

JBK

From: Skudlarek, William  
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2002 3:59 PM  
To: 'Peters, Doug'  
Subject: RE:

Doug,

I remember that there was something recently in the St. Cloud Times to that effect -- namely, that the abbot acknowledged that Richard engaged in sexually abusive behavior at the Swenson Lake cabin. However, nothing has changed. The abbot believes that Richard engaged in inappropriate behavior at the cabin, but because of the very conflicting and even contradictory reports he has received, it is still not at all clear that there was any abuse.

I think the reason people believe that the abbot thinks Richard sexually abused children at the cabin is because of a remark he made to a reporter from the Star Tribune some months ago in answer to a question about Richard and Cosmas. The abbot said that even though both denied the allegations of abuse, he felt that there was reason to believe that Cosmas had engaged in abusive behavior. However, the remark was reported in such a way that some readers interpreted his remarks in reference to both Cosmas and Richard.

William

-----Original Message-----

From: Peters, Doug [mailto:dpeters@pioneerpress.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2002 10:30 AM  
To: Skudlarek, William  
Subject: RE:

William,

It's been awhile since my last contact with you, so I wanted to touch base and inquire about any new developments in Fr. Richard's case. I was told recently that the Abbot made statements acknowledging sexual misconduct at the Swenson Lake cabin. That was second hand, so I don't have a good feel for whether this happened and, if it did, what the actual wording and/or context of the statement was. Can you shed some light on this for me?

Thanks,  
Doug

-----Original Message-----

From: Skudlarek, William [mailto:WSkudlarek@CSBSJU.EDU]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2002 10:14 AM  
To: dpeters@pioneerpress.com  
Subject:

Dear Doug,

I have talked to Abbot John about your request to interview Father Richard, and he recommends that Father Richard not give interviews to the press -- even to someone he trusts and admires as he does you, and even with the presence of legal counsel.

William