

October 9, 1998

Most Reverend Harry J. Flynn, D.D.  
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis  
226 Summit Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55102-2197

Dear Archbishop Flynn:

This afternoon I had a conversation with Mr. [REDACTED] Minneapolis, currently residing at [REDACTED]. We talked about his experience of being sexually abused as a member of Saint Stephen Parish in Anoka some twenty years ago when he was a teenager. The perpetrator was a teacher in the school there and is now a member of this monastery, Father Michael Bik.

On August 28, Msgr. Daniel Taufen, moderator of the curia of the Saint Cloud Diocese informed us of the allegation that was conveyed to him by the Very Reverend [REDACTED]. On September 1, I talked with [REDACTED] and got the chronology of events. I then talked with Father Michael's counselor to seek his advice on how to approach Father Michael.

Due to circumstances here I was not able to talk with Father Michael until September 3. I told him of the information I had, advised him to get a monk he could talk with and to let me know who that would be. I also asked him to contact his counselor. On hearing of the accusation I immediately removed him from being a faculty resident in a college dormitory.

By midafternoon of that day Father Michael had done all I asked of him. At no time did he deny anything and even offered to tell me of another individual, and this was not at my bidding. I have known him since 1985. In dealing with this affair he has in my opinion been totally cooperative and, I would judge, totally honest.

Mr. [REDACTED] is a very impressive young man and I deeply appreciate his coming forward and dealing with this painful situation. He is clearly taking charge of what has wounded him deeply and, in my opinion, will succeed in getting the healing he so much wants.

Until today I have not had the first hand report that I needed and therefore did not write to you sooner. I believe Mr. [REDACTED] I also believe that there was one other victim. At this time and with good reason I do not think there have been other victims. I am keeping close contact with Father Michael on this, I know his counselor and will be able to get progress reports and have Father Michael's consent for this.

I do not presume to suggest any way that the Archdiocese should deal with this. At the same time I am quite certain that no more than one more victim can surface.

If there is any further help I can be in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely in Christ,

Abbot Timothy Kelly, OSB

TK/kr

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