 **in this letter.**
- 14 **Q. Okay. So you're disregarding the**
- 15 **recommendations brought to you by Jim Clauson,**
- 16 **who was in charge of the support team,**
- 17 **correct?**
- 18 _____ **MR. BRAUN: Objection --**
- 19 **A. As I mentioned before --**
- 20 _____ **MR. BRAUN: Wait a minute.**
- 21 **Objection, argumentative. That's not what he**
- 22 **said.**
- 23 **A. That's right. I took into consideration what**
- 24 **Mr. Clauson has said in the letter.**
- 25 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

- 1 **Q. Who was on the support team that you're**
- 2 **referring to that Clauson is in charge of?**
- 3 **A. Oh, like if I can remember, I think with**
- 4 **Reathel Giannonatti was, Reathel, and Father**
- 5 **Dave Super. And I don't remember others.**
- 6 **Q. Father Dave Super, he was on the review board,**
- 7 **was he not?**
- 8 **A. At times he was. I don't know if Father Foltz**
- 9 **or Father Baumgartner handled the review**
- 10 **board.**
- 11 **Q. And you mentioned another name besides him,**
- 12 **did you say Giannonatti?**
- 13 **A. Reathel is her first name, Giannonatti.**
- 14 **Q. Can you spell that for us?**
- 15 **A. I can't. G-i-o-n-e-t-t-i, I would think,**
- 16 **something like that.**
- 17 **Q. The first name is?**
- 18 **A. R-e-a-t-h-a-l, I believe, t-h-e-l, Reathel.**
- 19 **Q. Reathel Giannonatti?**
- 20 **A. Giannonatti.**
- 21 **Q. Giannoatti. And what was her job or role at**
- 22 **this time?**
- 23 **A. She may have been head of the stewardship**
- 24 **office, I believe. '14, she's been the head**
- 25 **of that office for a number of -- of years**

- 1 **now.**
- 2 Q. And so when you refer to the support team
- 3 under Jim Clauson, upon whom you're relying --
- 4 A. **Correction. Correction. It wasn't under Jim**
- 5 **Clauson. He was part of it.**
- 6 Q. Okay. He was not speaking on behalf of them?
- 7 A. **No. I -- I don't believe so.**
- 8 Q. Okay. So he's one member of the support team?
- 9 A. **I believe so.**
- 10 Q. Is this an appointed support team or an
- 11 informal team that's been assembled by you and
- 12 Monsignor Foltz or what?
- 13 A. **I -- I believe Monsignor Baumgartner was the**
- 14 **vicar general. Maybe -- maybe Monsignor**
- 15 **Foltz. He's in his fourth year, but, yes, I**
- 16 **put -- I -- I would -- I put that team**
- 17 **together after -- for aftercare.**
- 18 Q. So it was specific to
- 19 A. **Correct.**
- 20 Q. Had you done anything like that before
- 21 came back from treatment?
- 22 A. **Not -- I don't recollect.**
- 23 Q. And who else is on this support team that you
- 24 assembled responsive to the
- 25 situation?

- 1 A. **In addition -- I don't remember in addition to**
- 2 **the names I've given you. I don't recall who**
- 3 **else would have been on that. I don't recall.**
- 4 Q. You did testify that you relied upon the
- 5 support team and that would be Father Dave
- 6 Cooper --
- 7 A. **Super, S-u-p-e-r.**
- 8 Q. Excuse me, Father Dave Super, in disregarding
- 9 the concerns of Clauson. What did Dave --
- 10 MR. BRAUN: Objection, misstates his
- 11 testimony and argumentative. You don't have
- 12 to answer that question.
- 13 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 14 Q. You did say that you relied upon Father Dave
- 15 Super in considering the risk and making the
- 16 decision that you did pertaining to
- 17 What did Dave Super tell you upon which
- 18 you relied pertaining to the risk of
- 19
- 20 A. **You used the word "decision." I didn't**
- 21 **understand what decision you were referring**
- 22 **to.**
- 23 Q. You had said you relied upon the team in
- 24 considering what to do with
- 25 A. **is in ministry, he's been in**

- 1 **ministry and the team worked -- is working**
- 2 **with him. And I relied on them, yes, and**
- 3 **they're not telling me that there's a concern**
- 4 **or problems. Jim Clauson -- Mr. Clauson,**
- 5 **obviously with this letter, had some concerns,**
- 6 **but I'm not hearing any concerns from other**
- 7 **members of the team as continues in**
- 8 **good ministry.**
- 9 Q. Well, did you ask them?
- 10 A. **That was their role, to -- to continue to**
- 11 **journey -- to walk with him and if there were**
- 12 **concerns, they could contact me.**
- 13 (Discussion out of the hearing of
- 14 the court reporter)
- 15 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 16 Q. Reathel Giannonatti has indicated that as a
- 17 member of that support team, she had reported
- 18 to you concerns about and a
- 19 14-year-old.
- 20 A. **I don't recall that.**
- 21 Q. Do you deny ever having received any
- 22 information from Reathel in which she raised
- 23 concerns to you about
- 24 relationship to a 14-year-old youth?
- 25 A. **I don't recall that.**

- 1 Q. So did you ask, other than Father -- other
- 2 than Jim Clauson as a member of this team, any
- 3 of the other members of the team about what
- 4 they knew or what they discerned about
- 5 fitness to be in ministry at the time
- 6 you received or shortly after you received
- 7 this letter, Exhibit 40, from Clauson?
- 8 A. **I don't recall.**
- 9 Q. So do you remember asking Father Super, "Hey,
- 10 what about Do you have any
- 11 concerns?"
- 12 A. **I don't recall.**
- 13 Q. Do you remember asking Reathel Giannonatti,
- 14 "Hey, what about Do you have any
- 15 concerns? He's back from treatment. Is there
- 16 anything you're concerned about as a member of
- 17 this support team that I've assembled for you
- 18 to" --
- 19 A. **I don't recall.**
- 20 Q. -- "be concerned?"
- 21 A. **I don't recall.**
- 22 Q. So you do recall asking do you
- 23 not, if he had engaged in any inappropriate
- 24 conduct with minors or did you?
- 25 A. **When -- when he's in ministry after treatment,**

1 **I visited with him on Mondays and asked him**
 2 **how it's going, I imagine. That's what I**
 3 **remember.**

4 Q. Well, at any time, did you ask
 5 " have you -- do you have any
 6 relationships with minors present or in the
 7 past that could be considered inappropriate?"
 8 Did you ever ask him that question at any time
 9 while continuing him in ministry?

10 A. **After treatment, not to my recollection. I**
 11 **don't know.**

12 Q. Did you ask him before treatment?

13 A. **I may have. I may have.**

14 Q. Do you remember?

15 A. **I may have. I don't remember any specific**
 16 **conversation.**

17 Q. Bishop, isn't that something you want to know?
 18 Isn't that a question -- the first question
 19 when you have a potential risk, don't you want
 20 to know what the priest tells you about
 21 whether he has an inappropriate relationship
 22 or has had an inappropriate relationship?
 23 Isn't that the first question you want to ask
 24 him when considering whether he is a risk?

25 A. **I don't know if it's the first question. I**

1 **would guess that I asked about his**
 2 **boundaries and about his relationships and the**
 3 **propriety of them, yes, I would think.**

4 Q. Well, wait a minute. When you say --

5 A. **I don't remember any specific conversation**
 6 **about that.**

7 Q. You said, "I would guess" and "I would think."
 8 My question to you is this: Do you remember
 9 asking at any time if he had had
 10 any inappropriate relationships with any youth
 11 while a priest of the diocese?

12 A. **I don't remember any specific conversation.**

13 Q. Let's go back to Exhibit 40, and at that same
 14 paragraph, the next sentence after "
 15 has violated as many as 15 to 20 code conduct
 16 rules," he writes, "I understand that you need
 17 to protect your fellow priests, but in this
 18 case, I feel as though you have put this
 19 priest above protecting the rest of the
 20 priests and the people of the Diocese of
 21 Crookston." Did I read what he wrote
 22 correctly?

23 A. **That's what I read.**

24 Q. Did you read that when he wrote it?

25 A. **I imagine I read it, yes, I think when he sent**

1 **me the letter, I read it.**

2 Q. And what say you to his allegation to you that
 3 you have put and protecting him
 4 above the people of the Diocese of Crookston?

5 A. **He's mistaken.**

6 Q. What leads you to believe he's mistaken?

7 A. **Because I didn't do that.**

8 Q. You continued in ministry?

9 A. **Correct.**

10 Q. And he is in ministry today?

11 A. **Correct -- well, no. He's retired.**

12 Q. Well, he was until he retired?

13 A. **Correct.**

14 Q. And he retired because of health reasons?

15 A. **That's correct.**

16 Q. And it's not because you restrict -- did you
 17 ever restrict his ministry?

18 A. **No.**

19 Q. Did you ever put him on monitoring?

20 A. **Yes.**

21 Q. Beyond what you've told us?

22 A. **What I've told you, I believe that's what I**
 23 **remember.**

24 Q. And did you ever restrict him from having any
 25 contact with youth?

1 A. **No. Not to my recollection.**

2 Q. In this same letter, the next sentence, Jim
 3 Clauson writes, " has now had three
 4 chances to get it right and, in my opinion, is
 5 failing at this one." What is your response
 6 to his assertion here?

7 A. **He's mistaken.**

8 Q. Did you explain to him why you thought he was
 9 mistaken?

10 A. **My recollection of the conversation is that I**
 11 **listened to him and I told him he was**
 12 **mistaken. That's what -- what I remember.**

13 Q. The next sentence says, "Past behavior is the
 14 best predictor of future behavior." Do you
 15 agree with that assertion?

16 A. **I don't know.**

17 Q. Do you disagree with it?

18 A. **I disagree a little bit with the word "best"**
 19 **predictor. Maybe one of the predictors.**

20 Q. Would you agree with the statement, then,
 21 that, "Past behavior is a good predictor of
 22 future behavior"?

23 A. **I would say past behavior is a predictor.**

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. **Past behavior may be a predictor. You know,**

- 1 **people can change.**
- 2 Q. Did you believe that had changed?
- 3 A. **I -- I -- what I saw was that was**
- 4 **doing good ministry and avoiding what he**
- 5 **needed to avoid and he was doing good ministry**
- 6 **and the people appreciated it, uh huh.**
- 7 Q. He goes on to write in the next sentence, "I
- 8 am strongly urging you to reconsider your
- 9 decision to keep in ministry." Did
- 10 you reconsider that?
- 11 A. **I listened to what he had to say and I kept**
- 12 **in ministry.**
- 13 Q. So you didn't reconsider it?
- 14 A. **I listened to what he had to say and I**
- 15 **continued to have in ministry.**
- 16 Q. He goes on to write, "I can't in good
- 17 conscience continue to pretend like this might
- 18 work. It is for that reason and my own
- 19 personal integrity that I need to go on record
- 20 that should be removed from
- 21 ministry." What was your response to Jim
- 22 Clauson's assertion here?
- 23 A. **I don't know my particular response, but it**
- 24 **obviously was working and --**
- 25 **obviously, I did not remove him from ministry.**

- 1 Q. Well, it's obvious you didn't remove him from
- 2 ministry, but it's not obvious that it was
- 3 working.
- 4 A. **Uh huh.**
- 5 Q. Why do you say it's obvious it was working?
- 6 A. **Because he was doing good work and the people**
- 7 **appreciated it.**
- 8 Q. Well, let's look at the exhibit to see what
- 9 kind of work he had been doing --
- 10 A. **Uh huh.**
- 11 Q. -- in the past and what the safety environment
- 12 coordinator thought about it. In the same
- 13 exhibit, at the first paragraph he says, "Dear
- 14 Bishop, By now you probably have been told I
- 15 removed myself from the care team for Father
- 16 I would like to explain my
- 17 decision." So that was a pretty radical thing
- 18 he had done, right?
- 19 A. **He removed himself from the team.**
- 20 Q. And then he writes, referring to the history,
- 21 "From one day" -- "From day one when we
- 22 interviewed the first couple, I told Father
- 23 David that this would not end well for
- 24 That first couple was raising concerns
- 25 about and a 13- or 14-year-old

- 1 youth, wasn't it?
- 2 A. **I don't recall.**
- 3 Q. He went on to write, "I also told him that
- 4 most of our present litigation was for
- 5 allegations that happened quite some time ago
- 6 before our time. I said, 'This one is on
- 7 us.'" Do you remember reading that?
- 8 A. **I -- I read it, I'm sure.**
- 9 Q. And did you understand that he resigned from
- 10 the care team because of the way you were
- 11 handling and others
- 12 before him?
- 13 A. **He resigned with this letter -- or explaining**
- 14 **in this letter because of the way I was**
- 15 **handling Father**
- 16 Q. He goes on to write, "We had to do the right
- 17 thing and do it soon. He acted quickly and
- 18 did the right thing for the diocese and for
- 19 About a week or so later, the
- 20 initial assessment came in from St. John
- 21 Vianney Center. It was determined that he was
- 22 at a high risk to re-offend, so it was
- 23 determined that he needed to stay for some
- 24 inpatient care." Is that correct?
- 25 A. **He did stay for inpatient care, yes.**

- 1 Q. And you did not see him at a high risk?
- 2 A. **I don't recall I saw him as a high risk or**
- 3 **not. He went to treatment and he stayed in**
- 4 **care.**
- 5 Q. It was deemed by the professionals at St. John
- 6 Vianney, the same ones that interviewed and
- 7 found Father Sullivan to be at risk, that
- 8 was at risk, correct?
- 9 A. **When he finished treatment, in my phone**
- 10 **conversation with them, the one gal speaking**
- 11 **for the group there said she would be happy if**
- 12 **were her pastor.**
- 13 Q. Well --
- 14 A. **He -- yeah, that's what she said.**
- 15 Q. When Jim Clauson says, "It was determined that
- 16 he was at high risk," you don't know, then,
- 17 who determined was at high risk?
- 18 A. **That's just what Father -- this is what Mr.**
- 19 **Clauson is saying. I don't recall the**
- 20 **treatment center saying he was at high risk.**
- 21 **Certainly my recollection is when he was**
- 22 **finished with treatment, that statement would**
- 23 **not be true.**
- 24 Q. So you chose to take a risk when you made the
- 25 decision to allow to continue in

- 1 ministry unrestricted, correct?
- 2 **A. No.**
- 3 MR. BRAUN: Objection --
- 4 MR. Objection to form,
- 5 argumentative.
- 6 MR. BRAUN: -- argumentative.
- 7 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 8 **Q.** Did you calculate a risk --
- 9 **A. It was a reasonable --**
- 10 **Q.** -- Bishop?
- 11 **A. -- a reasonable decision.**
- 12 **Q.** He had been determined to be a high risk,
- 13 hadn't he?
- 14 **A. Not when he was done with treatment.**
- 15 **Q.** But at St. John Vianney, correct?
- 16 **A. At St. John Vianney.**
- 17 **Q.** But you overrode their determination that he
- 18 had been at high risk and believed he was at
- 19 what kind of risk?
- 20 **A. As I said, at the end of treatment, I don't**
- 21 **believe he was a high risk and that's what I**
- 22 **was told and, therefore, it was a reasonable**
- 23 **decision.**
- 24 **Q.** Who told you he was not a risk?
- 25 **A. Who -- high risk, the person speaking for the**

- 1 **team at St. John Vianney indicated he was not**
- 2 **a high risk.**
- 3 **Q.** Who?
- 4 **A. I don't remember her name. It was a woman.**
- 5 **Q.** Jim Clauson is saying the St. John Vianney
- 6 team is saying he was a high risk.
- 7 **A. Correct. I don't know that that's true.**
- 8 **Certainly not at the end of that treatment, I**
- 9 **would say it's not true.**
- 10 **Q.** And your testimony here today is that somebody
- 11 at St. John Vianney told you that
- 12 was not a risk, is that your testimony?
- 13 **A. Well, now you dropped the word "high" out. My**
- 14 **statement was she told me that she would be**
- 15 **pleased or happy to have as her**
- 16 **pastor.**
- 17 **Q.** Did you discuss risk with her?
- 18 **A. I don't recall. I imagine we did.**
- 19 **Q.** What was her role at the St. John Vianney
- 20 Center in evaluating
- 21 **A. She was one of his caregivers.**
- 22 **Q.** Well, do you know if she was a psychiatrist, a
- 23 psychologist?
- 24 **A. I don't recall. I don't recall.**
- 25 **Q.** Do you know even how involved she was in the

- 1 actual treatment?
- 2 **A. She was involved. She was speaking for the**
- 3 **team is my recollection.**
- 4 **Q.** So her statement to you that she would be
- 5 happy to have him as one of her pastors, was
- 6 that enough for you to make the determination
- 7 that he was not a risk, in her opinion?
- 8 **A. It was one of the considerations, sure.**
- 9 **Q.** So upon whom else did you rely, then, at St.
- 10 John Vianney besides this woman whose name you
- 11 can't remember or identify?
- 12 **A. The team that -- that dealt with him.**
- 13 **Q.** The same letter goes on to state, "The next
- 14 step was to consult the board of review. You
- 15 agreed and we did." Is that correct?
- 16 **A. Yes.**
- 17 **Q.** Okay. And on that board of review, who was on
- 18 that?
- 19 **A. I don't recall.**
- 20 **Q.** There were six members, you remember that,
- 21 don't you?
- 22 **A. Could have been.**
- 23 **Q.** Well --
- 24 **A. Says six.**
- 25 **Q.** -- it's referred to in there, so --

- 1 **A. I see that, yes.**
- 2 **Q.** Okay. It goes on to state, "At the initial
- 3 meeting, the board reviewed the assessment
- 4 report and the two complaints that we had
- 5 received against What were those
- 6 two complaints?
- 7 **A. I -- I do not recall.**
- 8 **Q.** You have no memory of what complaints?
- 9 **A. I don't recall. I -- I mentioned a bit ago**
- 10 **there was an adult book store thing. That's**
- 11 **what I recall.**
- 12 **Q.** Do you recall any of the complaints or either
- 13 of these being referred to here as having to
- 14 do with concerns in his relationship with
- 15 minors?
- 16 **A. I don't recall that. I -- I -- I recall maybe**
- 17 **a concern, time spent with minors, with --**
- 18 **with young -- with minors.**
- 19 **Q.** Well, that would be a deep concern in 2014,
- 20 wouldn't it?
- 21 **A. Yeah, there was no accusation of impropriety.**
- 22 **Q.** Well, spending time with a minor alone would
- 23 be a cause for concern, wouldn't it?
- 24 **A. Maybe. There was no accusation of**
- 25 **impropriety, though.**

- 1 Q. Wouldn't it require some investigation and/or
2 inquiry into what the real relationship is?
- 3 A. **Obviously, Father David listened to that and
-- and, yes, received -- received that.**
- 4 Q. It goes on to state -- you don't remember what
5 the two complaints that are being referred to
6 are then?
- 7 A. **I don't know the specific two, no, that he's
8 referring to.**
- 9 Q. It goes on to state, "At that time, board
10 chairman John Jeffreys stated that we know
11 from previous experience that treatment for
12 this type of behavior does not work." What
13 previous experience did you and the board know
14 that treatment for this type of behavior does
15 not work?
- 16 A. **I don't know what he's referring to.**
- 17 Q. Well, there's a -- are you aware that
18 pedophilia is something that -- and the
19 treatment for it does not work?
- 20 A. **I've heard that.**
- 21 Q. Okay. And are you also aware that that's
22 what's being referred to here?
- 23 A. **No.**

24 MR. BRAUN: Objection, calls for

- 1 speculation.
- 2 A. **No.**
- 3 MR. CAMAROTTO: Join.
- 4 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 5 Q. What treatment is being referred to here that
6 does not work --
- 7 MR. BRAUN: Objection, calls for --
- 8 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 9 Q. -- that this board chair is making the
10 statement about?
- 11 MR. BRAUN: Objection, calls for
12 speculation. You can answer if you know.
- 13 MR. CAMAROTTO: Object to form,
14 foundation.
- 15 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 16 Q. Do you know what treatment?
- 17 A. **I -- I would -- I would say they're referring
18 to as he begins his treatment.**
- 19 Q. Treatment for what?
- 20 A. **It certainly wasn't for pedophilia, to my
21 knowledge.**
- 22 Q. Well, what was it for?
- 23 A. **It was general, treatment for well-being.**
- 24 Q. Didn't it pertain also to complaints and
25 concerns about his relationship with youth?

- 1 A. **I imagine it had to do with boundaries, that
2 we keep the proper boundaries and so on.
3 Seems to me there were some issues with his
4 father and so on. There was the issue of the
5 adult book store. That's my recollection.**
- 6 Q. Now, you constituted this review board, did
7 you not?
- 8 A. **I did.**
- 9 Q. And to help you make --
- 10 A. **With Father David.**
- 11 Q. -- to help you as the bishop to make the
12 ultimate decision whether a priest should be
13 removed, whether a priest should be
14 restricted, whether a priest should limited in
15 his activities in the diocese, correct?
- 16 A. **Correct.**
- 17 Q. They're consultants to you, right?
- 18 A. **Correct.**
- 19 Q. They aren't the ones that make the decision,
20 they consult?
- 21 A. **Correct.**
- 22 Q. You're the decider?
- 23 A. **Correct.**
- 24 Q. Okay. He then writes, "To sum up, the first
25 meeting it was six-zero that he should not be

- 1 put back into ministry. We as a diocese could
2 not take that chance." You read that, didn't
3 you?
- 4 A. **I did.**
- 5 Q. You saw that the board that you consulted,
6 that you appointed to consult you said there
7 was a risk and it was unanimous that he could
8 not and should not be put back into ministry,
9 correct?
- 10 A. **At that time.**
- 11 Q. And you did put him back in ministry, didn't
12 you?
- 13 A. **Not at that time.**
- 14 Q. How soon after this?
- 15 A. **Well, he finished treatment.**
- 16 Q. How soon after this?
- 17 A. **I don't recall how long that was, his
18 treatment, but it wasn't till he had completed
19 his treatment that he was put back into
20 ministry.**
- 21 Q. So you overrode the board's recommendation,
22 did you not?
- 23 A. **This was a first meeting that, as he says, the
24 first step, and that was not the final.**
- 25 Q. Was there ever a board recommendation to you

1 to place in treatment -- excuse me,
2 in ministry?

3 **A. Some on the board said yes, some had
4 reservations. That's my recollection. It was
5 split.**

6 **Q.** There was never a board recommendation to you
7 to place back in ministry, correct,
8 Bishop?

9 MR. BRAUN: Objection, asked and
10 answered.

11 **A. Some on the board were in favor of it, some on
12 the board had reservations.**

13 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

14 **Q.** Actually, it went to a vote later and it was a
15 five-one vote, wasn't it, not to put him back
16 in ministry?

17 **A. No. That's not my recollection.**

18 **Q.** Let's go to the second paragraph above the
19 last paragraph on that first page. The
20 paragraph starts, "The review board met again
21 to discuss this case and to review a summary
22 of the services that St. John Vianney had
23 provided. It was an interesting meeting
24 because Father Super was not present for the
25 meeting and I never did hear why he did not

1 attend. The tone of that meeting was very
2 similar to the first meeting, except this time
3 Chairman Jeffreys seemed to be wavering from
4 his original statement." He writes, "There
5 was never" -- "There never was another vote
6 taken, but my recollection of the meeting is
7 that if a vote had been taken, it would have
8 been about five to one against him returning
9 to ministry." So you read that, didn't you?

10 **A. I did.**

11 **Q.** And so at this point in time, the board and
12 he's telling you that the board is five to one
13 against returning to ministry, correct?

14 **A. That's what he's saying, uh huh.**

15 **Q.** The next sentence states, "The first care team
16 meeting was held in your office."

17 MR. Objection, that's
18 not the next sentence. That's the next
19 paragraph.

20 MR. ANDERSON: Oh, excuse me.

21 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

22 **Q.** The next paragraph states, "The first care
23 team meeting was held in your office." Do you
24 remember that?

25 **A. No.**

1 **Q.** He then writes, " began his
2 presentation by falsely representing the facts
3 about his relationships with a couple of
4 families." Do you remember that?

5 **A. No.**

6 **Q.** He then writes, "He doesn't even talk about
7 his longtime relationship with a minor
8 that is so secretive that to this day he will
9 not address it." What do you remember about
10 that?

11 **A. I don't.**

12 **Q.** Do you remember reading this?

13 **A. I do.**

14 **Q.** Did you ask Clauson, "What are you referring
15 to here?"

16 **A. I don't remember that I did.**

17 **Q.** This is referring to a meeting in your office.
18 Do you remember him being asked about his
19 longtime relationship with whose name is

20 --

21 MR. Objection, asked and
22 answered.

23 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

24 **Q.** -- and it being secretive, do you remember a
25 discussion about that?

1 **A. No.**

2 **Q.** Is this news to you? You're smiling. Why are
3 you laughing about this? Is this funny to
4 you? Why are you smiling, sir?

5 **A. Because this is Mr. Clauson's recollection and
6 I don't know that it's accurate. I don't
7 remember it, but there are other things that
8 aren't accurate and so we're talking about his
9 opinion.**

10 **Q.** He's your safety environment coordinator.
11 He's the one appointed and hired by you as the
12 bishop and the Diocese of Crookston to make
13 sure the kids are safe.

14 MR. BRAUN: Objection,
15 argumentative.

16 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

17 **Q.** Right? Right?

18 **A. Correct.**

19 **Q.** So why are you being dismissive of what he
20 writes and what the board recommends?

21 **A. Because he's --**

22 MR. Objection,
23 argumentative. Is there a question?

24 MR. BRAUN: Concur.

25 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

- 1 Q. Why are you, sir?
- 2 A. **He's inaccurate. What he's saying isn't true.**
- 3 **It doesn't say the story correctly.**
- 4 Q. What is the correct story?
- 5 A. **The correct story is the review board met and**
- 6 **met again. And at the end it was a split,**
- 7 **some were in favor of him being back in**
- 8 **ministry. Took that into consideration. Took**
- 9 **into consideration some did not think he**
- 10 **should be in ministry. Took into**
- 11 **consideration what the treatment center folks**
- 12 **were telling me and made a decision to go back**
- 13 **into ministry with a -- a team to -- to watch**
- 14 **his aftercare with super -- supervision and**
- 15 **monitoring, myself and the pastor, and he, for**
- 16 **the rest of his ministry, did wonderful work.**
- 17 Q. So when it's written here, "He doesn't even
- 18 talk about his longtime relationship with a
- 19 minor do you know who is?
- 20 A. **You mentioned here a minute ago.**
- 21 Q. Yes. Yes. Do you know, did you make any
- 22 effort to find out what his relationship was
- 23 with by either talking to or his
- 24 parents?
- 25 A. **I believe I did. Seems to me I had a phone**

- 1 **call with him, eventually got**
- 2 **married and -- and there was never any**
- 3 **complaint from him against -- to my knowledge,**
- 4 **of impropriety.**
- 5 Q. Did you ask "Hey" --
- 6 A. **Seems -- I -- I recall -- seems I did speak**
- 7 **with him on the phone.**
- 8 Q. When did you make that call?
- 9 A. **I don't remember.**
- 10 Q. Why did you make that call?
- 11 A. **Because his name had come up, I understand.**
- 12 Q. Did you make any notes of that call?
- 13 A. **I don't recall.**
- 14 Q. You had a safety coordinator, Jim Clauson;
- 15 what involvement did he have in your decision
- 16 to make this call to that you claim you
- 17 made?
- 18 A. **I don't recall he had any. I don't know. I**
- 19 **don't recall.**
- 20 Q. So was this call to before October 27th,
- 21 2014 --
- 22 A. **No.**
- 23 Q. -- the date of this exhibit --
- 24 A. **I don't remember.**
- 25 Q. -- or after?

- 1 A. **I don't remember.**
- 2 Q. Well, why did you make the call to
- 3 A. **As part of care after back in**
- 4 **ministry to make sure things were going fine.**
- 5 Q. Was in ministry at the time you
- 6 made the call to
- 7 A. **It seems to me it was. I don't remember**
- 8 **exactly when I spoke to Mr.**
- 9 Q. Before telling me this here today, have you
- 10 told anybody else that you had called
- 11 A. **I don't recall. I don't recall.**
- 12 Q. Did you elicit any professionals or the
- 13 victims' assist -- the safe environment
- 14 coordinator in making the call to
- 15 A. **I don't remember. I don't remember. I don't**
- 16 **know if -- I don't -- I don't remember.**
- 17 Q. Did you --
- 18 A. **It seems to me, as I said, that I spoke with**
- 19 **Mr. at some point.**
- 20 Q. You're not sure, are you?
- 21 A. **No. I -- it seems to me -- or Father David**
- 22 **did, that's my recollection.**
- 23 Q. When you say, "Father David," you're referring
- 24 to whom?
- 25 A. **Vicar general at that time.**

- 1 Q. Last name?
- 2 A. **Baumgartner.**
- 3 Q. Okay. But you're not sure if you made a call
- 4 or David Baumgartner?
- 5 A. **I can't remember.**
- 6 Q. And, thus, do you know if any notes were made
- 7 by you?
- 8 A. **I don't recall that, no.**
- 9 Q. Do you know if any notes were made by
- 10 Baumgartner, if any call was ever made?
- 11 A. **I don't.**
- 12 Q. So you have a recollection, a vague
- 13 recollection of you or Baumgartner having
- 14 called and that -- what do you
- 15 know about what said?
- 16 A. **I -- I don't recall there was any problem with**
- 17 **he and There certainly was no**
- 18 **accusation of impropriety.**
- 19 Q. Did you or, to your knowledge, did you or
- 20 Baumgartner ever ask "Did
- 21 engage you in any inappropriate conduct while
- 22 you were a youth?"
- 23 A. **I don't remember that specific question, no.**
- 24 Q. Why not? Why didn't you?
- 25 A. **I don't remember.**

- 1 Q. Okay. The next sentence at the next page
2 states, "I found it real interesting that the
3 very first person he had contact with when he
4 returned from St. John's Vianney Center is
5 (Did that alarm you?
6 A. **I don't recall.**
7 Q. He then writes, "In safe environment, we call
8 this behavior 'grooming.'" Does that
9 description written to you by your safe
10 environment coordinator alarm you?
11 A. **No.**
12 Q. In the second-to-the-last sentence in that
13 paragraph he writes, "The meeting eventually
14 ended and I was convinced more than ever that
15 keeping him in ministry was a bad decision."
16 Did you try to support or tell Jim Clauson why
17 you thought he was wrong and you were right in
18 your decision to put and continue
19 him in ministry?
20 A. **I don't recall specifically.**
21 Q. Did you ever talk to parents or try to or
22 ask any of your subordinates --
23 A. **I don't recall.**
24 (Discussion out of the hearing of
25 the court reporter)

- 1 BY MR. ANDERSON:
2 Q. Did you or anybody at your specific direction
3 ever contact any other families who made
4 complaints or raised concerns about
5
6 A. **I don't recall.**
7 MR. ANDERSON: Should we take a
8 short break?
9 MR. BRAUN: Sure.
10 MR. WALLIN: We are going off the
11 record at 10:03 a.m.
12 (Recess taken)
13 MR. WALLIN: We are back on the
14 record. This is the continuing video
15 deposition of Bishop Michael Hoepfner taken on
16 November 27, 2018. The time now is 10:13 a.m.
17 BY MR. ANDERSON:
18 Q. Bishop, we took the testimony from Jim Clauson
19 by deposition just like this earlier, some
20 weeks ago, and in it he testified under oath
21 that had also been sent
22 to treatment in St. Louis 20 years before he
23 was sent to St. John Vianney by the diocese.
24 Do you know why he had been sent to treatment
25 20 years before?

- 1 A. **No.**
2 Q. Had you ever heard that statement made to you
3 before I just told you Clauson had said it?
4 A. **I don't recall. I don't know. I don't
5 recall.**
6 Q. Well, does it concern you, hearing that today,
7 then, that -- does it cause you to be
8 concerned?
9 A. **Concern? No.**
10 Q. If he'd been sent to treatment 20 years before
11 and he's sent to treatment at St. John Vianney
12 and then he returned to ministry after that
13 and your safety coordinator is saying it's an
14 undue risk, doesn't that additional
15 information about that earlier treatment make
16 you want to know what happened 20 years ago?
17 MR. BRAUN: Objection, asked and
18 answered, it's argumentative as well.
19 MR. CAMAROTTO: Join.
20 BY MR. ANDERSON:
21 Q. Don't you want to know?
22 A. **It doesn't concern me today.**
23 Q. It concerns me. Why don't you want to know
24 that?
25 A. **It doesn't concern me today.**

- 1 **returned to ministry, he did good work and
2 he's now out of ministry, he's sick.**
3 Q. But you, yourself, said that past behavior is
4 a good predictor of future behavior, didn't
5 you?
6 MR. CAMAROTTO: Objection, misstates
7 his testimony.
8 MR. BRAUN: Concur.
9 BY MR. ANDERSON:
10 Q. You agreed to that statement, didn't you?
11 A. **Yeah, and then I said maybe take the word
12 "good" out and maybe it's a predictor, but
13 people change.**
14 Q. So don't you think that knowing why he was
15 sent to treatment as Clauson had testified
16 that he had 20 years ago is something that
17 should be known by you in considering and
18 should have been known by you in considering
19 putting back in the
20 ministry after his return from St. John
21 Vianney?
22 MR. BRAUN: Objection,
23 argumentative.
24 MR. CAMAROTTO: Objection to form,
25 vague.

- 1 BY MR. ANDERSON:
 2 Q. Don't you think that's something you should
 3 have --
 4 A. **It doesn't concern me.**
 5 Q. You had access to
 6 medical records. Did you ever review all the
 7 treatment records that they did at St. John
 8 Vianney on ?
 9 A. **I believe I did.**
 10 Q. I'm going to turn for a moment to the matter
 11 of Ron Vasek. And when in time, Bishop, did
 12 you first learn of Ron Vasek's allegations
 13 against Monsignor Grundhaus?
 14 A. **Ron Vasek came to see me, my recollection is,**
 15 **in 2011, in September.**
 16 Q. And you had learned of something before he
 17 came to see you, had you not?
 18 A. **To what do you refer?**
 19 Q. You had gotten a phone call?
 20 A. **Yes, Monsignor Goering from Fargo Diocese had**
 21 **called.**
 22 Q. And when was that?
 23 A. **That was in September of 2011.**
 24 Q. Okay. And what did Monsignor Goering tell
 25 you?

- 1 A. **He told me that Mr. Vasek had talked to one of**
 2 **his priests, one of the priests in the**
 3 **diocese, and wanted to -- and that he had told**
 4 **him to come and talk to me, was my**
 5 **recollection.**
 6 Q. And did Monsignor Goering tell you that there
 7 had been an allegation of sexual misconduct by
 8 Grundhaus?
 9 A. **I don't recall how he phrased it, but Mr.**
 10 **Vasek was -- was wanting to come and -- and**
 11 **talk to me about an incident in his history.**
 12 Q. Goering told you that Vasek wanted to talk to
 13 you?
 14 A. **Correct, that's my recollection.**
 15 Q. What else did Goering tell you?
 16 A. **I don't recall. And I told him that I would**
 17 **call Mr. Vasek and make arrangements for him**
 18 **to come and see me.**
 19 Q. Did you tell anybody about the call from
 20 Monsignor Goering from Fargo?
 21 A. **I don't recall that I did.**
 22 Q. Did you see it and understand it to have been
 23 a serious allegation when you finally received
 24 the call from Goering?
 25 A. **No. I don't -- my recollection was I was**

- 1 **gonna hear what Mr. Vasek had to say.**
 2 Q. Did you know it involved an allegation of
 3 sexual abuse of a teenager?
 4 A. **I don't recall specifically what Monsignor**
 5 **Goering said. No, I don't recall that at that**
 6 **point.**
 7 Q. Didn't Goering tell you that Ron had reported
 8 that Grundhaus had sexually molested him --
 9 A. **I don't recall.**
 10 Q. -- as a teenager?
 11 A. **I don't recall specifically what Monsignor**
 12 **Goering said in that phone call, no.**
 13 Q. You don't recall that there was an allegation
 14 of sexual misconduct or not?
 15 A. **I don't recall --**
 16 MR. BRAUN: Objection, asked and
 17 answered now for the fifth time.
 18 A. **-- what Father Goering told me in that phone**
 19 **call. My recollection is that I would go on**
 20 **and make an -- make an appointment for Father**
 21 **-- or for Mr. Vasek to come and see me.**
 22 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**
 23 Q. So when you made the appointment with Ron
 24 Vasek, who was in the deaconate program, did
 25 you know that the purpose of the meeting was

- 1 to find out more about what? What was the
 2 purpose of the meeting?
 3 A. **To hear what Mr. Vasek had to say. And I**
 4 **believe at that point he was not in the deacon**
 5 **program.**
 6 Q. Well, my question is, did you know the topic
 7 of the meeting was Grundhaus?
 8 A. **I don't recall that I did.**
 9 Q. Did you know the topic of the meeting had
 10 anything to do with suspicions of sexual
 11 misconduct years before by Grundhaus against
 12 Vasek when he was a teenager?
 13 MR. BRAUN: Objection.
 14 MR. BRAUN: Asked and answered.
 15 MR. BRAUN: Now for the sixth time,
 16 counsel.
 17 A. **I don't recall that I did.**
 18 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**
 19 Q. So how soon after the call from Goering did
 20 you arrange a meeting with Vasek?
 21 A. **Within the week, I believe. We met on a**
 22 **Monday, September 19th, and so the phone call**
 23 **would have been the week before.**
 24 Q. And did you tell anybody about the call from
 25 Goering?

- 1 **A. To my recollection, no.**
- 2 **Q.** And did you tell anybody that you arranged to
3 have a meeting with Ron Vasek?
- 4 **A. To my recollection, no. Yeah.**
- 5 **Q.** What did you understand the purpose of the
6 meeting with Ron Vasek, then, to have been
7 when you set it up?
- 8 **A. To listen to what he had to tell me, to listen
9 to what he had to say.**
- 10 **Q.** Do you remember that Grundhaus was the topic
11 or pertaining to the purpose of the meeting?
- 12 MR. BRAUN: I'm going to object,
13 asked and answered.
- 14 MR. CAMAROTTO: Objection, asked and
15 answered again.
- 16 MR. ANDERSON: No, it's not.
- 17 **A. I do not recall.**
- 18 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**
- 19 **Q.** What at the time of meeting was your
20 relationship with Monsignor Grundhaus?
- 21 **A. In 2011, it seems to me Monsignor Grundhaus
22 had just retired and was senior -- was a
23 senior priest. It seems that that's the
24 timeline for him.**
- 25 **Q.** Did you make any notes of the meeting?

- 1 **A. I did.**
- 2 (Discussion out of the hearing of
3 the court reporter)
- 4 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 5 **Q.** We've never seen anything produced. Have you
6 ever produced anything that pertains to the
7 notes of the meeting?
- 8 **A. Yes, I believe I gave counsel notes.**
- 9 MR. ANDERSON: Tom, do you have
10 any --
- 11 MR. BRAUN: Let's go off the record
12 for a minute.
- 13 MR. ANDERSON: Okay.
- 14 MR. WALLIN: We are going off the
15 record at 10:23 a.m.
- 16 (Recess taken)
- 17 MR. WALLIN: We are back on the
18 record at 10:24 a.m.
- 19 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 20 **Q.** We just had a conference about that and Mr.
21 Braun is going to check to see if there are in
22 fact notes, and our recollection is we haven't
23 seen any, but we'll do a meet-and-confer at a
24 break on that and sort it out.
- 25 Where was the meeting with Vasek?

- 1 **A. It was in my office.**
- 2 **Q.** And describe for us, then, the meeting that
3 you had with Ron Vasek on September -- did you
4 say 19?
- 5 **A. Yes. He came to my office. He told me he
6 wanted to tell me his story. My recollection,
7 he asked for confidentiality, that I not
8 reveal what he was to say to anybody. His --
9 telling me his wife did not know, his son did
10 not know about this.**
- 11 He told me that -- he said when he
12 was 16 and on a trip to Columbus, Ohio,
13 Monsignor -- they stayed in a room. Monsignor
14 Grundhaus, he said, grabbed his genitals. And
15 then later he said made an effort to grab his
16 genitals through his underwear. We talked
17 about -- I -- I listened to his story. I
18 offered him counseling. I talked to him about
19 the charter for the protection of young people
20 and asked him if he wanted to make an
21 accusation public. Our policy is that the
22 vicar general receives accusations of sexual
23 abuse of minors by clergy. He said,
24 "Absolutely not. I do not want to bring this
25 forward. I ask that you keep it

- 1 confidential." That's my recollection.
- 2 He was -- he wondered whether there
3 was anything -- any other report against
4 Monsignor Grundhaus ever made. And, to my
5 knowledge, I said there was not, so he -- he
6 took that. He talked about join -- I think he
7 -- I think he talked about joining the deacon
8 program and I said that would be fine, you
9 know, that would be fine. That's kinda my
10 recollection.
- 11 **Q.** You stated that he wanted -- you asked him if
12 he wanted to make the accusation public.
- 13 **A. According to our policy, accusations of sexual
14 misconduct against minors is -- is made to the
15 vicar general. I invited him if he wanted to
16 do that. He said, "Absolutely not."**
- 17 **Q.** Well, to the vicar general and to the public
18 are two different entities. So when you said
19 that you asked him if he wanted to make it
20 public, what did that mean to you, if that's
21 what you said to him?
- 22 **A. Did he want to bring forth an accusation
23 according to the charter and norms of sexual
24 abuse by Monsignor Grundhaus. He said no.**
- 25 **Q.** Okay. And when you use the term, "the

- 1 public," who does that refer to?
- 2 **A. Bring forward according to the norms of the**
- 3 **charter, that's what I mean.**
- 4 **Q.** The norms of the charter provide for the
- 5 internal handling of certain abuse complaints
- 6 also, do they not?
- 7 **A. Yeah. Yes. Yes.**
- 8 **Q.** And then it requires public disclosures in
- 9 certain circumstances, so when you asked him
- 10 if he wanted to make the accusation public,
- 11 was that within the diocese or to the public
- 12 at large?
- 13 **A. It was -- my -- my recollection is that -- did**
- 14 **he want to bring this forward to all entities,**
- 15 **he was free to do so. And -- and he said,**
- 16 **"Absolutely not."**
- 17 **Q.** You knew Monsignor Grundhaus, correct, quite
- 18 well, did you not?
- 19 **A. I knew Monsignor.**
- 20 **Q.** And he had been an official of the diocese and
- 21 a priest of the diocese for a long time --
- 22 **A. Correct.**
- 23 **Q.** -- prior to you being a bishop there, correct?
- 24 **A. Correct.**
- 25 **Q.** And so you had a close relationship with him?

- 1 **A. I don't know if our relationship was close,**
- 2 **but he was a priest of the diocese and I'd --**
- 3 **I'd met him before.**
- 4 **Q.** And you did not want what Ron Vasek had told
- 5 you Grundhaus had done to him to be public,
- 6 did you?
- 7 **A. It was totally up to Mr. Vasek. I certainly**
- 8 **respected what he was saying. I offered him**
- 9 **the avenue to -- to move this forward. He --**
- 10 **it was totally up to him. That's why I**
- 11 **brought it up. He said he did not want to do**
- 12 **that.**
- 13 **Q.** I asked what you wanted. You did not want the
- 14 accusation that Ron Vasek had made to you to
- 15 be made public?
- 16 **A. That's incorrect.**
- 17 **Q.** You wanted it to be made public?
- 18 **A. It was totally up to Mr. Vasek.**
- 19 **Q.** No. I'm asking, did you want it to be made
- 20 public?
- 21 **A. It didn't -- it didn't enter my mind what I**
- 22 **wanted, whether to make it public or not.**
- 23 **That wasn't a consideration. The**
- 24 **consideration is what Mr. Vasek wanted.**
- 25 **Q.** In the answers that Ron Vasek has given to

- 1 questions put to him by the attorneys for the
- 2 diocese, he has stated that at that meeting,
- 3 you, Bishop Hoepfner, yelled at him for making
- 4 the accusation against Monsignor Grundhaus.
- 5 Did you yell at him?
- 6 **A. Absolutely not.**
- 7 **Q.** Did you get upset at him?
- 8 **A. Absolutely not.**
- 9 **Q.** Did you speak with disapproval to him about
- 10 him accusing this longtime monsignor of the
- 11 diocese of sexual misconduct?
- 12 **A. Absolutely not.**
- 13 **Q.** Did you ask him if he was going to bring
- 14 criminal charges against Grundhaus?
- 15 **A. I did not.**
- 16 **Q.** Why not?
- 17 **A. I asked him if he wanted to bring this forward**
- 18 **in any form and he said he did not.**
- 19 **Q.** Did you tell him that, as he asserts in his
- 20 answers to interrogatories, that Monsignor
- 21 Grundhaus was a great priest and the
- 22 allegations would ruin his reputation?
- 23 **A. Absolutely not.**
- 24 **Q.** Were you trying to silence Ron Vasek?
- 25 **A. Absolutely not.**

- 1 **Q.** Did you, as Ron Vasek has asserted in his
- 2 answers to interrogatories in this case,
- 3 defend Monsignor Grundhaus before even asking
- 4 Ron Vasek what happened between him and
- 5 Grundhaus?
- 6 **A. Absolutely not.**
- 7 **Q.** Did you, as Ron Vasek has asserted under oath
- 8 in his answers to interrogatories pertaining
- 9 to this meeting, that you stated to him that
- 10 it would be detrimental to Monsignor Grundhaus
- 11 and his reputation if the allegations he was
- 12 making were public? Did you say that?
- 13 **A. No.**
- 14 **Q.** Did you suggest that?
- 15 **A. No.**
- 16 **Q.** He also asserts under oath that you told him
- 17 as bishop in this meeting that no one else
- 18 should know about the abuse, not even
- 19 plaintiff's wife. Did you tell him nobody
- 20 should know --
- 21 **A. No.**
- 22 **Q.** -- and this should be kept secret?
- 23 **A. Absolutely not.**
- 24 **Q.** He told you that his wife did not know, didn't
- 25 he?

- 1 **A. Correct. And he did not want her to know.**
- 2 **Q.** Do you recall him asking what impact this
- 3 would have on his deaconate?
- 4 **A. Possibly, yes. And I told him he certainly**
- 5 **would be free to join the program and he did.**
- 6 **Q.** Did you tell him, as he asserts in his answers
- 7 to the interrogatories, that it would not be a
- 8 problem for his deaconate so long as he did
- 9 not mention the abuse to anyone else?
- 10 **A. Absolutely not.**
- 11 MR. CAMAROTTO: Counsel, just for
- 12 clarification, are you reading from
- 13 plaintiff's answers to interrogatories?
- 14 MR. ANDERSON: Yes.
- 15 MR. CAMAROTTO: Dated October 1,
- 16 2018?
- 17 MR. ANDERSON: Yes.
- 18 MR. CAMAROTTO: Thank you.
- 19 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 20 **Q.** Did you tell him, as he answered in response
- 21 to their interrogatories, the following:
- 22 "This is a cross you're going to have to
- 23 carry"?
- 24 **A. I don't recall that, no.**
- 25 **Q.** Did you tell him that, "Sometimes we have to

- 1 keep things to ourself"?
- 2 **A. I don't -- I don't recall that.**
- 3 **Q.** Do you deny suggesting to him, implying to him
- 4 or expressing to him that you wanted him to
- 5 keep this secret and quiet?
- 6 **A. I deny that, yes.**
- 7 **Q.** He answers that, in his answers to
- 8 interrogatories, that he felt pressured by you
- 9 not to disclose the abuse to anyone else. Did
- 10 you pressure him?
- 11 **A. Absolutely not.**
- 12 **Q.** He answers under oath that he felt threatened
- 13 and intimidated to stay silent and that was by
- 14 you. Do you deny that?
- 15 **A. I do. Quite the contrary, I invited him, if**
- 16 **he wanted to, to bring this forward.**
- 17 **Q.** Is there anything else that you remember about
- 18 that meeting that you have not recited?
- 19 **A. No. I -- that's my recollection.**
- 20 MR. BRAUN: Counsel, let's take a
- 21 pause for a minute. I've got the notes that
- 22 Bishop was referring to. I'm asking Chris for
- 23 the Bates range, but I can forward them to
- 24 Elin right now, so --
- 25 MR. ANDERSON: Okay.

- 1 MR. BRAUN: -- for the benefit of
- 2 those --
- 3 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.
- 4 MR. WALLIN: Do you want to go off?
- 5 MR. BRAUN: Let's go off the record.
- 6 MR. WALLIN: We are going off the
- 7 record at 10:36 a.m.
- 8 (Recess taken)
- 9 MR. WALLIN: We are back on the
- 10 record at 10:38 a.m.
- 11 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 12 **Q.** In the meeting, did you either accuse or
- 13 suggest to Ron Vasek that the accusation he
- 14 was making against Grundhaus was false?
- 15 **A. No.**
- 16 **Q.** Did you believe Ron?
- 17 **A. I listened to him. You know, when someone**
- 18 **comes in, you certainly listen favorably to**
- 19 **him and that's what I did, yeah.**
- 20 **Q.** My question is, did you believe him when he
- 21 told you that he had been engaged in
- 22 inappropriate sexual conduct as a teenager by
- 23 Monsignor Grundhaus in the early '70s?
- 24 **A. I believed what he was saying, that he**
- 25 **believed what he was saying, yes, and listened**

- 1 **to him.**
- 2 **Q.** Did you understand --
- 3 **A. In a supportive way, yes.**
- 4 **Q.** Did you understand that it was an accusation
- 5 of sexual abuse?
- 6 **A. He's telling me his story and that he does not**
- 7 **want to make -- he does not want to bring**
- 8 **forth, according to the charter, an**
- 9 **accusation. That's what I understood.**
- 10 **Q.** But did you understand that he was telling you
- 11 of an accusation of sexual abuse by Monsignor
- 12 Grundhaus of him as a teenager?
- 13 **A. I understood that he was telling me his story**
- 14 **and that he did not want to bring forth,**
- 15 **according to the norms in the charter, an**
- 16 **accusation against Monsignor.**
- 17 **Q.** But what he told you, did you believe him?
- 18 **A. I believed that he believed what he was**
- 19 **telling me, that this happened.**
- 20 **Q.** Did you believe it to be false?
- 21 **A. I believed he believed what he was telling me**
- 22 **happened and I -- I made no judgment on that.**
- 23 **I just listened.**
- 24 **Q.** Did you believe it to be true?
- 25 **A. I just listened.**

- 1 Q. What did you do to see if it was true or
2 false?
- 3 A. **I just listened.**
- 4 Q. But following the meeting, what did you do to
5 see if it was true or false?
- 6 A. **He asked me to keep the matter totally
7 confidential and that's what I did.**
- 8 Q. Were you aware that in the code of conduct
9 policy, section 9 of the diocese utilized in
10 the U.S. Catholic Conference Charter for the
11 Protection of Children, the diocese policy
12 states that even if a person such as Ron Vasek
13 makes an accusation such as this and reports
14 it to you and there is still a risk; that
15 means the priest is still out there; you must,
16 under that policy, you must advise that
17 person, in this case Ron Vasek, that you have
18 to report it? Were you aware of that?
- 19 A. **I said to Mr. Vasek that I would keep this
20 confidential because that's what he wanted.**
- 21 Q. My question is, were you aware of this policy?
- 22 A. **I know what the policy says, yes.**
- 23 Q. So you know the policy?
- 24 A. **I know what the policy says.**
- 25 Q. And you know the policy says that even if Ron

- 1 Vasek is reporting the allegation to you of
2 sexual abuse and wants to keep it
3 confidential, you are obliged under this
4 policy to tell him you're required to report
5 it?
- 6 A. **I told him I would keep it confidential.**
- 7 Q. So when you told him that, did you know you
8 were violating the policy of the Diocese of
9 Crookston in writing, section 9, adopted by
10 the charter?
- 11 A. **I did not have that recollection at that
12 moment, no.**
- 13 Q. When did you learn you were violating the
14 policy when you told Ron you would keep it
15 quiet and not --
- 16 A. **I --**
- 17 Q. Just a moment. Let me finish. When did you
18 learn your decision to handle Ron Vasek's
19 complaint the way you did responsive to what
20 he said was in violation of section 9 in the
21 code of conduct under the U.S. charter, if you
22 did?
- 23 A. **Later.**
- 24 Q. How much later?
- 25 A. **I don't recall.**

- 1 Q. When was Monsignor Grundhaus first advised or
2 even asked about the accusation that Ron Vasek
3 had made of sexual misconduct against him?
- 4 A. **When Ron Vasek, through your office -- my
5 recollection is through your office -- brought
6 this forward, that's when Monsignor found out
7 about it, I believe.**
- 8 Q. So it was after the public lawsuit that we
9 brought, wasn't it --
- 10 A. **I believe so.**
- 11 Q. -- when Grundhaus was first advised?
- 12 A. **I believe so.**
- 13 Q. And you never contacted Grundhaus to find out
14 if he had abused Ron Vasek, had you?
- 15 A. **I kept the matter as Mr. Vasek requested,
16 completely confidential.**
- 17 Q. Yeah, but if Grundhaus had abused Ron Vasek as
18 he had claimed he did and you believed him to
19 be telling the truth, didn't you become
20 concerned that there could have been other
21 kids --
- 22 MR. BRAUN: Objection --
- 23 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 24 Q. -- that Grundhaus could have done this to?
- 25 MR. BRAUN: Objection, misstates his

- 1 testimony.
- 2 MR. CAMAROTTO: Join.
- 3 A. **As I said, Ron Vasek asked about other
4 possible people saying there was violations
5 and, as I told him, there was nothing that I
6 knew of in his record that this had ever been
7 brought forward before. And so Mr. Vasek
8 chose to keep the matter confidential and he
9 himself did not come forward for years.**
- 10 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 11 Q. Well, you said you were respecting Ron Vasek's
12 wishes that it remain private. My question to
13 you is, did you think about the fact that
14 there may be other kids at risk the same way
15 Ron Vasek had been as a kid? Did you think
16 about that at the time you agreed to keep this
17 private and agreed to keep it silent?
- 18 A. **In answer to Mr. Vasek's question, were there
19 others, we talked about there were no others.**
- 20 Q. Well, you told me earlier that when Ron Vasek
21 came in to see you, you didn't even know this
22 pertained to Grundhaus. How could you have
23 said there were no others pertaining to
24 Grundhaus?
- 25 MR. BRAUN: Objection, misstates his

1 testimony. He said he didn't recall.
 2 **A. Mr. Vasek asked were there any other**
 3 **accusations in his file that this ever was**
 4 **brought forward by anyone else and I told him**
 5 **no.**

6 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

7 **Q.** Well, did you review the Grundhaus file before
 8 you met with Vasek?

9 **A. I said, to my knowledge, at that moment there**
 10 **were none.**

11 **Q.** Wait a minute.

12 **A. That's --**

13 **Q.** Did you review the Grundhaus file maintained
 14 by the diocese, either the secret file or the
 15 personnel file or any file maintained by it
 16 prior to the meeting with Ron Vasek?

17 **A. No.**

18 **Q.** Whether you made the representation, then, to
 19 Ron Vasek that there were no other things in
 20 his file, you didn't actually know that
 21 because you hadn't reviewed the file?

22 **A. I had not heard that there were any, no.**

23 **Q.** So you had not heard any other allegations
 24 made, correct?

25 **A. That's correct.**

1 **Q.** So you lied to Ron Vasek when you told him
 2 that there were no other allegations made?

3 **MR. BRAUN:** Objection,
 4 argumentative.

5 **THE WITNESS:** Okay.

6 **MR. BRAUN:** You don't have to answer
 7 that question, Bishop.

8 **THE WITNESS:** Okay.

9 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

10 **Q.** Did you lie to Ron Vasek?

11 **A. I don't have to answer that question.**

12 **Q.** Yes, you do.

13 **MR. BRAUN:** This question --

14 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

15 **Q.** Did you lie to him?

16 **MR. BRAUN:** This question --

17 **A. No. I did not.**

18 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

19 **Q.** When you told Ron Vasek there were no other
 20 allegations about Mr. Grundhaus, you had not
 investigated Grundhaus, had you?

21 **A. My knowledge at that moment, there were -- I**
 22 **knew of no accusations against Monsignor and**
 23 **that's what I told Mr. Vasek.**

24 **Q.** And when you told him that you knew of no

1 other allegations, you told him there were no
 2 other allegations and you had not even
 3 reviewed the file, correct?

4 **A. I told him I knew of no allegations against**
 5 **Monsignor.**

6 **Q.** And you had not reviewed the file?

7 **A. At that moment, I had not.**

8 **Q.** And you had not conducted any investigation?

9 **A. Correct.**

10 **Q.** And you had not asked anybody else about
 11 Grundhaus and if there ever had been any
 12 allegations, correct?

13 **A. Correct.**

14 **Q.** The diocese policy that we have reviewed and
 15 I'm referring to also says that the vicar
 16 general must be informed of an accusation such
 17 as this when made. Did you inform the then
 18 vicar general of the accusation?

19 **A. No.**

20 **Q.** Did you know you were violating the policy by
 21 having not done so?

22 **A. Not at that moment.**

23 **Q.** When did you learn you had?

24 **A. Later.**

25 **Q.** How much later?

1 **A. I don't recall.**

2 **Q.** There is a -- is it correct, then, to say that
 3 you took no further action responsive to the
 4 information given you first by Monsignor
 5 Goering and then by Ron Vasek in this meeting
 6 that pertained to Grundhaus?

7 **A. Yeah, I believe that's correct, yes.**

8 **Q.** Okay. You kept it secret, correct?

9 **A. I did. I kept the confidentiality.**

10 **Q.** There was a second meeting with Ron Vasek.
 11 How did that come about?

12 **A. The -- the two dioceses, Fargo and Crookston**
 13 **next to each other, were putting together a**
 14 **list of priests who could substitute across**
 15 **borderlines. And Father -- Monsignor Foltz**
 16 **was notified that Monsignor Grundhaus's name**
 17 **would be off the list from Fargo. That**
 18 **precipitated another meeting with Mr. Vasek**
 19 **and myself because I wanted to know -- I**
 20 **wanted him to know that and -- and in that**
 21 **way, Monsignor Grundhaus might become aware**
 22 **that there's something of the reason for that.**

23 **Q.** So you knew in the Doe 19 case our office had
 24 gotten a court order from and issued by Judge
 25 Marvin that ordered the Diocese of Crookston

- 1 to produce the names and identities of priests
2 accused of sexual abuse of minors, correct?
- 3 **A. Later, correct. Yes.**
- 4 **Q.** And you knew that Judge Marvin had ordered
5 that prior to your second meeting with Ron
6 Vasek, correct?
- 7 **A. I don't know the date of -- of that. The
8 second meeting was in 2015.**
- 9 **Q.** Yes.
- 10 **A. Okay.**
- 11 **Q.** So I'm asking you what you knew about the
12 court order. I asked why did you have a
13 second meeting with Ron Vasek. You said
14 because there had been a court order, correct?
- 15 **A. No, no.**
- 16 **Q.** Well, why did you have a second meeting with
17 Vasek?
- 18 **A. Because the Fargo Diocese was putting together
19 a list of priests who could substitute in
20 Fargo.**
- 21 **Q.** Okay. The Fargo Diocese --
- 22 **A. Correct.**
- 23 **Q.** -- was putting together a list?
- 24 **A. Not Judge Marvin.**
- 25 **Q.** And so what was it that caused you to meet

- 1 with Ron Vasek, then, that pertained to the
2 Fargo list?
- 3 **A. Because Monsignor's name was gonna be left off
4 and Monsignor would -- might inquire why.**
- 5 **Q.** Monsignor Grundhaus's name was going to be
6 left out?
- 7 **A. Correct.**
- 8 **Q.** Who told you that?
- 9 **A. I believe Monsignor Goering of the Fargo
10 Diocese told Monsignor Foltz. Monsignor Foltz
11 told me.**
- 12 **Q.** Did they tell why the name was to be left off?
- 13 **A. I don't know what they told Monsignor Foltz,
14 but, again, I was keeping complete
15 confidentiality, so I didn't say anything. I
16 called Mr. Vasek and asked him to come for a
17 meeting so we could discuss what to do.**
- 18 **Q.** And tell us what happened and was said at that
19 meeting. Where was the meeting first?
- 20 **A. Well, it was later in the afternoon and I
happened to be home, so he came to my
residence.**
- 23 **Q.** You requested he come to your residence for
24 the meeting?
- 25 **A. That's correct, that's where I set the**

- 1 **meeting.**
- 2 **Q.** Okay.
- 3 **A. And --**
- 4 **Q.** And why didn't you have anybody else present?
- 5 **A. Because it's confidential.**
- 6 **Q.** Okay.
- 7 **A. And so I told Mr. Vasek that Monsignor's name
8 was gonna be left off and -- and if he
9 inquired of me, how would I handle that. And
10 after we talked about it, we left it, my
11 recollection is, that I would say, "You could
12 talk to Ron Vasek about that."**
- 13 **Q.** And how long was the meeting with Vasek?
- 14 **A. Oh, I don't know, 45 minutes maybe.**
- 15 **Q.** And what was your purpose of calling him to
16 your residence?
- 17 **A. To talk with him about the fact that
18 Monsignor's name was gonna be left off the
19 Fargo list and if Monsignor had questions
20 about that as to why, what -- what we should
21 do. And it was left that he -- he could be
22 told to call Ron Vasek.**
- 23 **Q.** Did you have concerns about Grundhaus's name
24 being left off the Fargo list?
- 25 **A. It was just a fact.**

- 1 **Q.** Well, did it concern you?
- 2 **A. It just was a fact. I don't know if it was a
3 concern.**
- 4 **Q.** Well --
- 5 **A. The concern was, Mr. Vasek wanted to keep his
6 story confidential, that was the concern.**
- 7 **Q.** Yeah, but didn't you have concerns about the
8 fact that Grundhaus had been accused of sexual
9 abuse and he wasn't going to be on a list, at
10 least as you understood it from Monsignor
11 Foltz, to be published by the diocese?
- 12 **A. Concern -- it's a fact.**
- 13 **Q.** Well, what did you think the purpose of a list
14 is that was being required to be put out by
15 the diocese?
- 16 **A. Those priests who could substitute in across
17 the borders.**
- 18 **Q.** Well, the list -- was the list of those
19 accused of offenses?
- 20 **A. No, no.**
- 21 **Q.** What list are you talking about?
- 22 **A. The priests who could substitute in the Fargo
23 Diocese from Crookston.**
- 24 **Q.** Okay. So the Fargo Diocese was saying
25 Grundhaus was not fit to be put, eligible to

- 1 substitute?
- 2 **A. They were leaving his name off the list.**
- 3 **Q.** Okay. I misunderstood the list. Okay.
That's what -- okay. Got it.
MR. BRAUN: Grundhaus is in
6 Moorhead --
7 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, I got it.
8 MR. BRAUN: -- Fargo/Moorhead.
9 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah, I got it. Got
10 it. Okay, yeah.
11 BY MR. ANDERSON:
12 **Q.** So just so I understand, because I
13 misunderstood here, that is my fault, so to
14 get back on the same page here, you were
15 informed that Grundhaus is not going to be
16 made -- Grundhaus is going to be made
17 ineligible to work outside the diocese?
18 **A. In Fargo Diocese, correct.**
19 **Q.** In Fargo Diocese?
20 **A. Yeah.**
21 **Q.** And Monsignor Foltz told you that?
22 **A. Correct.**
23 **Q.** And when Monsignor Foltz told you that
24 Grundhaus was going to be ineligible because
25 of what Fargo knew about Grundhaus and

- 1 Vasek --
- 2 **A. What Monsignor Goering and Father Leffer, two**
3 **priests knew.**
- 4 **Q.** Okay.
- 5 **A. As far as -- as far as I knew.**
- 6 **Q.** Right. So when Monsignor Foltz told you that
7 Grundhaus was going to be made ineligible, in
8 other words, what did you say to Foltz?
9 **A. I don't recall what I said to him, but, again,**
10 **I was keeping this matter confidential, and so**
11 **I got ahold of Mr. Vasek to talk about it with**
12 **him.**
- 13 **Q.** And what is the date of this second meeting
14 where you called him to your residence?
15 **A. It was in October of 2015, 21st, I believe.**
- 16 **Q.** And the records show October 21st, 2015, the
17 order in Doe 19 was issued by Judge Marvin
18 ordering the diocese to produce the identities
19 of the priests accused of sexual abuse of
20 minors and to produce that to our office under
21 court order. You're aware of that order?
22 **A. I don't recall that I was at that moment.**
- 23 **Q.** Do you remember having that in mind when
24 you --
25 **A. No.**

- 1 **Q.** -- called Vasek to your --
- 2 **A. I did not have that in mind.**
- 3 **Q.** Okay. Anything else that you said to Ron
4 Vasek in that meeting?
5 **A. Yeah. I don't -- I don't recall exactly.**
6 **He's in the deacon program and, again, he's**
7 **free to -- to -- to bring this forward and --**
8 **and he's telling me he does not want to do**
9 **that. And I, then -- in canon law, you know,**
10 **things have to be in writing, so that was my**
11 **thought. And so I said to him, you know, "You**
12 **don't wanna bring this forward; how about**
13 **putting that in writing?" So I asked him**
14 **about putting that in writing. My rec --**
15 **recollection was he -- he said, "I wouldn't**
16 **wanna sign -- I wouldn't wanna sign anything**
17 **that's not true." And I said to him, "I would**
18 **never ask you to sign anything that's true**
19 **(sic)."**
- 20 MR. BRAUN: That's true or not true?
21 THE WITNESS: I -- I would never ask
22 you to sign anything that's not true.
23 MR. BRAUN: Thank you.
24 THE WITNESS: Yeah, correct.
25 **A. And so that's how we got into this statement.**

- 1 **And I said, "I'd -- I'd like that in writing,**
2 **that you do not wanna bring this forward to**
3 **make an official accusation, to go to the**
4 **vicar general, who handles all the accusations**
5 **of sexual abuse of -- of minors by clergy."**
6 **And so we got into that. I remember that.**
7 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**
- 8 **Q.** And was there discussion about the status of
9 his deaconate and being jeopardized?
10 **A. Not to my recollection. There was no -- there**
11 **was no jeopardy -- jeopardy one way or another**
12 **to his deaconate.**
- 13 **Q.** Was there discussion?
14 **A. It may have been. I don't -- it may have**
15 **been. I don't specifically recall.**
- 16 **Q.** Did you put something in writing and require
17 him to sign it?
18 **A. I did. I -- my recollection is, as I think**
19 **about that, I did not have diocesan stationery**
20 **or my stationery at home. And so the next**
21 **morning, I went to the office and typed out**
22 **personally on stationery a statement and --**
23 **and called him and he came in and signed it**
24 **that next morning, which actually is the 22nd,**
25 **but we date -- we dated it the day before**

- 1 **because that was our discussion. So it says,**
 2 **"I freely, regarding the trip I had with a**
 3 **priest of the Diocese of Crookston," didn't**
 4 **even put his name in because I'm keeping**
 5 **confidentiality, "do not and don't want to**
 6 **bring forward an accusation." And the next**
 7 **morning, Mr. Vasek signed that.**
- 8 Q. So it's your recollection that there was a
 9 second meeting that followed this meeting and
 10 he came back at your request and signed the
 11 statement?
- 12 A. **That's my recollection, yeah, that he came**
 13 **back to my office and signed that the next**
 14 **morning. There was no real meeting. He just**
 15 **came in and signed it. So I've thought about**
 16 **that. That -- that's my recollection, yeah.**
- 17 Q. You're not sure about that, are you?
- 18 A. **I -- I -- I think that's what happened, yes.**
- 19 Q. In the answers to interrogatories that Ron
 20 Vasek has given and under oath, it said that,
 21 pertaining to this meeting, that you told him
 22 because of the allegation he had made against
 23 Grundhaus, that Monsignor Grundhaus was going
 24 to be forbidden from exercising ministry in
 25 the Diocese of Fargo. Do you recall telling

- 1 him that?
- 2 A. **No. At our first meeting, I explained what**
 3 **happens --**
- 4 Q. This is the first meeting, yes.
- 5 A. **Well, at the first meeting, I explained to him**
 6 **what happens when a priest either admits or is**
 7 **found guilty of, according to the charter, the**
 8 **three; he doesn't wear the collar, he's**
 9 **refused -- removed from ministry and he's not**
 10 **allowed to be called father. I reviewed that**
 11 **with him when I -- in the first meeting with**
 12 **the charter -- when I talked to him about the**
 13 **charter, yes.**
- 14 Q. When you say, "the first meeting," are you
 15 talking about the October 21 meeting?
- 16 A. **No. September meeting in 2011.**
- 17 Q. Okay. I'm talking about October now.
- 18 A. **Okay.**
- 19 Q. Okay. You've called him to your private
 20 residence, you've called him to your private
 21 residence because you learned that Grundhaus
 22 is being determined ineligible for assignment
 23 because of the Vasek allegation, correct?
- 24 A. **He's being ineligible in the Diocese of Fargo**
 25 **to substitute.**

- 1 Q. Yes.
- 2 A. **That's right.**
- 3 Q. In ministry, correct?
- 4 A. **(Nods head).**
- 5 Q. Okay. So, and at that meeting, did you tell
 6 Ron Vasek that the diocese was making him
 7 ineligible because of Ron's allegation?
- 8 A. **No.**
- 9 Q. What did you tell him the purpose of calling
 10 him to the residence to have been then?
- 11 A. **That he was not on the list in Fargo Diocese**
 12 **of priests who could substitute from the**
 13 **Crookston Diocese.**
- 14 Q. Why did you call Ron to your private
 15 residence?
- 16 A. **Because of the hour of the day, that's where I**
 17 **happened to be, later in the day.**
- 18 Q. Well, what was your purpose in having him come
 19 to your private residence? What did you want
 20 him to know or do?
- 21 A. **To discuss with him what we would do, what --**
 22 **if Monsignor had questions about why I cannot**
 23 **substitute in the Fargo Diocese.**
- 24 Q. You didn't want Grundhaus to be made
 25 ineligible from ministry did you?

- 1 MR. BRAUN: Objection.
- 2 A. **That was not a consideration.**
- 3 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**
- 4 Q. You didn't care?
- 5 A. **It wasn't a -- I didn't consider that at that**
 6 **moment.**
- 7 Q. You already had something prepared for Ron to
 8 sign at the time he showed up for that
 9 meeting, did you not?
- 10 A. **Not --**
- 11 MR. BRAUN: Objection, misstates his
 12 testimony.
- 13 A. **No.**
- 14 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**
- 15 Q. Ron Vasek has testified that you asked him to
 16 sign a letter and that a letter had been
 17 authored by Michael, Vicar General Michael
 18 Foltz. Is that correct?
- 19 A. **I understand that's what Mr. Vasek said and**
 20 **that's absolutely incorrect.**
- 21 Q. Okay. You authored the letter?
- 22 A. **Correct.**
- 23 Q. And you authored it on what computer?
- 24 A. **A computer at my office the next morning.**
 25 **That's my recollection.**

- 1 Q. And then it's your recollection that you asked
2 Ron to come back in?
- 3 A. **The next morning to sign the statement, yes.**
- 4 Q. And it's your recollection he did?
- 5 A. **Correct.**
- 6 Q. And you're certain about that sequence of
7 events?
- 8 A. **That's my recollection, yes.**
- 9 Q. And when you composed the letter, did you
10 share it with anybody else?
- 11 A. **No.**
- 12 Q. Was Monsignor, the vicar general, Foltz
13 involved in that?
- 14 A. **No. I'm keeping confidentiality.**
- 15 Q. Whose idea was it to create and have Ron sign
16 the letter?
- 17 A. **That was mine.**
- 18 Q. And what particular computer did you use, what
19 device?
- 20 A. **One in my -- at my office. It was a -- it's
21 one of these that hooked in.**
- 22 Q. And was the electronic copy of that saved?
- 23 A. **You know, I -- I got a new computer a year ago
24 and I don't believe the -- the other one is
25 saved, no.**

- 1 Q. Why not?
- 2 A. **Normal procedure.**
- 3 Q. Who was given a copy of the letter?
- 4 A. **No one was given a copy of the letter. It was
5 confidential.**
- 6 Q. Where were the copies of the letter kept of
7 that?
- 8 A. **I have it.**
- 9 Q. When you get a new computer, you save all the
10 material on your old computer, it's all
11 transported over. Why wasn't it?
- 12 A. **It wasn't saved on my computer.**
- 13 Q. Why wasn't it saved?
- 14 A. **Because it's confidential.**
- 15 Q. Was that to protect Grundhaus?
- 16 A. **Keep the confidentiality for Mr. Vasek.**
- 17 Q. Was the letter that you originally crafted on
18 your computer, which no longer exists in its
19 original form, ever modified?
- 20 A. **No.**
- 21 Q. I'm going to show you Exhibit 9.
22 (Discussion out of the hearing of
23 the court reporter)
24 BY MR. ANDERSON:
25 Q. Oh, no. Excuse me. Exhibit 6.

- 1 A. **(Examining documents).**
- 2 Q. So what's the date you prepared this letter?
- 3 A. **I believe it was the 22nd of October, 2015.**
- 4 Q. The date that appears on it is October 21st,
5 2015.
- 6 A. **Correct. My recollection is that's the date
7 because that's when we talked about it.**
- 8 Q. So you had him sign this letter?
- 9 A. **I asked him to sign this letter and he freely
10 did.**
- 11 Q. So you asked him to backdate it?
- 12 A. **Excuse me?**
- 13 Q. You asked him to backdate it? You clearly
14 signed it on the 22nd.
- 15 A. **Yes, and -- and we said -- or I said and it's
16 okay with him, "We'll put the date down of the
17 21st because that's when we talked about this,
18 that's when we had our meeting." That's my
19 recollection.**
- 20 Q. So you asked him to backdate it?
- 21 A. **I suggested that this be the date that be put
22 on there and that's what we did.**
- 23 Q. Had you sought counsel concerning this matter?
- 24 A. **Excuse me?**
- 25 Q. Had you sought counsel, legal counsel

- 1 concerning this matter at the time you
2 prepared this letter and/or met with Ron Vasek
3 in October?
- 4 A. **No. I'm keeping it confidential.**
- 5 Q. Did you tell Vasek that you wanted Grundhaus
6 to be able to work in Fargo?
- 7 A. **No.**
- 8 Q. Did you know and understand that at the time
9 you had first met with Ron Vasek and heard the
10 allegation and then had the second meeting in
11 your private residence with him and then had
12 him sign this letter, that having heard the
13 allegation that he made about Grundhaus to
14 you, under canon law you had a duty, a
15 requirement under the canon law to report this
16 allegation?
- 17 MR. BRAUN: Objection, asked and
18 answered.
- 19 MR. CAMAROTTO: Join.
- 20 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 21 Q. Notwithstanding what Ron Vasek wanted?
22 MR. BRAUN: Same objection.
- 23 A. **Later -- I reviewed that later. At the time I
24 was keeping his confidentiality strictly as he
25 asked.**

- 1 (Discussion out of the hearing of
2 the court reporter)
3 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 4 **Q.** Did you discuss Ron Vasek's -- at that meeting
5 -- you said the meeting lasted four or five
6 minutes.
- 7 **A. Forty-five.**
- 8 **Q.** Forty-five, okay.
- 9 **A. About 45.**
- 10 **Q.** Okay. Good. Okay. In the 45-minute meeting,
11 did Ron discuss with you and you with him the
12 status of his son, who was a priest in the
13 diocese, and what could or could not happen if
14 he did or did not sign such a letter?
- 15 **A. Yeah, I think -- I think maybe we did. About**
16 **him -- himself being a deacon and people**
17 **knowing if he did bring forth a -- wanted to**
18 **bring this forth as an accusation, that that**
19 **being assigned, people would know that when**
20 **he's assigned and -- and, too, would know that**
21 **his son, the priest, works in the diocese,**
22 **yes. Not to the extent that neither -- either**
23 **of them, Father -- Father Vasek or Deacon**
24 **Vasek, would not be assigned. They would be.**
25 **But -- but it -- it would -- people would**

- 1 **know. I believe he asked that -- about that,**
2 **yes.**
- 3 **Q.** Do you remember Ron Vasek expressing
4 concerning to you about if he didn't sign the
5 letter that you had prepared for him to sign
6 that it could hurt the status of his son,
7 who's a priest under your control in the
8 diocese?
- 9 **A. Absolutely not.**
- 10 **Q.** There was discussion about Craig, wasn't
11 there?
- 12 **A. Yes, but not in conjunction with him signing**
13 **this statement or not.**
- 14 **Q.** Well, the whole purpose of the meeting was to
15 deal with the Grundhaus accusation?
- 16 **A. Purpose of the meeting is to deal with the**
17 **list of -- Fargo was putting together.**
- 18 **Q.** And you wanted -- and the question was, is
19 Grundhaus going to be able to be eligible for
20 ministry or not, correct?
- 21 **A. No. Not correct.**
- 22 **Q.** And is it also correct to say that if Ron had
23 not recanted and signed the letter prepared by
24 you, Grundhaus would remain ineligible?
25 MR. BRAUN: Objection, misstates his

- 1 testimony.
- 2 MR. CAMAROTTO: Join.
- 3 **A. Incorrect.**
- 4 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**
- 5 **Q.** Grundhaus could not have been doing substitute
6 ministry in Fargo, correct?
- 7 MR. BRAUN: Objection.
- 8 **A. Correct, but it didn't have anything to do**
9 **with the letter or our conversation. Fargo**
10 **was making that determination.**
- 11 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**
- 12 **Q.** But the only way Grundhaus could have been
13 made eligible is if Ron Vasek recanted the
14 allegation, which you had him do on October
15 21st or second, correct?
- 16 MR. BRAUN: Objection, foundation.
- 17 **A. Incorrect.**
- 18 MR. BRAUN: He cannot speak for the
19 Diocese of Fargo.
- 20 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 21 **Q.** So when did you learn that you, as the bishop
22 in the diocese, was under court order to
23 produce the names and the list of all the
24 priests accused of sexual abuse of minors?
25 **A. I don't recall that. We had cases before. I**

- 1 **know the judge had -- had said that. I don't**
2 **recall when I first learned of that.**
- 3 **Q.** And was that after or before October 21st of
4 2015 when you met with Ron?
- 5 **A. I -- I don't recall when I -- when I first**
6 **learned that.**
- 7 **Q.** Grundhaus's name was not produced on the list
8 given us under the court order issued by Judge
9 Marvin. Why not?
- 10 **A. At that time there was no accusation brought**
11 **forth. Mr. Vasek asked for confidentiality**
12 **and that was respected.**
- 13 **Q.** And at the time that you were required to
14 produce the names of the priests accused,
15 which would have included Grundhaus, did you
16 have the judge's court order in mind when you
17 met with Ron Vasek on October 21st?
- 18 **A. No.**
- 19 **Q.** Not in your mind at all?
- 20 **A. No.**
- 21 **Q.** What lawyer was advising you about Judge
22 Marvin's order and what you had to do to
23 comply with it?
- 24 **A. I don't recall. I -- I -- I learned of it, I**
25 **believe, through our vicar general, who**

1 **handles these things, about the list, you**
 2 **know, we're required to produce that list,**
 3 **yeah.**

4 Q. So you had no discussion with a lawyer about
 that?

6 MR. BRAUN: Object.

7 MR. CAMAROTTO: I'm going to object
 8 attorney/client privilege.

9 MR. ANDERSON: No. I didn't ask --

10 BY MR. ANDERSON:

11 Q. So what lawyer --

12 A. **I learned it.**

13 Q. -- what lawyer was advising you about what you
 14 had to do under that order?

15 A. **Again, I learned about the list through --**

16 Q. Don't tell me what you learned --

17 A. **-- the vicar general and --**

18 Q. -- tell me -- hold on. Hold on a second.

19 MR. CAMAROTTO: Let him give his
 20 answer.

21 MR. ANDERSON: He's giving
 22 confidential --

23 BY MR. ANDERSON:

24 Q. You know, I'm asking who the lawyer is.

25 A. **My recollection is Susan Gardner (sic) was the**

1 **first to go through our files.**

2 MR. BRAUN: Just the name is all
 3 he's asking you.

4 BY MR. ANDERSON:

5 Q. That's all I'm asking.

6 A. **Yeah, Susan Gardner (sic), that's my**
 7 **recollection.**

8 Q. And then who reviewed the files to determine
 9 what names would be produced under the court
 10 order?

11 A. **Susan Gardner (sic) first, Mr. Braun's firm**
 12 **second.**

13 Q. Why both of them?

14 A. **Because we were asked to do it.**

15 Q. Were you asked to do it two different times?

16 A. **I believe so.**

17 Q. So Gaertner the first time, Braun the second,
 18 is that it?

19 A. **Excuse me.**

20 Q. Gaertner the first time, Braun the second?

21 A. **Gardner (sic), Susan Gardner (sic) is it,**
 22 **first.**

23 Q. Gaertner.

24 A. **And the Braun firm second.**

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. **Yeah.**

2 Q. So the first time, the initial order was --
 3 the review was done by Gaertner?

4 A. **Correct.**

5 Q. Okay. I'm going to show you Exhibit 15. And,
 6 Bishop, Exhibit 15 is from you to Jennifer
 7 Haselberger, a former chancellor in Crookston,
 8 but now in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and
 9 Minneapolis, responsive to Grundhaus wanting
 10 to do work in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and
 11 Minneapolis. And you are responding to an
 12 inquiry about Grundhaus's fitness, correct?

13 A. **Yes.**

14 Q. And you represent to the Archdiocese of St.
 15 Paul and Minneapolis that Grundhaus is a
 16 person of good moral character and reputation,
 17 correct?

18 A. **Correct.**

19 Q. And you represent that you know of nothing
 20 which would in any way limit or disqualify him
 21 from ministry, correct?

22 A. **From this ministry, yes.**

23 Q. Wouldn't the accusation that he gave to you
 24 and made to you of Grundhaus having abused him
 25 as a teenager --

1 A. **"He" who?**

2 Q. Just a moment.

3 MR. BRAUN: Well, let him answer.

4 BY MR. ANDERSON:

5 Q. -- disqualify him from ministry?

6 A. **Please repeat the question.**

7 Q. Wouldn't the accusation Ron Vasek made to you,
 8 his lips to your ears, that Grundhaus had
 9 abused him as a teenager disqualify him from
 10 ministry?

11 A. **Mr. Vasek asked for complete confidentiality**
 12 **and did not want to bring forward an**
 13 **accusation and I respected that.**

14 Q. When you also write, "I know of nothing which
 15 would in any way limit or disqualify him from
 16 ministry," why does Ron Vasek's desire control
 17 your belief that you can misrepresent to the
 18 archdiocese the true facts only you know to
 19 be?

20 MR. BRAUN: Objection,
 21 argumentative.

22 MR. CAMAROTTO: Join.

23 A. **Mr. Vasek asked for com -- complete**
 24 **confidentiality and, therefore, I kept it**
 25 **completely confidential what he told me in**

1 **2011, and this is 2012. So I'm respecting**
2 **that confidentiality.**

3 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

4 **Q.** Is that the same reason Grundhaus wasn't
5 produced on the list that was required to be
6 -- ordered to be produced by the diocese
7 because of Ron Vasek's request to you?

8 **A. That was Fargo's decision to make that list.**

9 **Q.** No. I'm talking about the court order that
10 said, "Produce the names of those who were
11 accused of sexual abuse," and the diocese did
12 not produce the name of Grundhaus in that
13 initial list.

14 **A. So the Diocese of Crookston?**

15 **Q.** Yes.

16 **A. The reason he was not on that list is because**
17 **I'm respecting confidentiality of Mr. Vasek.**

18 **Q.** In the same Exhibit 15 you write to the
19 archdiocese and Chancellor Haselberger, "I am
20 unaware of anything in his background which
21 would render him unsuitable to work with minor
22 children." That's a lie, isn't it?

23 MR. BRAUN: Objection,
24 argumentative.

25 MR. CAMAROTTO: Join.

1 Ron Vasek, correct?

2 MR. BRAUN: Objection,
3 argumentative. You don't have to answer that,
4 Bishop.

5 MR. CAMAROTTO: Join.

6 BY MR. ANDERSON:

7 **Q.** Do you choose to answer that question?

8 MR. BRAUN: You do not have to
9 answer that question.

10 BY MR. ANDERSON:

11 **Q.** But you can, if you choose.

12 **A. (No response).**

13 MR. BRAUN: Counsel, let's move on.

14 BY MR. ANDERSON:

15 **Q.** This is the same thing you did with Sullivan,
16 isn't it?

17 MR. BRAUN: You don't have to answer
18 that question, Bishop. Argumentative.

19 BY MR. ANDERSON:

20 **Q.** You kept quiet, you didn't tell anybody and
21 used some excuse for trying to claim that
22 nobody needs to know because you thought
23 Sullivan was fit the same way you think
24 Grundhaus is, correct?

25 MR. BRAUN: Objection,

1 MR. BRAUN: Don't have to answer
2 that.

3 BY MR. ANDERSON:

4 **Q.** That's a lie, isn't it?

5 MR. BRAUN: Counsel, can you
6 rephrase in a non-argumentative way?

7 BY MR. ANDERSON:

8 **Q.** That's not the truth, is it?

9 **A. I'm respecting the confidentiality.**

10 **Q.** Is that the truth, sir?

11 **A. I'm respecting the confidentiality.**

12 **Q.** You represented to the archdiocese, "I am
13 unaware of anything in his background which
14 would render him unsuitable to work with minor
15 children." Was that true or false?

16 **A. I'm respecting the confidentiality.**

17 **Q.** Sir --

18 **A. That's why I signed that.**

19 **Q.** Is that true or is that false?

20 **A. I'm respecting the confidentiality.**

21 **Q.** Sir, you are using a claim of Ron Vasek's
22 confidentiality to protect not only Grundhaus,
23 but the Diocese of Crookston from avoiding a
24 scandal and public disclosure what you knew
25 Ron -- what Monsignor Grundhaus had done to

1 argumentative. Counsel, do you need a break?

2 MR. ANDERSON: No.

3 BY MR. ANDERSON:

4 **Q.** It's the same thing, isn't it?

5 MR. BRAUN: You don't have to answer
6 that question, Bishop.

7 BY MR. ANDERSON:

8 **Q.** Do you see the similarities, Bishop?

9 MR. CAMAROTTO: Move on, counsel.

10 BY MR. ANDERSON:

11 **Q.** Do you see it?

12 MR. BRAUN: You don't have to answer
13 this line of questioning, Bishop.

14 (Discussion out of the hearing of
15 the court reporter)

16 BY MR. ANDERSON:

17 **Q.** I'm going to show you in Exhibit 5 --

18 (Discussion out of the hearing of
19 the court reporter)

20 BY MR. ANDERSON:

21 **Q.** There is a statement of release that you
22 issued on September 27th, 2017, it's a press
23 release and I'll just read from it. There's
24 one statement you made, I just want to ask you
25 a question about it. And you write at that

- 1 time, "Looking back and knowing what I do now,
2 I believe I would have handled my
3 conversations with Mr. Vasek differently."
4 What did you mean when you wrote that and
5 issued that press release to the public?
- 6 **A. Well, I might have tried to reassure him more
7 would be one thought that I have. He talked
8 about in that first meeting forgiving Father
9 Grundhaus and I would have encouraged him
10 along those lines because I think that's good
11 to do, that forgiveness. And I probably would
12 have pushed more on the confidentiality. As I
13 said later, reading the charter and with his
14 approval, would have brought forth --
15 according to the charter, would have -- would
16 have helped him bring this forth. I offered
17 it. He didn't wanna do it. So along those
18 lines.**
- 19 **Q.** So you knew and you learned under the charter,
20 if you didn't know at the time, that,
21 actually, even if he wanted confidentiality,
22 you were required to tell him that you were
23 required to report, is that what you would
24 have done differently?
- 25 **A. I would have tried to help him bring forth**

- 1 **according to the charter, you know, bring it
2 forward --**
- 3 **Q.** Well --
- 4 **A. -- is how I'll answer that.**
- 5 **Q.** -- he was becoming a deacon and you could have
6 said to him, "Look, we have a charter that
7 says that, Ron, I understand you want this
8 private and you shared it with me, but under
9 the charter that I'm obliged to follow as the
10 bishop of this diocese where you're soon to
11 become a deacon, we're required to do more
12 and, that is, report this." There's nothing
13 that kept you from doing or saying that to him
14 at the time, was there?
- 15 **A. No. I -- I went -- I explained the charter to
16 him, but as I just said, I -- I would have
17 maybe moved -- kept on that a little more.
18 That was -- that's kind of the thought that I
19 was having there.**
- 20 **Q.** In fact, under the charter, you're not only
21 obliged to report, under the charter you're
22 required to do a report of preliminary
23 investigation?
- 24 **A. Which we did when it was public.**
- 25 **Q.** Well, that preliminary investigation was done

- 1 and made public only because Ron Vasek came to
2 us and we filed a suit. Which was public,
3 correct?
- 4 **A. (Nods head).**
- 5 **Q.** Yes?
- 6 **A. Uh huh.**
- 7 **Q.** And -- yes?
- 8 **A. Yes.**
- 9 **Q.** And then a preliminary investigation was done
10 and that was done by Goodwin, right?
- 11 **A. Correct.**
- 12 **Q.** And it was then for the first time that
13 Grundhaus was confronted with the accusation
14 that you knew Ron Vasek had made against him
15 of sexual abuse, correct?
- 16 **A. It's my understanding that's when Grund --
17 Father Grundhaus found out --**
- 18 **Q.** And it was the first --
- 19 **A. -- what Mr. Vasek had said.**
- 20 **Q.** It was the first time you or anybody else even
21 asked Grundhaus about this, as far as you
22 knew?
- 23 **A. As far as I knew.**
- 24 **Q.** After Ron brought suit?
- 25 **A. Because I was keeping it confidential, as he**

- 1 **asked.**
- 2 **Q.** Has the allegation that has been made now
3 public been brought to the CDF?
- 4 **A. I believe so.**
- 5 **Q.** By whom?
- 6 **A. First by Monsignor Baumgartner.**
- 7 **Q.** And when?
- 8 **A. I believe shortly after the press conference.
9 I -- I don't know the dates on that one
10 particularly.**
- 11 **Q.** And what action, if any, has been taken?
- 12 **A. Well, we -- we did our preliminary
13 investigation, the Congregation for the
14 Doctrine of the Faith moved it to the
15 Congregation for Clergy.**
- 16 **Q.** And Father Goodwin did the preliminary
17 investigation and did a report that you had a
18 copy of, correct?
- 19 **A. Correct.**
- 20 **Q.** And he found that the -- I believe that there
21 was a delict, but there were some technical
22 difficulties under canon law with finding a
23 severe delict, correct?
- 24 **A. Well, first of all --**
- 25 **Q.** Well, do you recall that?

- 1 **A. Generally, yes.**
 2 **Q.** Okay. Jim Clauson's deposition's also been
 3 taken and he testified that Monsignor
 Grundhaus's restrictions are going to be
 4 lifted by you. Have you indicated that you
 5 intend to lift restrictions imposed on
 6 Grundhaus's ministry?
 7 **A. I gave no indication of that.**
 8 **Q.** Are you going to?
 9 **A. I have not decided on -- on that.**
 10 **Q.** When are you going to decide?
 11 **A. I'm waiting following these proceedings to --**
 12 **I -- I don't know what we're gonna do with**
 13 **that.**
 14 **Q.** What do you want to do?
 15 **A. I don't know what we're gonna do with that.**
 16 **Q.** What do you want to do? You're the bishop.
 17 **A. I don't know what I'm gonna do with that.**
 18 **Q.** He's your friend, isn't he, Grundhaus?
 19 **A. Yeah, he's a friend.**
 20 **Q.** You don't want him to be under this
 21 restriction, do you?
 22 **A. Doesn't have anything to do with -- with it.**
 23 **Q.** I'm asking what you want. You don't want him
 24 to be under this restriction, do you?
 25

- 1 **A. I have no want one way or another on that.**
 2 **Q.** Do you think this whole process is unfair to
 3 Monsignor Grundhaus?
 4 **A. No.**
 5 **Q.** Do you think you have treated Ron Vasek with
 6 the respect he deserved?
 7 **A. Absolutely.**
 8 **Q.** Aside from Baumgartner -- aside from what you
 9 believe Baumgartner did, did the diocese send
 10 the case to the CDF?
 11 **A. Contacted the CDS, yes -- CDF, yes.**
 12 **Q.** How? By what means?
 13 **A. When they received information from Father**
 14 **Baumgartner, they contacted me and I**
 15 **responded.**
 16 **Q.** So it was actually Baumgartner on his own felt
 17 the CDF had to know and then the CDF contacted
 18 the diocese and said, "Hey, Baumgartner made a
 19 report here, what's the deal?" Right?
 20 **A. Correct.**
 21 **Q.** I want to ask you some questions. It's 11:30.
 22 I could finish by noon, so --
 23 **MR. BRAUN:** You okay to keep going
 24 or --
 25 **THE WITNESS:** Sure.

- 1 **MR. BRAUN:** -- you want to take a
 2 break?
 3 **THE WITNESS:** Sure.
 4 **MR. BRAUN:** Okay.
 5 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**
 6 **Q.** I want to ask you some questions about a
 7 priest, Father Joseph Richards. That's a file
 8 that has been disclosed to us, which we've had
 9 the benefit of reviewing, and when in time, if
 10 at all, did you ever receive any information
 11 that Father Joseph Richards was either
 12 suspected of or reported to have been engaged
 13 in some inappropriate conduct with youth?
 14 **A. When the Braun folks reviewed our files just**
 15 **recently, my understanding it's not Father**
 16 **Richards who was accused or -- or -- or there**
 17 **was concern -- it was not about Father**
 18 **Richards.**
 19 **Q.** So how do you know Father Richards?
 20 **A. Father Richards is a priest of the Diocese of**
 21 **Crookston. I came to know him when I came**
 22 **here.**
 23 **Q.** And he's a friend?
 24 **A. He's a friend.**
 25 (Discussion out of the hearing of

- 1 the court reporter)
 2 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**
 3 **Q.** I'm going to show you an exhibit we've marked,
 4 Exhibit 3, Bishop, and this has been produced
 5 in litigation here. It's three pages, it's a
 6 psychosocial history pertaining to Reverend
 7 Joseph D. Richards dated July 14th, 1993. And
 8 it's correct first when it comes to Father
 9 Richards, he has been in ministry and was
 10 until 2015, correct?
 11 **A. (Examining documents) He's still in ministry.**
 12 **Q.** Excuse me, he's still in ministry and was
 13 appointed in 2015?
 14 (Discussion out of the hearing of
 15 the court reporter)
 16 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**
 17 **Q.** Okay. Excuse me. So let me just get the
 18 question right so I can give you an
 19 opportunity to get the answer that I'm trying
 20 to understand.
 21 Father Richards has been
 22 continuously in ministry in the Diocese of
 23 Crookston both, as far as you know, prior to
 24 your installation as bishop and continuously
 25 while you have worked as bishop for the last

1 11 years?

2 **A. Correct.**

3 **Q.** In this report at the bottom of the second
4 paragraph, it says, "He also experienced the
5 death of his father in February 1992. In
6 addition, he feels that he has problems with
7 sexual compulsivity and considers himself to
8 be sexually addicted." Did you read that?

9 **A. I see that, uh huh.**

10 **Q.** When is the first time you saw that?

11 **A. Right now.**

12 **Q.** That's the same language that was used by St.
13 John Vianney when they described Father
14 Sullivan, isn't it --

15 **A. Well --**

16 **Q.** -- "sexual compulsivity"?

17 **A. Is it?**

18 **Q.** Showing you the second page of this report, at
19 the bottom of it, under "Psycho/Sexual
20 History," second paragraph, it states, "Joseph
21 said that he considers himself to be bisexual
22 at this time, although he has never had sexual
23 relations. He admits to feeling somewhat
24 confused regarding his sexuality. He feels
25 this his masturbation, need for pornography

1 and sexual fantasizing would become out of
2 control whenever he would go out of town.
3 When he began to have fantasies about abusing
4 a child and felt an attraction towards
5 children, he decided to voluntarily seek
6 help." Have you read this before?

7 **A. No.**

8 **Q.** Does this, the reading of this and seeing this
9 in this psycho/sexual evaluation done cause
10 you to be willing to re-examine his assignment
11 in ministry given this professional assessment
12 and his self-report?

13 **A. Not at this time, no.**

14 **Q.** Bishop, I'm gonna ask you to take a look at
15 this. This is serious. And if you haven't
16 seen it before, I really think you need to act
17 on this. And I'm just going to invite you to
18 re-examine your position on this. If you
19 hadn't seen it before, I understand how that
20 works. But I do not understand that you
21 wouldn't want to nor should you -- I do not
22 understand that you wouldn't want to now,
23 having read this, us having looked at this, us
24 having now seen this --

25 **MR. CAMAROTTO:** Is there a question,

1 counsel?

2 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

3 **Q.** -- how you wouldn't want to do that. So are
4 you willing, thus, to reconsider your position
5 of Richards' status in ministry given this
6 information?

7 **A. I'll read this statement (Examining
8 documents).**

9 (Discussion out of the hearing of
10 the court reporter)

11 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

12 **Q.** I'm going to show you in the same exhibit, at
13 the last page under "Impressions," the last
14 sentence I'm going to read. It says, "His
15 fantasies regarding children, while not
16 uncommon for sexual abuse victims, are
17 disturbing and should be treated as a cry for
18 help. He would probably benefit from an
19 intensive inpatient program." Have you read
20 that before?

21 **A. No.**

22 **Q.** Did you know that before now?

23 **A. No.**

24 **Q.** Do you agree this needs to be visited?

25 **A. I -- I'll read this statement.**

1 (Discussion out of the hearing of
2 the court reporter)

3 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

4 **Q.** I'm going to show you Exhibit 29. And this is
5 a handwritten statement that's been produced
6 and it states, "On Wednesday, October 11th,
7 Joe Richards met with Bishop Balke and
8 myself" --

9 **A. Do you know what date this is, what year?**

10 **Q.** We don't have a year. It's not -- we're not
11 sure.

12 **MR. ANDERSON:** Do you have a year,
13 Tom? I don't know.

14 **MR. BRAUN:** No. It wasn't dated. I
15 mean, October 11th was the date that we had on
16 top of it, but --

17 **MR. ANDERSON:** Yeah.

18 **MR. BRAUN:** We copied --

19 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

20 **Q.** Well, we know that Bishop Balke was there and
21 so we can narrow it down to that right now for
22 today at least. And he says, "I met, Bishop
23 Balke and myself, to share that 16 or 17 years
24 ago, he, Joe at the age of 15, sexually abused
25 a five- or six-year-old boy he was

- 1 baby-sitting." Did you know that Father Joe
2 Richards had admitted to having done that?
- 3 **A. I believe Monsignor Foltz told me about this
note when it came to light.**
- 4 **Q.** Okay.
- 5 **A. Yeah.**
- 6 **Q.** But he didn't tell you about the psycho/sexual
7 report and the history of --
- 8 **A. I've never seen that before (Indicating).**
- 9 **Q.** Do you think you should go back and ask
10 Monsignor Foltz why he didn't tell you about
11 the psycho/sexual history that appears in the
12 file of Richards that we now have possession
13 of and referred to as exhibit -- whatever it
14 is?
- 15 **A. I don't know.**
- 16 **Q.** Okay. I'll ask him.
17 (Discussion out of the hearing of
18 the court reporter)
- 19 MR. ANDERSON: We're just about
20 done. We've got Bishop's notes. Let's use
21 the restroom, I'll look at the notes --
- 22 MR. BRAUN: Okay.
- 23 MR. ANDERSON: -- then we'll
24 reconvene and we'll finish up.
25

- 1 MR. BRAUN: Okay.
- 2 MR. WALLIN: We are going off the
3 record at 11:42 a.m.
4 (Recess taken)
- 5 MR. WALLIN: We are back on the
6 record at 12:13 p.m.
7 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 8 **Q.** All right. During a break we did have an
9 opportunity to get a copy of and review the
10 notes pertaining to some of the meetings that
11 you had with Ron Vasek where you thought you
12 had taken notes.
- 13 **A. Right.**
- 14 MR. ANDERSON: And it turns out, Mr.
15 Braun, you had them and you gave them to us
16 and we now have reviewed them and came to the
17 realization that they had not been produced.
18 I can tell you that that is inadvertence, it
19 is not an intentional thing. We know that we
20 have worked with you and your office long
enough that stuff happens where we miss it and
that would -- that would account for this. So
there's no bad faith and nothing like that.
- 23 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 24 **Q.** All it requires, then, Bishop is for us to

- 1 maybe go through the notes --
- 2 **A. Okay.**
- 3 **Q.** -- that were made contemporaneous to those
4 things. That both can help you refresh your
5 memory and give us an account of your best
6 recollection.
- 7 **A. Okay. Good.**
- 8 **Q.** So having said that, let's start with --
9 MS. LINDSTROM: Here's a stack.
10 MR. ANDERSON: Okay.
11 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 12 **Q.** I'm going to show you first -- let's go
13 through what these are. When you look at the
14 first one that's marked Exhibit 42, and that's
15 a typewritten reflecting notes of 9-13-11 and
16 9-14-11; and then behind it is marked 42A,
17 which are your handwritten notes. Is that
18 your handwritten --
- 19 **A. (Indicating) Yup.**
- 20 **Q.** Okay. So we'll put those right together
21 because that's really one exhibit because --
22 and then the next one is Exhibit 43, which
23 would be the transcription done of your
24 handwritten notes, which are marked 43A. Do
25 you see that?

- 1 **A. I got it.**
- 2 **Q.** Okay. And then a third exhibit we'll review
3 together is 44, which, again, is a
4 transcription and then we have the handwriting
5 done by you of the notes.
- 6 **A. Got it.**
- 7 **Q.** Okay.
- 8 **A. Thank you.**
- 9 **Q.** So let's go through the three exhibits
10 together, starting with Exhibit 42.
- 11 **A. Okay.**
- 12 **Q.** We had already asked you some questions this
13 morning about the call you got from Monsignor
14 Goering. Your recollection was that Goering
15 had not told you anything about a sexual abuse
16 allegation against Grundhaus. We've reviewed
17 those notes and I think the notes show that in
18 fact otherwise, so why don't we just walk you
19 through what your handwritten notes say here.
- 20 **A. Okay.**
- 21 **Q.** And I think probably you should look at your
22 handwriting.
23 MR. ANDERSON: Tom, do you know, was
24 this transcription done by your office or his
25 office?

1 MR. BRAUN: It was done by Bishop's
2 secretary with Bishop's assistance in the
3 event that there was any undecipherable
4 writing.

5 MR. ANDERSON: Okay. So to walk
6 through this as best we can, do you think we
7 should use the typewritten one then?

8 MR. BRAUN: I think we could use the
9 typewritten and then refer back to the hand,
10 if needed, because I think Bishop's confirmed
11 that the typewritten is in fact an accurate
12 transcription of the handwritten notes.

13 MR. ANDERSON: Okay.

14 MR. BRAUN: Correct, Bishop?

15 THE WITNESS: Correct.

16 BY MR. ANDERSON:

17 Q. Let's use Exhibit 42, then, just because you
18 had a hand in the transcription, you're the
19 best person to help us discern it, given that
20 it's your handwritten notes that was done some
21 years ago.

22 So referring you to the typewritten
23 Exhibit 42, Bishop, why don't you just read
24 what your notes say here? And because he
25 writes this down, we try to talk more slowly

1 because we talk faster when we read.

2 A. **Okay. This was a phone conversation with**
3 **Monsignor Goering. Vasek said -- this is**
4 **Monsignor Goering telling me, I guess, huh?**

5 Q. Uh huh.

6 A. **"Ron Vasek said when he was 16 - he drove down**
7 **to canon law convention with Monsignor**
8 **Grundhaus," and monsignor tried to fondle him**
9 **when he was sitting on his bed in his**
10 **underwear. He told him to stop. Monsignor**
11 **talked to Ron five years ago and asked his**
12 **forgiveness and told him this was the only**
13 **time that he ever did that. The note says if**
14 **-- Monsignor Goering says if Ron told anyone,**
15 **"Monsignor said he would deny it." Ron is**
16 **wondering if he is in fact the only one, but**
17 **he's not looking for anything. He's concerned**
18 **about repercussions and then Monsignor gives**
19 **me Ron's phone number. So I stand corrected**
20 **on -- you asked me did -- did Monsignor**
21 **Grundhaus get named in that conversation. The**
22 **answer would be yes.**

23 Q. So, then, when we go to September 14th, why
24 don't you continue in the same pace?

25 A. **Okay. This is my calling Mr. Vasek. Did you**

1 **want to talk about this? Did you want to**
2 **bring the matter up? I told him I received a**
3 **call from Monsignor Goering. Told me about a**
4 **conversation, you, Ron, had with him regarding**
5 **something some years ago about you and**
6 **Monsignor Grundhaus. "Do you recall? I'm**
7 **calling as a follow-up." I will -- happy to**
8 **visit with you about this if you'd like to**
9 **make an official complaint or an accusation,**
10 **Father David Baumgartner would take that and**
11 **that would begin our following the directives**
12 **of the charter and norms. And we set up an**
13 **appointment for Monday at nine.**

14 Q. The next paragraph as you read that, I had a
15 hard time discerning that. Are these notes to
16 yourself or what --

17 A. **I think they are.**

18 Q. -- are you able to discern for us?

19 A. **I think -- I think this is what I set out in**
20 **my notes and then I called him. So, "Would**
21 **you like to speak about this?" So I will call**
22 **him, question mark, which I did. "Would you**
23 **like to speak about this?" And which I asked**
24 **him. "Did you want Monsignor to call me?"**
25 **Monsignor Goering. Because he did call me.**

1 **Did you want him to? "Did you want me to call**
2 **you?" And I did. You certainly could have**
3 **called me yourself. These are just -- and**
4 **then I did go ahead and make the call. That's**
5 **my recollection.**

6 Q. So are those things that you actually
7 expressed to Ron or are these notes in your
8 own head?

9 A. **I believe the top part, not the questions down**
10 **here, I believe the top part is the**
11 **conversation that I had with him.**

12 Q. And the bottom part is just more notes to
13 yourself?

14 A. **Beforehand. That's my recollection.**

15 Q. Got it. Now let's go, then, to 43. And 43A
16 is your handwritten, let's refer to 43 and ask
17 you to slowly walk us through that. And if I
18 need to or want to, I'll stop and perhaps ask
19 questions, if necessary.

20 A. **Okay. How we doing? So Ron came in, he told**
21 **me he thought about what he was gonna say for**
22 **some 40 years --**

23 Q. So this is like five days later now after
24 the --

25 A. **It's the following Monday.**

1 Q. Okay.
 2 A. He comes in with some fear and trepidation,
 3 but no animosity. He says he's not looking
 4 for any monetary gain. He describes his story
 5 is that when he was in around the eighth
 6 grade, Monsignor was in his first assignment
 7 around 1968. When Ron was 16, he had just
 8 gotten his driver's license, he recalls. He
 9 asked -- was asked to drive with Monsignor to
 10 Columbus, Ohio, Canon Law Society of America
 11 convention. He recalls he didn't have a lot
 12 of money. I don't remember exactly what that
 13 conversation was. They were gonna get
 14 something to eat.

15 So the first night or the second,
 16 the note says, as he was sitting on his bed,
 17 watching TV, Father touched his genitals. He
 18 said he backed away and never said anything
 19 and never said another thing about it. He
 20 didn't think about it. He likened it like a
 21 brother would do, like something a brother
 22 would do.

23 The next year, he says he drove with
 24 Monsignor again to Peoria Canon Law Society of
 25 America meeting. There was a blizzard,

1 though, and they never made it to the
 2 convention. What had happened the year before
 3 never bothered him. Monsignor was the priest
 4 that married himself and his wife Pat. The
 5 relationship with Monsignor was good. He was
 6 there for his brother's funeral. Monsignor
 7 was good to the family.

8 So it says here, when the abuse
 9 thing, the charter in 2000 started up, he
 10 wondered if Monsignor had done this to someone
 11 else. I don't know what "more and more him"
 12 means. Ron had never told anybody, except
 13 Father Leffer, I don't know the spelling on
 14 that, and Monsignor and himself. But Ron kept
 15 hearing more about sexual abuse of clergy of
 16 minors and how shuffled under the rug.

17 Then he names a -- a priest -- a
 18 former priest of the Crookston Diocese, Rick
 19 Boyd, he heard about him. He didn't know
 20 whether it was true what he heard about him.
 21 It was on Catholic Radio on -- on -- on the
 22 abuse issue and about grooming and wondered if
 23 he was groomed. So he kept thinking, and this
 24 was in the back of his mind, the thing with
 25 Monsignor, huh? Five years, I think that

1 refers back to the Columbus, Ohio, reference,
 2 to five years, Monsignor Grundhaus talked to
 3 him and asked forgiveness. Said what he'd
 4 done was inappropriate, he should not have
 5 done it. That Monsignor had confessed it in
 6 the Sacrament of Reconciliation, but he asked
 7 Ron's forgiveness, said he needed Ron's
 8 forgiveness. This is what Ron said Monsignor
 9 said, that what he had done was inappropriate,
 10 it shouldn't have been done -- I'm repeating
 11 that. He'd done it in a weak moment. Again,
 12 Ron says, how did Ron know that this was the
 13 only one.

14 Q. Before it said, "A week later, bugging me."

15 A. Yeah, I don't know what that is, "a week
 16 later." I don't know what the "week later"
 17 is.

18 Q. Does that mean a week after he confessed it
 19 and asked for forgiveness, he started bugging
 20 him?

21 A. Yeah, I don't know what that means.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. There's a period after okay, so Monsignor said
 24 it was a weak moment. Okay. I don't know
 25 what that's saying.

1 Q. Got it.

2 A. Again, Ron says how does he know he's the only
 3 person. At one point, I think, Ron said he
 4 came into Monsignor's office, and this would
 5 have been when Monsignor was the vicar
 6 general, huh? And asked him how he ended up
 7 being in charge of these things. I presume
 8 sexual abuse of minors. "How thru process" is
 9 what it says. I don't know. "Had to lie."
 10 Don't know what that means. But he'd like to
 11 know, Ron would like to know if there ever was
 12 anyone else. He can forgive Monsignor, but
 13 what about others? And Monsignor said it
 14 never happened again: "I give you my word."
 15 If it ever came out, Monsignor again -- Ron
 16 says Monsignor said he would deny it.

17 I wondered if he lied to me, Ron.
 18 And then there -- again, there's no others,
 19 what he just denied. So he asked again, "I
 20 have to know, was I the only one?" And
 21 Monsignor said yes. Again, Ron says I looked
 22 at it as a brother-to-brother thing and it --
 23 so it didn't bother me and he left it alone.

24 I don't -- this next thing I think
 25 refers to Father visiting their home. I don't

1 -- he used the restroom, the bathroom. I
2 don't -- I don't recall this. Something on a
3 health supplement he saw in the bathroom, says
4 this really suppressed my sexual desire. I
5 think that refers to what was on the -- I
6 don't know -- on the supplement that he saw in
7 the restroom, in the bathroom.

8 Q. Just going back a moment. I read this to say,
9 "Left it - then last spring Father called me.
10 Call in house. Noticed the spray in the
11 bathroom. You should come to a meeting,
12 health supplement said, 'It has really
13 suppressed my sexual desire.'" Is that --

14 A. Yeah, that's what it says.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. And I don't know exactly what that refers to.
17 I don't remember. Then Ron said there was --
18 they were visiting or he was visiting with

19 He remembered

20
21 Then it says, I
22 don't know who said it, or Ron thought it, it
23 just says, "All those guys there gay." "I
24 don't feel safe." And Ron says he remembers
25 thinking Father Grundhaus went to Crosier,

1 Ron again says -- do you just want me to
2 read that?

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. It says, next says, "Father G," Grundhaus,
5 "invited 4 guys to go to Crosier..visit it.
6 So process it." Ron says, "I didn't know if I
7 should say anything" again. He felt
8 compelled, maybe for his sake, Monsignor
9 Grundhaus to get help, "he get help. If he
10 struggling with that issue." When he was 18
11 "Wondering. No problem. Danger? No.
12 Process? No. Complaint? No."

13 You know, again, as I said in my
14 testimony before, I invited Ron to bring this
15 to the process, to make a complaint using the
16 charter and he said no. Does Ron -- does
17 Monsignor need help? Was he screwed up in
18 Crosier? Did he "get it fixed?? How do you
19 feel?" How's that? So that was the nine --
20 9-19 meeting.

21 Q. And so the reading of that -- when was the
22 last time you had read or reviewed these
23 notes?

24 A. Oh, some time ago. I -- I can't tell you.

25 Q. Did you do it recently in preparation for

1 today?

2 A. I maybe read last -- no. I did not -- I did
3 not look at these in preparation for today.

4 Q. Okay. All right. And then the third one.

5 (Discussion out of the hearing of
6 the court reporter)

7 BY MR. ANDERSON:

8 Q. Okay. Now we're turning to Exhibit 44 and the
9 date of this one is October 21st, 2015. This
10 is four years after the notes you've
11 identified and read, Exhibit 43 and 44, where
12 it's in the year 2011, so we're four years
13 down the road here. And so these are notes --
14 what does Exhibit 44 reflect, Bishop?

15 A. This is the -- the day that Mr. Vasek came to
16 my home. Okay. And I'm writing -- again,
17 this process, there is Ron Vasek's phone
18 numbers there at the top. And you go with
19 Leffer, is Father Leffer, this is just in my
20 mind reviewing how this came about. Ron had
21 talked -- Ron Vasek had talked to Father
22 Leffer, who talked to Father Gary, who also
23 talked to Father Vasek -- Mr. Vasek about an
24 Ohio meeting and then it came to me, Bishop
25 Hoepfner.

1 "If any okay filed," it says there.
2 Ron did not want this to be public. I think
3 I've mentioned that. Not be public. And then
4 we discussed if Monsignor Grundhaus has an
5 issue. As I mentioned how we left it, Ron
6 would call him, do you want to make a formal
7 accusation? Do you want to bring forth an
8 accusation? No. So then my note, "Ron Vasek
9 does not want to make an accusation. If
10 Father Grundhaus has an issue feel free to
11 call Ron Vasek." That's how we left that.

12 And on the left side, again, a
13 summary, Father -- Mr. Vasek went to Father
14 Leffer for spiritual help and healing.
15 Father Leffer (sic) said he'd talk -- take it
16 -- talk it to his chancellor, which he did,
17 Father Gary. Father Gary made a report to
18 Ohio and called Bishop Hoepfner. Bishop
19 Hoepfner talked with Ron Vasek, "who not want
20 to lodge an accusation." That's what the note
21 says.

22 Q. So according to the notes you made
23 contemporaneous to the various meetings in
24 2011 and now most recently Exhibit 44, 2015,
25 it's very clear that Ron had reported this to

- 1 some folks in Fargo, Father Goering, Father
2 Leffler (sic), the Ohio Columbus police had
3 all now had this information reported to them?
4 **A. That's correct.**
5 **Q.** And all of that had been done by others before
6 Ron meets with you on October 21st, 2015,
7 correct?
8 **A. I -- I don't know about the reporting to Ohio,**
9 **whether indeed that was something Monsignor**
10 **Goering did subsequent to 2011. I -- I don't**
11 **know when that -- I don't know when that**
12 **happened.**
13 **Q.** Well, Ohio is referred to here.
14 **A. But this is 2015.**
15 **Q.** Yeah.
16 **A. So by then, certainly.**
17 **Q.** Yeah, by then certainly, yes. Okay.
18 So when we go back to Exhibit 6,
19 which is the letter you prepared for Ron's
20 signature dated October 21, 2015, do you have
21 that before you?
22 **A. Got it somewhere in here, yeah. Here it is --**
23 **no. Yup. This one (Indicating).**
24 **Q.** Yeah, okay. Exhibit 6 you have before you.
25 You testified that that's Ron's signature,

- 1 correct?
2 **A. Correct.**
3 **Q.** And you testified that this document has never
4 been altered, that this is a copy of the
5 original that you prepared, but has since been
6 destroyed, correct?
7 **A. It's a copy --**
8 MR. BRAUN: Objection, misstates the
9 testimony. I believe the electronic copy has
10 been destroyed. The original copy we're still
11 in possession of and Ron has inspected it.
12 BY MR. ANDERSON:
13 **Q.** So the original was kept by you where?
14 **A. Correct, in a file.**
15 **Q.** Okay. And what else pertaining to this was in
16 that file?
17 **A. There's the you're-being-sued statements that**
18 **came from your office or -- I believe those**
19 **are in that file. There's some correspondence**
20 **with the Congregation for Doctrine of the**
21 **Faith, Congregation for Clergy. It's just a**
22 **file of -- of the Ron Vasek case.**
23 **Q.** What is the CDF doing with the Vasek case?
24 **A. They gave it to the Congregation of Clergy.**
25 **Q.** And have you heard what they're doing and/or

- 1 what activity there is, if any?
2 **A. Right, the last they wrote me wondered about**
3 **the preliminary investigation. I reported to**
4 **them. I sent -- sent that all over to them**
5 **and they acknowledged that they received it**
6 **and that I was the one to make the determine**
7 **-- to ultimately make the determination on**
8 **what to do with Monsignor Grundhaus.**
9 **Q.** Who advised you that you were authorized to
10 make a determination from the CDF?
11 **A. That's canon law for Congregation for Clergy.**
12 **Q.** Who by name?
13 **A. Cardinal Stella.**
14 **Q.** Okay. S-t-e-l-l-a?
15 **A. I believe so.**
16 **Q.** Is he at CDF?
17 **A. No. He's at Congregation for Clergy.**
18 **Q.** Okay. So it went from CDF to Congregation for
19 Clergy?
20 **A. Correct.**
21 **Q.** Did they tell you why?
22 **A. Because canonically speaking, it's not a case**
23 **of a minor -- involving a minor.**
24 **Q.** Because under the canon, the 1917 canon and
25 the 19 --

- 1 **A. '83.**
2 **Q.** '83 canon, it's not a crime against a minor if
3 the youth is over the age of 16, correct?
4 **A. Seventeen, 18. Probably 16, yeah.**
5 **Q.** Age of 16.
6 **A. Yeah. I'd have to go back in my law. Yeah,**
7 **I'd say 16.**
8 **Q.** Okay. Where was this Exhibit 6, this letter
9 that Ron signed and dated or backdated in your
10 office kept before we sued the diocese? Where
11 was it kept by you?
12 **A. I believe in my desk.**
13 **Q.** And what else was kept with this letter
14 pertaining to this matter, if anything?
15 **A. I -- I took a manila folder and I started to**
16 **put things in it. And as they came, I put**
17 **things in it. My notes were not in it**
18 **originally until I produced copies, huh? They**
19 **were in my -- my notebook. So just at the**
20 **beginning of -- since 2011, just the -- the**
21 **letter was in there.**
22 **Q.** Now, Bishop, you had told me and us earlier
23 that you took no action responsive to Ron's
24 report to you and the account he gave to you
25 because he asked you to keep it private, is

- 1 that correct?
- 2 **A. Confidential.**
- 3 **Q.** The fact is, you knew and your notes record
 4 that it was already not confidential that
 5 Father Leffler (sic) and Father Goering
 6 already knew what he had accused Grundhaus of,
 7 correct?
- 8 **A. Correct.**
- 9 **Q.** And you also learned, as I think your notes
 10 reflect, that Fargo and, I think it was,
 11 Goering actually reported to the Ohio --
 12 Columbus, Ohio, police department, correct?
- 13 **A. Sometime after -- sometime around 2000, I
 14 don't know the date, but it was -- it was
 15 then, yes, it was brought up.**
- 16 **Q.** And so you knew that, notwithstanding what you
 17 claim his request to you was, that it was not
 18 only known by Leffler (sic), Goering, but it
 19 was known by the police, correct?
- 20 **A. It was gonna be known by the police or yes,
 21 being reported.**
- 22 **Q.** And then you testified that Exhibit 6 was
 23 prepared by you and the singular motivation
 24 was to respect his desire to keep it private,
 25 is that what you say today?

- 1 **A. His desire for me to keep it confidential.**
- 2 **Q.** But he had already told these people and that
 3 had all happened and now you're having him
 4 recant and he is on this writing that you've
 5 prepared that you wrote is recanting. Why
 6 didn't it just say, "He abused me, but I want
 7 it private"?
- 8 MR. BRAUN: Objection, misstates the
 9 evidence, argumentative.
- 10 MR. CAMAROTTO: Join.
- 11 **A. The statement, as I understood it and
 12 understand it, is not recanting. It's saying,
 13 "I don't want to bring forward an accusation.
 14 I do not make any -- I have no desire to nor
 15 do I make any accusation freely."
 16 BY MR. ANDERSON:**
- 17 **Q.** Well, you prepared that, so what does that
 18 mean to you when you typed this up for him to
 19 sign, what is it that you are saying that you
 20 had him sign there?
- 21 **A. That he asked me to keep it confidential. And
 22 I invited him, if he wanted to bring it
 23 forward, that it's done through the vicar
 24 general. And he's telling me he does not
 25 wanna do that.**

- 1 **Q.** So as you wrote it, you didn't consider it a
 2 recantation?
- 3 **A. Absolutely not.**
- 4 **Q.** Okay.
- 5 **A. Yeah.**
- 6 **Q.** Simply a request that it not be further
 7 publicly disseminated?
- 8 **A. It's not my request. It was his request in
 9 writing.**
- 10 **Q.** Why is this document not saved, Exhibit 6,
 11 when your notes are saved?
- 12 **A. I did save this note.**
- 13 **Q.** You did not save it in your computer; you
 14 saved it separately?
- 15 **A. Correct.**
- 16 **Q.** And where were the notes saved?
- 17 **A. In my notebook.**
- 18 **Q.** And when were the notes first shared with
 19 anybody?
- 20 **A. When the suit came, I believe.**
 21 (Discussion out of the hearing of
 22 the court reporter)
 23 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 24 **Q.** At some point in time, Ron Vasek's progress in
 25 his deaconate was -- he was led to believe

- 1 that he was on track, and then Father Ilango
 2 and -- I can't -- was it --
 3 (Discussion out of the hearing of
 4 the court reporter)
 5 BY MR. ANDERSON:
- 6 **Q.** -- Schriener advised him that a decision had
 7 been made to delay -- a decision had been made
 8 by you to delay his deaconate for a year. Do
 9 you remember, why did you delay his deaconate?
- 10 **A. Okay. So to be clear, the last thing I spoke
 11 with Ron Vasek about ordination was in April
 12 of 2017, the ordination happening in June.
 13 And I last told him he -- I -- I would ordain
 14 him. I never told him I would not ordain him.
 15 So what you just said is not correct. In
 16 fact, his name is on the invitation that went
 17 out to the public. So he's -- it's incorrect
 18 that -- I never told him he would not be
 19 ordained.**
- 20 **Q.** Was it delayed?
- 21 **A. I found out that he dropped out. Father
 22 Schriener didn't tell me, Mr. Vasek didn't tell
 23 me. He dropped out.**
- 24 **Q.** There's a document somewhere that shows that
 25 it was delayed and that came as a surprise to

1 him for one year before he dropped out. What
2 can you tell me about that, if that is the
3 case?

4 **A. A letter from Father Ilango, the sponsoring
5 pastor, stating he's getting notice from
6 parishioners that Mr. Vasek should not be
7 ordained. So he writes me and I meet with him
8 and he suggests to me --**

9 **Q.** Okay. We gotta stop right here for a moment
10 because he's running out of tape. I'm sorry.

11 **A. Okay.**

12 MR. WALLIN: We are going off the
13 record at 12:49 p.m.

14 (Recess taken)

15 MR. WALLIN: We are back on the
16 record. This is the continuing video
17 deposition of Bishop Michael Hoepfner taken on
18 November 27, 2018. The time now is 12:52 p.m.
19 BY MR. ANDERSON:

20 **Q.** Bishop, a few more questions. You had
21 referred to Father Ilango and that he had sent
22 a letter. I put before you Exhibit 7. Is
23 that the letter that Father Ilango prepared
24 and sent to you concerning Ron Vasek and the
25 postponement of his deaconate?

1 **A. It is. Father Ilango -- and I -- you know, we
2 don't have a date on this, but subsequent to
3 meeting with him about his letter, I met with
4 Mr. Vasek in April before the deacon
5 ordination was scheduled for June. And it was
6 not my idea that ordination be delayed or
7 deferred for a year. It was Father Ilango's
8 suggestion. I went through the matter with
9 Mr. Vasek. And in that April meeting, I told
10 him I would ordain him.**

11 **And subsequent to that, shortly
12 after that was the Saturday morning ceremony
13 for the people of that class at the chapel.
14 And he was included in that as a step coming
15 to ordination. And only after that, sometime
16 in May, did I hear, not from Mr. Vasek, not
17 from Father Schriener, that Mr. Vasek dropped
18 out, chose not to be ordained.**

19 **Q.** Well, look at the exhibit, Exhibit 7. It
20 says, "Dear Bishop Hoepfner, from Father
21 Ilango," it says, "As pastor of Sacred Heart,
22 I write you concerning Ron Vasek who is in
23 deaconate formation. I spent a
24 year-and-a-half working with and getting to
25 know Ron. I as pastor recommend that Ron's

1 ordination to the deaconate be postponed and
2 reviewed in a year." And you're the one that
3 makes the decision, right?

4 **A. Correct.**

5 **Q.** So this isn't evidence of Ron withdrawing,
6 this is evidence of you to Father Ilango
7 delaying his deaconate, correct?

8 **A. No.**

9 MR. BRAUN: Objection, misstates the
10 evidence.

11 **A. No.**

12 **BY MR. ANDERSON:**

13 **Q.** So is it your testimony that the deaconate or
14 the delay, if there is one, as evidenced by
15 this, in Ron's deaconate has nothing to do
16 with the fact that he brought an accusation
17 against Father Grundhaus and a suit against
18 the Diocese of Crookston for its handling of
19 the matter?

20 **A. To repeat, Father Ilango makes a suggestion.
21 I visit with Mr. Vasek about it. At the
22 conclusion of that meeting, I told Mr. Vasek I
23 would ordain him before any suit, before any
24 other business. He, Mr. Vasek, on his own,
25 after I told him I would ordain him, dropped**

1 **out.**

2 **Q.** Well, this says, "postponed a year."

3 **A. That's what the suggestion was that I did not
4 take.**

5 **Q.** What's the date of this letter?

6 **A. We do not have a date, but it was before April
7 of 2017. That's when I met with Mr. Vasek.**

8 **Q.** When do you claim that he dropped out?

9 **A. After that. And there are plenty of people
10 that can attest to that. He dropped out. I
11 believe he was telling people they -- they had
12 a ceremony Saturday and then -- I believe the
13 timeline. Then in May there was a retreat
14 that the -- the deacon candidates went on.
15 And Mr. Vasek is telling people at that
16 retreat that he isn't gonna be ordained. And
17 I hear about it after, that's my recollection.**

18 **Q.** So how long after this letter was sent by
19 Father Ilango -- and you're the ultimate
20 ordainer, correct?

21 **A. Correct.**

22 **Q.** You have the authority to delay, postpone or
23 deny, correct?

24 **A. Correct.**

25 **Q.** So how long after this letter was sent by

1 Father Ilango with your authority and to you
 2 about the postponement of his deaconate --
 3 **A. The letter --**
 4 **Q.** -- did you learn that Ron was, as you claim,
 pulling out?
 6 **A. Right.**
 7 **Q.** I can't remember the word you used.
 8 **A. So, number one, Father Ilango did not write**
 9 **this letter at my bidding. You had that in**
 10 **there somewhere. He wrote it on his own. I**
 11 **met with Mr. Vasek in April. May came, I**
 12 **believe was the ordination, and only then did**
 13 **I hear, not from Mr. Vasek, not from Father**
 14 **Schriner, but from other candidates that Mr.**
 15 **Vasek had dropped out, that he was not going**
 16 **to be ordained. That's -- that's what he was**
 17 **telling them. It was news to me.**
 18 **Q.** And you learned that he had dropped out, that
 19 was after he'd brought the allegations forward
 20 and began to work --
 21 **A. No.**
 22 **Q.** -- with us or before?
 23 **A. Before, I believe.**
 24 (Discussion out of the hearing of
 25 the court reporter)

1 MR. ANDERSON: That's all I have.
 2 Thank you.
 3 MR. BRAUN: We'll read and sign, but
 4 before we go off the record, I just want to
 5 make something clear, that this is being taken
 6 under a protective order. Mr. Vasek has a
 7 website where he's published numerous
 8 documents and information related to this
 9 case. I trust that you'll communicate with
 10 him about the nature of the protective order
 11 and republishing documents stemming from this
 12 deposition.
 13 MR. ANDERSON: Yes.
 14 MR. BRAUN: Thank you.
 15 MR. ANDERSON: We, I think, will
 16 have to share with him the information.
 17 MR. BRAUN: Understood.
 18 MR. ANDERSON: And deposition, but
 19 we will also advise him that there is a
 20 protective order and this is not a deposition
 that he or we have authority to post. We will
 not post it and we will advise him not to post
 it. He will follow that advice.
 24 MR. BRAUN: And I knew that he would
 25 and that you would give him that advice and I

1 thank you for that, counsel.
 2 MR. ANDERSON: Yeah.
 3 MR. WALLIN: We are going off the
 4 record at 12:59 p.m.
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1 I, BISHOP MICHAEL HOEPPNER, do hereby certify
 2 that I have read the foregoing transcript of
 3 my deposition and believe the same to be true
 4 and correct, except as follows: (Noting the
 5 page number and line number of the change or
 6 addition and the reason for it)
 7
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 19
 20
 21
 22 Subscribed to and sworn
 23 before me this ___ day
 24 of ___, 2018. _____
 25

1 STATE OF MINNESOTA

ss

2 COUNTY OF RAMSEY

3

4 I hereby certify that I reported the
deposition of BISHOP MICHAEL HOEPPNER, on the
27th day of November, 2018, in St. Paul,
Minnesota, and that the witness was by me
first duly sworn to tell the whole truth;

6

7 That the testimony was transcribed under my
direction and is a true record of the
testimony of the witness;

8

9 That the cost of the original has been charged
to the party who noticed the deposition, and
that all parties who ordered copies have been
charged at the same rate for such copies;

11

12 That I am not a relative or employee or
attorney or counsel of any of the parties, or
a relative or employee of such attorney or
counsel;

13

14 That I am not financially interested in the
action and have no contract with the parties,
attorneys, or persons with an interest in the
action that affects or has a substantial
tendency to affect my impartiality;

16

17 That the right to read and sign the deposition
by the witness was not waived, and a copy was
provided to him for his review;

18

19 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS 2nd day
of December, 2018.

20

Gary W. Hermes

21

22

23

24

25

Bishop Hoepfner

10-27-14

Dear Bishop, by now you probably have been told that I removed myself from the Care Team for [REDACTED] would like to explain my decision.

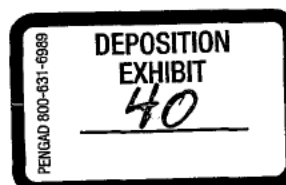
From day one when we interviewed the first couple I told Fr. David that this would not end well for [REDACTED]. I also told him that most of our present litigation was for allegations that happened quite some time ago, before our time. I said this one is on us. We have to do the right thing and do it soon. He acted quickly and did the right thing for the Diocese and for [REDACTED]. About a week or so later the initial assessment came in from St. John Vianney Center. It was determined that he was at a high risk to reoffend, so it was determined that he needed to stay for some in-patient care.

The next step was to consult the Board of Review; you agreed and we did. At the initial meeting the board reviewed the assessment report and the two complaints that we had received against [REDACTED]. At that time Board chairman John Jeffrey's stated that we know from previous experience that treatment for this type of behavior does not work. To sum up the first meeting it was 6-0 that he should not be put back into ministry. We as a Diocese could not take that chance.

I attended a couple of the phone interviews with his counselors and I would have to say it did not sound very good. He even has the guts to threaten to sue the Diocese for Reathel and me attending the sessions. That was a big red flag for me. If you have nothing to hide and really want to return to ministry he should have been cooperating at every step of the process. I knew from previous experience with a family member that he would eventually see that the only way out of St. John's Vianney center was to tell them what they wanted to hear and become the model patient. Which of course he did and that is why he received a pretty favorable exit report.

The Board of Review met again to discuss this case and to review a summary of the services that St. John's Vianney had provided. It was an interesting meeting because Fr. Super was not present for the meeting and I never did hear why he did not attend. The tone of that meeting was very similar to the first meeting, except this time chairman Jeffrey's seemed to be wavering from his original statement. There never was another vote taken but my recollection of the meeting is that if a vote had been taken it would have been about 5 to 1 against him returning to ministry. Again no actual vote was taken I just based this on the conversation.

The first care team meeting was held in your office. [REDACTED] began his presentation by falsely representing the facts about his relationships with a couple of families. He doesn't even talk about his longtime relationship with a minor ([REDACTED]) that is so secretive that to this day he will not address it.



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I found it real interesting that the very first person he had contact with when he returned from St. John's Vianney center is (). In safe environment we call this behavior "grooming". A little later in the conversation he flat out lied to us when asked a specific question by one of the care team members. You, Fr. Super and I should have known it was a lie but no one else did because they had not been privy to some of the initial information. After the meeting I did meet with Fr. Super and he agreed with me that had in fact lied. I knew then that all the treatment and all the attention had done nothing to change commitment to change. All he could focus on was to keep his little secrets quiet and to continue to manipulate the group. Towards the end of the meeting one of the members asked if we had access to the assessment information and you stated that we did. The meeting eventually ended and I was convinced more than ever that keeping him in ministry was a bad decision. I also learned a long time ago that if you are not the decision-maker that you will agree and disagree with some of the decisions made. I acknowledge that the decision was yours to make.

The next day you and I spoke some more about the care team. I asked you about the lie perpetrated against his care team and you told me that you did not hear the comment he had made and that you would follow up on it with . In addition, you said you needed members who were going to hold up the Diocese and also be able to hold up . I told you at that time that I had no problem holding up the Diocese but I was not sure I could do that for Fr. . You told me that I would have to discern that part for myself but that you would like me to be on the team. Over the next couple of days I determined that I needed to be on the team because the best case scenario would be if Fr. actually wanted to change then maybe there was a slight chance it could work. I also believed that I would know if he was really serious about making the changes needed by attending the meetings and holding him accountable for his actions.

So for the next 6 months I have sat there and watched him set the agenda and only tell us what he wanted us to know. A few weeks ago I asked another member of the care team how they thought it was going and this person shared some of the same concerns that I have. I suggested that we as a care team meet without for an hour or so before our next meeting with so we could clear the air about how this is going. I also asked this person if they had read the initial assessment or exit report. They said they had asked for a copy quite some time ago but had not received it. I told them to ask again. told this person he did not have it. I knew that we had a copy somewhere in this building so I emailed and asked him to call or email Bonnie Sullivan to give me a copy of both of them. Later that day he sent the care team a 7 month self assessment and in the report he states his therapist says we don't need to see the initial assessment because we will get too bogged down with the details. I'll bet you have heard the old saying "that the devil is in the details;" it certainly applies here. The day of the meeting finally replied to my request and stated that he would only provide the exit report but had of course sent us his self assessment so we could discuss this at our meeting. Once again he was even trying to control our meeting. That was simply the last straw for me. I did respond to him my disappointment in him for his manipulative and controlling behavior.

At the care team meeting we held without in attendance there was discussion about the documents. Again I could not talk about what I knew and I explained that to the members that it was their responsibility to gather whatever information they felt they needed. I also shared with them that I

had requested the documents and had been refused. One member reviewed the mission of the care team which simply states that the team is patient driven: he set the agenda, he tells you what he wants you to hear and basically he does what he wants and we sit there and listen. I agreed that if that is our purpose, then there was no real point in attending the meetings because we can't really hold him accountable for anything. I did remind the members that the supposed triggers to his behavior have been present since the first meetings. He has gained 27 pounds, his blood sugar is climbing back up, he has changed his counselor and spiritual director and he is barely exercising and admits he really doesn't want to do it. He doesn't do prayer time with Fr. Chuck unless Fr. Chuck initiates it. He remains in his office watching movies until late in the evening. He informed me that he is taking a vacation and is going to New Orleans. I can't imagine a worse place for someone with his weaknesses to go on vacation. This is another big red flag for me. So I did inform the care team that I was removing myself from any further meetings. I asked the care team to consider what happens in a few months when the group is disbanded, if he is not following his plan with us watching what happens when he is on his own.

My father always told us that our word and our integrity is what we are really measured on. I have not lost my objectivity on the matter of [redacted] I think my instincts and my experience is right on with regards to his suitability for ministry. I also believe in forgiveness but there are always consequences for your actions. Having him resume writing a column in the OND is like a reward to him and a slap in the face to all the rest of us. In Safe Environment we reject people for much less than this. I know of one employee who was terminated for not living a moral life consistent with Catholic teaching. [redacted] has violated as many as 15 to 20 Code of Conduct rules. I understand that you need to protect your fellow priests but in this case I feel as though you have put this priest above protecting the rest of the priests and the people of the Diocese of Crookston. [redacted] has now had three chances to get it right and in my opinion is failing at this one. Past behavior is the best predictor of future behavior. I am strongly urging you to reconsider your decision to keep [redacted] in ministry.

I can't in good conscience continue to pretend like this might work. It is for that reason and my own personal integrity that I need to go on record that [redacted] should be removed from ministry.

Thanks for hearing me out and you will continue to be in my prayers.

Jim Clauson



office of the Bishop - p.o. box 610 - crookston, minnesota 56716
tel: (218) 281-4533 fax: (218) 281-3328

I, Ron Vasek, regarding a trip I was on when I was 16 years old, and on which a priest of the Diocese of Crookston was also participating, clearly and freely state that I have no desire to nor do I make any accusation of sexual impropriety by the priest toward me.

Mr. Ron Vasek

Mr. Ron Vasek

Date: 10-21-15



VASEK 000053



office of the Bishop - p.o. box 610 - crookston, minnesota 56716
tel: (218) 281-4533 fax: (218) 281-3328

Celebret/Testimonial of Suitability

for Temporary Priestly Ministry for Diocesan Priests

Ms. Jennifer Haselberger
Chancellor for Canonical Affairs
Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
226 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55102-2197

Dear Ms. Haselberger,

In light of the provisions of can. 903 CIC and can. 703 § 1 CCEO, I write to inform you that Msgr. Roger Grundhaus is an incardinated priest of the Diocese of Crookston, who currently is retired but still ministers to the Sisters of Mount St. Benedict and the Villa St. Vincent Nursing Home. Msgr. Grundhaus has been asked to baptize the new baby of his niece [REDACTED] at St. Joseph's chapel of the Basilica on October 21, 2012.

In regard to Msgr. Roger Grundhaus I am able to make the following statements:

- He is a person of good moral character and reputation.
- I know of nothing which would in any way limit or disqualify him from this ministry.
- I am unaware of anything in his background which would render him unsuitable to work with minor children.
- He has satisfied our diocese's safe environment training and associated background investigation.

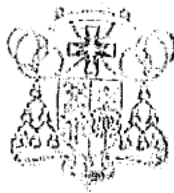
Respectfully yours in Christ;

Michael J. Hoepfner

Most Reverend Michael J. Hoepfner
Bishop of Crookston

October 3, 2012

Effective October 3, 2012 through October 30, 2012



office of the Bishop - p.o. box 610 - crookston, minnesota 56716
tel: (218) 281-4533 fax: (218) 281-3328

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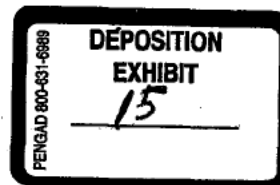
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Michael J. Hoepfner

Most Reverend Michael J. Hoepfner
Bishop of Crookston

October 3, 2012
Effective October 3, 2012 through October 30, 2012



DOC GRUNDHAUS 000080
CONFIDENTIAL



Diocese of
CROOKSTON

www.crookston.org

P.O. Box 610 | Crookston, Minnesota | 56716

T: (218) 281-4533 | F: (218) 281-3328

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

Statement from Bishop Michael Hoepfner re: Settlement Agreement with Mr. Ronald Vasek

As you are probably aware, earlier this year, Mr. Ronald Vasek brought a lawsuit against me and the Diocese of Crookston. Mr. Vasek's lawsuit claimed Monsignor Roger Grundhaus made a sexual advance toward him in 1971 when Mr. Vasek was about 16 years old. He alleges that I tried to keep this claim quiet after he and I visited about the alleged incident in 2011. Mr. Vasek and I have reached a settlement agreement regarding his claims against me. The agreement states that there is no admission of unlawful conduct or wrongdoing on my part. The settlement avoids costly attorney fees and a drawn out legal process. No diocesan funds were used to pay the settlement as the diocesan insurance provider covered the claims. The Diocese of Crookston has sought a dismissal of the remaining claims against it related to this matter and awaits a ruling.

I want to emphasize again that I did not pressure Mr. Vasek to remain quiet when we met in 2011 or when we met again in 2015. Mr. Vasek had indicated to me that he wanted the alleged incident to remain confidential. I attempted to abide by his wishes.

I was willing to ordain Mr. Vasek as a permanent deacon. He attended the final deacon formation weekend in late April, along with the other deacon candidates. Mr. Vasek chose not to be ordained for diaconal ministry. I respect his decision.

Looking back and knowing what I do now, I believe I would have handled my conversations with Mr. Vasek differently. However, please know that I did not pressure Mr. Vasek into making any decision with which he was not comfortable.

The Diocese of Crookston takes all matters of clergy sexual misconduct seriously. Monsignor Grundhaus remains on leave from public ministry. I, along with diocesan leaders, clergy, parish and Catholic school staff and volunteers remain diligent in our work to provide a safe environment for all people, especially young people.

I continue to pray for all those involved in this matter. No one should ever be subject to inappropriate sexual conduct. I ask all Catholics and people of good will to pray for healing for all those who have suffered abuse.



PSYCHO/SOCIAL HISTORY
Reverend Joseph D. Richards
July 14, 1993

Michele McGrath, Ph.D.

Presenting Problem:

Father Joseph Richards is a 30-year-old white, male, diocesan priest, from the Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota. He initiated this evaluation upon the advice of his outpatient therapist, to whom he had gone for help in dealing with his repressed memories of sexual abuse. In response to the question, "why are you here?" he replied, "I was sexually abused by my great-uncle who died in 1982." He reports that he had apparently repressed his memory of the incidents until after his uncle's death.

Joseph went on to say that he believes he has suffered periodic episodes of depression throughout his life, but that it has become more intense in the last two to three years. He also experienced the death of his father in February 1992. In addition, he feels that he has problems with sexual compulsivity and considers himself to be "sexually addicted."

Developmental/Family History:

Joseph was born in Valley City, North Dakota on February 17, 1963. He lived there for the first five years of his life, when the family moved to Moorehead, Minnesota. He was the fifth born of seven children. His birth was apparently normal and he reached all developmental milestones at age-appropriate levels.

His father was a civil engineer and his mother was a homemaker, who later went to work as a school bus driver. He characterized his father as domineering, strict, warm, understanding, and affectionate. He described his mother, to whom he was closest, as warm, understanding, perfect, and affectionate. He reported that his parents' relationship was close and loving, although he recalls his father "hollering" at times and that he did feel a certain fear of him. Both parents shared in disciplining the children, but he never recalls being physically punished. They were usually sent to their rooms. As a child, Joseph was characteristically shy, awkward, and somewhat of a loner. He reports that he has a poor memory for his childhood. As far as his role in the family goes, he described himself as somewhere between "a lost child and a people pleaser." He stated that his mother told him that his father had some problems with drinking when he was a very small child. Joseph has no memory of this, however, and claims that he only remembers his father as a social drinker when he was growing up.

He attended public schools for both grade school and high school, although the family was Catholic. He described himself as an

average student but that he had difficulty with memory and comprehension. He stated that he was pretty much of a loner in school and was shy with a negative self-concept. He stated that he had acne, was thin and tall, and always felt that if people got to know him, they would reject him. His best friends during school were two girls, although he never dated and had no sexual experiences. He stated that all through high school he wanted to get married and have seven children. Halfway through his freshman year of college, he decided to "try the seminary." He went on to say that he almost quit the priesthood twice because of his desire to get married. He was ordained approximately three years ago and is currently in his second assignment. He experienced some difficulties in his first assignment, working with the pastor, who is a friend. He said that after they stopped working together, their friendship resumed. He is currently the pastor of three small parishes and says that he is satisfied with his assignment.

Psycho/Sexual History:

As stated previously, Joseph began to remember being abused sexually by his great-uncle, shortly after his death. He believes he was 12 or 13 years old at the time the abuse occurred. It began after his great-uncle moved in with the family after his wife had died. He was approximately 83 years old at that time. Joseph recalled that he was always his uncle's favorite nephew and would get special attention from him. When he began to remember, he brought it up with his spiritual director, who tried to evade the issue. He eventually told his parents who were quite supportive. He believes that his father felt guilty for asking the uncle to move in with them. To the best of his knowledge, no other children in the family were abused by this man, although Joseph is concerned about his two younger brothers. He reports that he has also had flashbacks regarding a trap door and a house, next to the house he lived in prior to the age of five. He does not know what it means but his mother verified that the house and trap door existed, and said that he was only in that house one time to her knowledge.

Joseph said that he considers himself to be bisexual at this time, although he has never had sexual relations. He admits to feeling somewhat confused regarding his sexuality. He feels that his masturbation, need for pornography, and sexual fantasizing would become out of control whenever he would go out of town. When he began to have fantasies about abusing a child and felt an attraction toward children, he decided to voluntarily seek help.

Alcohol/Drug History:

Joseph denies any history of alcohol/drug abuse. As mentioned previously, his father may have abused alcohol at one point in his

PSYCHO/SOCIAL HISTORY
Reverend Joseph D. Richards
Page Three

life. His mother drank rarely. One paternal uncle is alcoholic.

Other:

His one sister is currently being treated for [REDACTED] since the death of their father. Joseph recalls feeling suicidal as a teenager and went far enough to make a plan.

Joseph was apparently underweight most of his childhood, and is now approximately 25 pounds overweight. He feels that he uses food as a coping mechanism to deal with stress and occasionally "binge eats." He denies a history of purging, using laxatives, diuretics, diet pills, etc.

There is no legal history.

There is no military history.

Impressions:

Joseph appears to be experiencing stress and depression stemming from his painful memories of childhood sexual abuse, the illness and death of his father, and the death of a close uncle. His sexual preoccupation also appears to be interfering with his daily life and may be bordering on compulsive. His fantasies regarding children, while not uncommon for sexual abuse victims, are disturbing and should be treated as a cry for help. He would probably benefit from an intensive inpatient program.

This information has been disclosed to you from records whose confidentiality is protected by Federal law. Federal Regulation (42 CFR, Part 2) prohibits you from making any further disclosure of this information without the written consent of the person to whom it pertains, or as otherwise permitted by such regulations. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is not sufficient for this purpose.

ST. MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY

On Wednesday, Oct. 11th Joe Richards
met with Bunting Balke and myself to
share that 16 or 17 yrs. ago he - Joe
@ the age of about 15, sexually abused
a 5 or 6 yrs. old boy he was babysitting.
Joe is trying to decide with a therapist
whether or not he needs to contact
this boy who is now probably 22
yrs. old.

Joe returns to ST. Michael for an
aftercare program in the 1st week of
December. We recommend that he
share all of this in detail with them
and follow the advice of the treatment
agents.

Richard H. Soltz

Sign & Return
Please

9/13/11 Msgr. Joseph Guering...
701-893-6791

-Ron Vasek said when he
Was 16 -- he drove to down to Canon Law
sitting Conv -- Msgr. Grundhaus -- tried
on bed to fondle him. Told him to
in underwear stop...
Talked 5 years ago
Msgr. tried asked forgiveness... said the time only one...
to fondle
him if told others -- Msgr. said he would deny it

wondering if: only one?
Not looking for anything...

cell phone: [REDACTED]
concerned about repercussions...

9/14/11 Ron Vasek

talk about this?
bring the matter up for?
So I received call last night (Wed) fr Msgr. Joseph Guering
he was calling to tell me about a conversation he had
w you -- regarding something some years ago, about
you and Msgr. Grundhaus.
Do you recall?
I'm calling as a follow up...
w be happy to visit w you about this
if you would like to make an official
complaint/accusation ... Fr. David would take that and
and that w begin our following the directives of the Charter/Norms

→ 9:00 am Monday

- 1) me call him? Would like to speak about this?
did you want Msgr. to call me?
did you want me to call you?
you could have called me yourself...

Ex. 42

9/13/11 Mgr Joseph Guering
701-893-6791

- Ron Vasak said when he
was 16 - he drove to ^{down to} Crown Point
and - Mgr Guering - tried
to handle him. Told him to
step ~~for~~
Mgr tried to handle
of all other - Mgr said he is doing the
the two

boonley up? and me?
hat look for anything

Call phone [redacted]
concerned about representation

9/14/11 Ron Vasak

talk about this?
bring matter up for?

So I received call last night (Wed) fr Mgr Joseph Guering
to be called to tell me about a conversation he had
w you - regarding something some years ago, about
you - Mgr Guering

On you recall?
In early as a followup
to be happy to wait to you about this
if you would like to make an official
complaint/accusation... Fr David would feel that would

What U. began the following the Director of the Office of...

-> 9:00 am. Monday

If we call him? would let I speak about this?
Did you want Mr. to call me?
Did you want me to call you?
You could have called me yourself...

9/19/11

Ron Vasek... thought about fr 40 years... fear and trepidation
Come w no animosity, no monetary gain...

8th grade... Msgr. 1st assignment around 1968...

w I 16, just got driver's liscense... asked Columbus Ohio CLSA Convention...
when there w to stop, I by self...\$3.50 potatoes so 1st night, or 2nd
sitting on bed, watching tv. Fr touched my genitals - he backed away, never
said anything, never another thing. Never thought of it. like a brother would do
I drove next year.. Peoria CLSA. Blizzard never made to convention.
w happened never bothered me. Married us. rel good, there for my brother's
funeral. good to family.

w abuse thing started up. thought w if someone else.
more and more...him. Had never told anybody. except Fr. Leffer, Msgr. ... + me
as I kept hearing more, how shuffle under rug. Then Rick Boyd. I didn't
know. Fr. Ed Cath Radio on abuse thing. about grooming
him me groomed? kept thinking. in back of mind. Then TEC 5 yrs
ago. Fr. G.. talked to me. ask forgiveness. inappropriate. shouldn't have
done it, confessed it, need your forgiveness. weak moment, okay. a wk
later bugging me. How know only one? Came into office asked him.
asked how end up being in charge of these? How thru process. Had
to lie. Like to know - ever anyone else? Can forgive for me - w
about others. said never again I give you my word. said
if this w ever come out - deny it. Thought. Told me lied, then
no others, again w deny it. asked again. I have to know - w I
only one. said yes. a brother to brother so not bother me.

Left it -> then last spring Fr. called me. call in house
noticed spray in bathroom. you should come to meeting, health
supplement said "it has really suppressed my sexual desire."
Then visiting with [REDACTED]

had gone to [REDACTED] all those
guys there gay. "I didn't feel safe." -> Thinking Fr. G went to
Crozier. Fr. G invited 4 guys to go to Crozier.. visit it.
so process it. didn't know if I should say anything.
Felt compelled - maybe for his sake - he get help. If he struggling w
that issue. w 18 Wondering - no problem.

danger? No

process? No Complaint No?

Does he need help? Screwed up in Crozier? get it fixed?

How do you feel?

9/19/11 Rai Vasek - thought about for 40 years - from Kogelito
 can use many, no monetary gain
 P. guide - they had conversation ~ 1968.

is it the, just get down down - asked Columbus - Ohh CLSA Convention
 what is there in the city, it's, ... 9.3.50 potatoes - but kept, and did
 nothing, a book, today, it's. For trouble, my, ... - to find, my, ...
 said nothing, even another day - never thought of it. Like a brother would do
 I never put down. From CLSA, ... logged, ... to Convention
 is happy, ... in ... in ... of ...
 found, ... to ...

is about they started up. Thought it was an idea.

more, ... has. Had seen ... except for Giffen, ...
 ... but kept busy, ... but shuffled under my. Then ... had been
 ... that, ... but ... in ...
 ... to ... in of ...
 ... for ... in ... about ...

has he ...? ... in ... said. The ...
 ... for and ... should be
 ... to ... it, a ...
? ... what ...
 ... of them? ... the ...
 ... " ... idea? ...
 ... about a ... of ...
 ... of the ... - ...
 ... other, ... I have to ...
 ... a ... in ...

Just it. -> The ... for ...
 ... in ...
 ... " ..."

Then went to [redacted]

had got [redacted]

all those

guy there goes. I don't feel safe. → think he's out to

George. He's 21 wanted 4 guys to go to Georgia - went it. damn

damn. So process it. I don't know if I should say anything.

Felt compelled - maybe for his sake - he got help. if he stays in

that issue. He is 18 weeks - he's problem.

George? No

process? No. Contact? No?

How to get help? surveillance? lawyer? get it fixed?

How to get help?

9/20/11 Re Mtg: Candidates

Bill: [redacted]

Jan 17th Sun

to [redacted] AB Flynn

9:30

9/20/11 Re [redacted]

* me - Lisa's letter, Lila's, For. letter

10/21/15 Ron Vasek

Ohio ← Goering ← Leffer

If anyokay not be public

filed

BH...

if G. has issue, call him
told him formal acc? No

RV does not want to make an
Accusation. If Fr. G has an issue
feel free to call Ron V.

He went to Fr. L
For sp help, healing,
Fr. L said he'd talk

It to his Chancellor w he did. Fr. G. --- Fr. G --- Ohio ---
Bishop H. BH talk w RV w not want to lodge an accusation.

10/21/11 To Do

~~Bottom~~ ~~Planning~~ ~~etc~~

~~Handing~~ ~~Handing~~

~~Boys~~ ~~Young~~ ~~Boys~~

~~Handing~~ ~~Comp~~ ~~Letter~~ ~~Handing~~ ~~Letter~~ ~~Handing~~

~~Boys~~ ~~Comp~~ ~~Letter~~ ~~Handing~~ ~~Letter~~ ~~Handing~~

Info/Handed ~~Handing~~



Old ~~Handing~~ ~~Handing~~

~~Handing~~ ~~Handing~~ ~~Handing~~

B.H. it's his man, but for

tell him for me? No

F.V. doesn't want to make an

statement

accusation. If F.V. has an issue

for help/healing,

just give to him. Ron V.

we'll deal with that

it's his accusation with him. F.V. -> F.V. -> Okie ->

Bishop H. BH tells w. RV w. I want to help in accusation.

To Do

~~Handing~~ ~~Handing~~ ~~Handing~~

~~Handing~~ ~~Handing~~

Handing

Sacred Heart

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

200 Third Street Northwest • East Grand Forks, Minnesota 5672 • 218-773-0877

Dear Bishop Hoepfner,

As pastor of Sacred Heart in East Grand Forks, Holy Trinity in Tabor, and St. Francis of Assisi in Fisher, I write you concerning Ron Vasek who is in Deaconate formation. I have spent a year and half working with and getting to know Ron. I, as pastor, recommend that Ron's ordination to the Deaconate be postponed and reviewed in a year.

If Ron hones these skills to an acceptable level, I would have no objection to him being ordained to the deaconate for our diocese. However, I have concern with the consultation with my associate, Fr. John Christianson and several parishioners at Holy Trinity that Ron is not ready for ordination at this point in his formation. The reasons are as follows:

- Ron has several relationships with fellow parishioners that are strained
- Ron tends to take control in inappropriate contexts (liturgy, decision making, and meetings that he is not a part of)
- Though Ron is a self-starter, he could improve in times where team work is more appropriate
- Ron struggles with taking orders from hierarchy that have different understandings than his own
- Ron's orientation needs to be more focused on service to God and His people rather than on agendas that are Ron's personal preferences

In the upcoming year, I suggest that Ron work on these areas of concern that will enhance his future ministry. An assigned advisor may be able to help Ron grow in these areas in the upcoming year.

In Christ,

Fr. Xavier Ilango



VASEK 000034

1 I, BISHOP MICHAEL HOEPPNER, do hereby certify
2 that I have read the foregoing transcript of
3 my deposition and believe the same to be true
4 and correct, except as follows: (Noting the
5 page number and line number of the change or
6 addition and the reason for it)

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22 Subscribed to and sworn

23 before me this ___ day

24 of ___, 2018. _____

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Subscribed to and sworn
before me this ___ day
of ___, 2018. _____

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