

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
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SPESIA & AYERS

Attorneys at Law

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September 12, 2011

Of Counsel:
Thomas M. Ewert
Kent Slater

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Terrance M. Johnson, Esq.
North Pier Chicago
455 East Illinois Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Douglas F. Spesia
(1940-2010)

Re: [REDACTED] *Diocese of Joliet*
=====
Father Michael Gibbney

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As per a Court Order, I am enclosing Diocesan records of Father Gibbney consisting of the following:

- 1.) **Priest file of Father Gibbney** (total pages 788)
- 2.) A Privilege Log for documents in this priest file.

Names of Accusers

The names of all those individuals who have made accusations that have been made public are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. All others have never been made public and the existing Protective Order prohibits their disclosure.

Father Slown's file will be sent by federal express tomorrow.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA & AYERS

By: 
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, JCD
The Honorable Michael Powers
Mr. Joseph M. Laraia, Esq.
Mr. Stuart L. Bressler, Esq.

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CONFIDENTIAL

000040

June 1, 1970

FACULTY RECOMMENDATION

GIBBNEY, Michael L. - Diocese of Joliet
640 South Michigan Avenue
Villa Park, Illinois 60181

Michael Gibbney has spent his junior and senior college years at Saint John Vianney Seminary. He was graduated on May 23, 1970.

He is an average student who is going to have to work with real consistency to do satisfactory work in theology.

Michael appears to be quite secure in his vocational commitment. He is generous with his own time, is very cooperative, very pleasant, and easy to work with. He has a good spiritual life.

Michael is comparatively immature, and has some difficulty in relating to his peers. He is somewhat agitated, unduly anxious for peer approval, and gives something of an appearance of effeminacy, though we are satisfied that this is not a real problem. He is going to need supportive counseling in helping him to live comfortably with his own personality.

The faculty recommends him to begin theological studies with the reservations expressed above.

(Rev. Msgr.) John R. Roach, Rector
St. John Vianney Sam St. Paul Minn

Sacramental papers enclosed
Transcript available at the Records Office, College of St. Thomas,
2115 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

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In regard to our recent conversation about the use of DePaul faculty at DeAndreis I wish to thank you for your kindness and candor. For my part I can only regret and apologize again for any embarrassment that our action may cause you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis A. Gaydos, C.M.

Francis A. Gaydos, c.m.
Rector

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VINCENTIAN FATHERS
De ANDREIS

511 EAST 127th STREET • LEMONT, ILLINOIS 60439

Seminary

Faculty: 312-257-5454

April 14, 1972

Most Reverend Romeo Blanchette
Bishop of Joliet
310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Your Excellency:

I am writing to give you a report on your seminarians here at De Andreis and to give you my personal recommendations and also those of the Faculty in regard to certain requests for Orders.

Michael Gibbney has requested the Order of Acolytes. During this past year it seems that Michael has not been greatly involved in his major tasks of studying and being a good member of the seminary. He spent a great deal of time running about. As one of the faculty members said: "Mike is not preparing very well for the priesthood but will make a fine errand boy." I talked with Mike about these things and he seemed to recognize his mistakes. He accepted very well what I had to say and assured me that he will pursue the priesthood much more actively in the future. I tried too to build up Mike's own self-image, for I suspect that much of his shyness and lack of visibility is due to poor self-image. These matters were brought to Mike's attention just a month ago and I am sure that we are going to have to have much more time to observe Mike before we could vote positively for his advance. At the Faculty Meeting early in March the vote was: one in favor of Orders, four opposed and three doubtful. I would concur with the faculty and recommend that Mike not be advanced at this time.

Mike is better for this recent confrontation. He knows better where he stands and in what direction he should go. I would recommend that he be allowed to pursue his studies for the priesthood for another year, or at least the first quarter of next year. If we do not see improvement that promises final success in the priesthood I would then recommend that he be asked to terminate his studies.

I trust, Your Excellency, that this is sufficient material to guide you and your advisors in making the decisions for Orders and for continuance. If there are any specifics I would be happy to supply them for you if I can. I always feel that these reports are so very meager, but then I am always rushing to get done what is coming up tomorrow. Last year I believe that I appeared before your board and I would be willing to do so again if it can be arranged.

I will be happy to communicate your decisions to any and all of these students if that is your mind.

You can be very proud, Your Excellency, of the students that you have with us. Maybe all are not what they could be, but I think that the group is a good one and is helping DeAndreis to be a better seminary. I am glad that we have the opportunity to work with them.

I wish you every blessing in the Lord and assure you that our prayers go along with your work.

Yours in Christ,

Francis A. Gaydos, C.M.
Francis A. Gaydos, C.M.
Rector

VINCENTIAN FATHERS
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DeANDREIS

611 EAST 127th STREET • LEMONT, ILLINOIS 60439

Seminary

Students: 312-257-6630 & 257-6470

January 26, 1973

The Most Rev. Romeo R. Blanchette
 425 Summit Street
 Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop,

Having taken due consultation, I humbly
 petition you to promote me to the ministry of Acolyte.

In presenting this petition, I solemnly declare
 that I am actuated by no motive of fear, either physical
 or moral, that I am in no way coerced by parent,
 priest, relative, or any other agency what-so-ever,
 but make this request of my own free will. I
 further solemnly declare that I am fully aware
 of the grave obligations consequent upon the
 reception of the ministry of Acolyte.

Respectfully yours,

Michael J. Gibbney

Seen and approved at Joliet, Ill. on this 7th day
 of the month of March, 1973.

+ Romeo Blanchette
 Bishop of Joliet

008060

De ANDREIS

Seminary

511 EAST 127th STREET • LEMONT, ILLINOIS 60439

Students: 312-257-6630 & 257-6470

February 16, 1973

The Most Reverend Romeo R. Blanchette D.D.
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Most Reverend and Dear Bishop,

Having taken due consultation, I now humbly
petition you to promote me to The Sacred Order of
Diaconate.

In presenting this petition, solemnly declare, that
I am actuated by no motive of fear, either physical or
moral, that I am in no way coerced by parent, priest,
relative, or any other agency whatsoever, but make
this request of my own free will. I further solemnly
declare that I am fully aware of the grave obligations
consequent upon the reception of The Sacred Order
of Diaconate.

Humbly in Christ our savior,

Michael L. Gibney

Seen & approved at Joliet on the
14th day of the month of May
1973.

Romeo Blanchette
Bishop of Joliet

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VINCENTIAN FATHERS

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D₂ ANDREIS

511 EAST 127th STREET • LEMONT, ILLINOIS 60433

Seminary

Faculty: 312-257-545

March 3, 1973

Most Reverend Romeo Blanchette
Bishop of Joliet
310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Your Excellency:

First I must apologize for the long gap in my correspondence with you. It is not due to any reluctance on my part but rather to the press of obligations. The life of a Seminary Rector is not getting any less hectic. My failure to correspond is a good sign. Things are going well.

The occasion of this letter is the request that the Joliet students are making for the ministries of Reader and Acolyte. While I know that some of the Joliet students have or soon will request the Order of Deacon I would prefer to delay consideration of this matter for the time. In late April I will advise you on what action should be taken in regard to prospective Deacons. This step is such a great one that I would like to have the advantage of the extra time for observation and consideration.

Michael Gibbney. Michael Gibbney is asking for the ministry of Acolyte. Michael has grown a great deal during this year. He has ceased running out of the Seminary and has become a better student. While his openness with authorities still leaves something to be desired I think that he has made great progress. He seems to have a solid prayer life. He will become a better student when he learns to live with his limitations. He is not bright and is most reluctant to participate in class discussion. He is aware of this and trying to change. The Faculty voted six in favor of his advancement to Acolyte and one opposed. I would recommend his advancement. Mike is planning to ask for the Diaconate at the end of the year, but as I said above, the Faculty will look at that issue in due time.

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VINCENTIAN FATHERS

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De ANDREIS

Seminary

511 EAST 127th STREET • LEMONT, ILLINOIS 6043

Faculty: 312-257-545

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter which contains nothing but recommendations. I hope that we are ^{not} growing soft here at De Andreis. I don't think we are but rather that we have the happy situation of things going along pretty well. I've had some real good run-ins with four of the six during this past school year, but I am happy to say that I saw all four grow by reason of the experience.

Assuring you of our sincere desire to be of service to you in the formation of the priests for your diocese, of our support, and of our best wishes and prayers, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis A. Gaydos C.M.

Francis A. Gaydos, O.M.
Rector

AREA CODE 815
TELEPHONE 722-8606
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DIOCESE OF JOLIET

*Chancery Office*425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

Mr. Michael Gibbney
DeAndreis Seminary
Lemont, Illinois

March 21, 1973

Dear Mike:

While this letter is not a call to the Diaconate, it does deal with the major obligations of the Diaconate. One of the obligations will be the daily recitation of the Divine Office. If in your case the recitation in Latin would create a serious difficulty, for your spiritual good I am happy to give you the permission to recite it in the vernacular, in the Benziger or Collegeville editions, or in the interim versions, "The Prayer of Christians" or "The Prayer of the Church." Should there be a serious reason for commutation of some sort, kindly make this known to me in due time.

Also, since it is customary for seminarians in their third year of theology to be ordained as deacons and since with this step the deacon (who aspires to the transitional diaconate) assumes the obligation of perpetual celibacy, I am writing you this note to urge you again to prepare well for this major step. Much, in these past years, has been written and spoken concerning clerical celibacy. Since I have not had a chance to speak to you at length concerning this matter, I am writing this letter and I am enclosing a copy of the statement of the Bishops of the United States on "Clerical Celibacy."

It is my hope that you look upon this obligation that you assume as a voluntary gift which you make to God out of love for Him. In the past, I have told our seminarians that if they have any reservations whatsoever in this matter, they should not take this important step.

I would appreciate very much, at your convenience, your writing to me to indicate that it is your sincere desire to accept this obligation without reservation and that you do subscribe to the statement of the National Council of Catholic Bishops on "Clerical Celibacy."

I wish to assure you of my continued prayers for your successful preparation for the priesthood, and I know that all of the priests of our diocese join me in these prayers.

With best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 67

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Michael Gibbney
Celibacy 000004

April 11, 1973

Mr. Michael Gibbney
De Andreis Seminary
511 East 127th Street
Lemont, Illinois 60439

Dear Michael,

I appreciate very much your recent letter in which you express your acceptance of celibacy without any reservation. While you did not mention the question of the obligation of the Divine Office, I am assuming that this, too, you do accept without reservation.

Both obligations are a source of edification for our people and help them as they prepare for the eternal kingdom.

With best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB/sma

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Chancery Office

425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

MEMORANDUM

To: Fr. James A. Murray

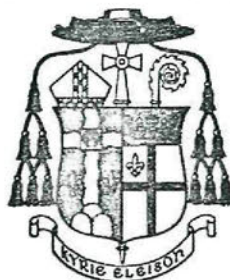
From: Fr. Daniel L. Ryan

Date: 5 May 1973

Michael Gibbney, De Andreis Seminary, Lemont, has today purchased in the name of the Diocese a 1973 Dodge Coronet four-door sedan. I told him that he will be billed appropriately, and that full insurance information will be sent to him.

May	15.00
June	12.00
July	12.00
Aug	12.00
	<hr/>
	51.00 —

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ROMEO

MISERATIONE DIVINA ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA
EPISCOPUS JOLIETTENSIS IN ILLINOIS

Omnibus praesentes litteras inspecturis salutem et in Domino benedictionem.
Notum facimus et testamur Nos Missam in pontificalibus celebrantes in oratorio
SEMINARII S. CAROLI BORROMAEI, APUD LOCKPORT, ILLINOIS,

dilectum Nobis in Christo

D. MICHAEL GIBBNEY

omnibus de iure requisitis fideliter expletis, ad ~~ordinem~~ MINISTERIUM
ACOLYTHATUS

die SEPTIMA mensis MAII anno Domini 1973
rite, Deo iuvante, promovisse.

In quorum fidem has praesentes litteras a Cancellario Curiae Joliettensis
subscriptas, sigilloque munitas, dari iussimus.

Datum Joliettae

Die NONA mensis MAII anno Domini 1973

Autuad
5/9/73
Dewz

~~Episcopus Joliettensis in Illinois~~

David W. Ryan

Cancellarius

~~Episcopus Joliettensis~~

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DE ANDREIS

Seminarily

May 12, 1973

Most Reverend Romeo Blanchette
Bishop of Joliet
310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Your Excellency:

Three students for the Joliet Diocese presently studying at De Andreis Seminary are requesting that they be advanced to the Order of Deacon. I write to advise you of the opinion of the Seminary personnel concerning these requests.

Michael Gibbney does not receive the same kind of unqualified support as do the other two candidates. The faculty vote for him was five in favor of this advancement, one said no, and one was doubtful. The student vote was also mixed, with 18 saying yes, 4 saying no, 9 being doubtful and 10 abstaining.

Michael is not the open and forward person that some are and this explains the many abstentions and some of the doubtful votes. In what people have to say of Michael I found nothing really substantial against his being ordained, it was rather a question of people not seeing enough of the positive to gain their vote.

I think that everyone is in agreement that there has been much growth in Michael and that he is gaining more and more confidence in himself. He is certainly more generous and cooperative in his contributions to the Seminary. He seems to have a genuine spiritual life and is dedicated to the ministry of the priesthood.

I feel that we cannot make everyone into the image of what we think he should be and that Michael has much to offer just as he is and will develop yet more with encouragement. He certainly listens to correction and does follow directives and therefore I think that the potential for growth is promising.

In view of all of this, I recommend that Michael

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Most Reverend Romeo Blanchette

Page 000008

I trust, Your Excellency, that this report on these candidates for the Diaconate is sufficiently complete. If there is any further information that you wish from the Seminary do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis A. Gaydos, C.M.
Francis A. Gaydos, C.M.
Rector

P.S.

My apologies for the typing errors, but I never had the opportunity to formally study typing in school and I do not want to hold this letter up till my secretary returns.

F. Gaydos

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AREA CODE 915
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DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Chancery Office

425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

To: *Mr. Michael Gibbney*

Re: *Sacred Order of Diaconate*

By virtue of this Dimissorial Letter, I grant you the permission to be promoted to the candidacy, or ministry, or order indicated above, for service to this Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois, by the Most Reverend *Raymond J. Vonesh, Titular Bishop of Vanariona,* or by any other Bishop in union with the Apostolic See.

I have granted you this permission after assurance that all of the requirements of the Code of Canon Law, the Instruction of the Sacred Congregation of the Sacraments, of December 27, 1930, and the Apostolic Letters of Pope Paul VI, of August 15, 1972, have been fulfilled; that you have not contracted any impediment, irregularity, or censure; that your moral character will enable you to fulfill all the obligations of your promotion; and that you have freely expressed your desire and intention for this promotion.

After the ceremony, notification should be sent to the Joliet Chancery as soon as possible.

** Romeo Blanchette /s/*
Bishop of Joliet

Given at Joliet, Illinois
from the Chancery

Date: *May 17, 1973*

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Sequentes candidati ad Sacrum Ordinem Diaconatus

Donaldus Craig
Michael (Gibbney)
Michael Lane
Gulielmus Virtue

juxta normam Can. 996 examen praeivum circa materiam ordinis
rite subierunt coram me infrascripto examinatore et periculum
satis fecerunt.

Die 22 Mensis May Anno 1973.

Francis A. Gaydos, C.M.
Examinator delegatus

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Gibbney
906071

May 25, 1973

Mr. Michael Gibbney
DeAndreis Seminary
Lemont, Illinois 60439

Dear Michael:

Contingent upon your ordination to the diaconate on May 31, 1973, I hereby appoint you deacon of Notre Dame Parish, Clarendon Hills, Illinois, effective June 15, 1973. I wish you also to assist Father Daniel Stempora, Rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, in the two week program for vocations at the Seminary. Kindly report to Notre Dame Parish upon completion of the Seminary Weeks.

It is understood that your appointment to Notre Dame is a summer appointment, but that you will continue to give some assistance to the parish during the scholastic year 1973-1974.

Wishing you God's blessing in your assignment,

I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB/mab

PROFESSIONIS FIDEI FORMULA

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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Ego Michael L. Gibbney
firma fide credo et profiteor omnia et
singula quae continentur in Symbolo fidei,
scilicet

Credo in unum Deum, Patrem omnipotentem, factorem caeli et terrae, visibilium omnium et invisibilium. Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum, Filium Dei unigenitum. Et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula. Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine, Deum verum de Deo vero. Genitum, non factum, consubstantialem Patri: per quem omnia facta sunt. Qui propter nos homines, et propter nostram salutem descendit de caelis. Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto ex Maria Virgine: Et Homo factus est. Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato: passus, et sepultus est. Et resurrexit tertia die, secundum Scripturas. Et ascendit in caelum: sedet ad dexteram Patris. Et iterum venturus est cum gloria judicare vivos et mortuos: cujus regni non erit finis. Et in Spiritum Sanctum Dominum, et vivificantem: qui ex Patre, Filioque procedit. Qui cum Patre, et Filio simul adoratur, et conglorificatur: qui locutus est per Prophetas. Et unam, sanctam, catholicam et apostolicam Ecclesiam. Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatorum. Et exspecto resurrectionem mortuorum. Et vitam venturi saeculi.

Firmiter quoque amplector et retineo omnia et singula quae circa doctrinam de fide et moribus ab Ecclesia, sive solemnio iudicio definita sive ordinario magisterio adserta et declarata sunt, prout ab ipsa proponuntur, praesertim ea quae respiciunt mysterium sanctae Ecclesiae Christi, eiusque Sacramenta et Missae Sacrificium atque primatum Romani Pontificis.

(SUBSCRIBITUR) Michael L. Gibbney
EX LOCO De Andreis Seminario

DIE 29a, MENSIS MaII A.D. MCMLXXIII

INSTRUMENTUM RITE CORAM ME EMISSUM TESTOR,

Francis A. Goydas, C. M.

I, Michael L. Gibbney
with firm faith believe and profess all and
everything that is contained in the symbol
of faith, namely -

I believe in one God, The Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. Born of the Father before all ages. God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God. Begotten, not made, of one substance with the Father. By whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. And he became flesh by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary: and was made man. He was also crucified for us, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was buried. And on the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. And of his kingdom there will be no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. Who together with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified; and who spoke through the prophets. And one holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And I await the resurrection of the Dead. And the life of the world to come.

I also firmly embrace and hold all that pertains to the doctrine of faith and morals, whether it has been solemnly defined by the Church or affirmed and declared by the ordinary magisterium of the Church, as it is proposed by the Church, in particular, what pertains to the mystery of the Holy Church of Christ, her sacraments, the Sacrifice of the Mass, and the primacy of the Roman Pontiff.

(SIGNED) Michael L. Gibbney
AT De Andreis Seminary

ON THIS 29th DAY OF THE MONTH OF May 1973

WITNESS Francis A. Goydas, C. M.

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DE ANDREIS SEMINARY

LEMONT, ILLINOIS

I, the undersigned, Michael L. Gibbney, in presenting myself as a candidate for the reception of the order of the Diaconate, after having carefully considered the matter before God, do hereby certify under oath: (1) That in the reception of the said sacred order I am moved by no coercion, compulsion, or fear, but am seeking it of my own accord, and do of my own full and free will desire to embrace it together with the obligations that are attached to it. (2) I acknowledge that I am fully informed of all the obligations that flow from the aforesaid sacred order, and I freely embrace them, and resolve with the help of God to keep them faithfully during my entire life. (3) I declare that I clearly understand all that the law of celibacy prescribes, and I firmly resolve with the help of God to observe these obligations in their integrity until the end of my life. (4) Finally, I sincerely promise that I will always, according to the sacred canons, most respectfully obey in all things which are commanded me by my Ordinary according to the discipline of the Church, and am prepared to give good example both in work and in word, so that in the reception of this great office I may be worthy to receive the reward which God has promised. To all this I testify and swear upon these sacred Gospels which I touch with my hand.

This 29th day of May, 1973.

(Signed) Michael L. Gibbney

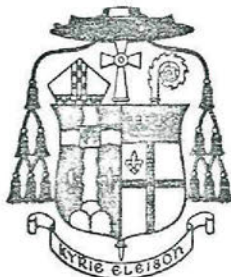
Witness Francis C. Snyder, P.M.

SEAL

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CANON 1010, § 2, C.I.C.

LITTERAE TESTIMONIALES ORDINATIONIS



R O M E O

MISERATIONE DIVINA ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA
EPISCOPUS JOLIETTENSIS IN ILLINOIS

RAIMUNDUS IACOBUS VONESH, EPISCOPUS TITULARIS VANARIONENSIS
Omnibus praesentes litteras inspecturis salutem et in Domino benedictionem.
Notum facimus et testamur Nos Missam in pontificalibus celebrantes in oratorio
Seminarii S. Caroli Borromaei, apud Lockport, Illinois,

dilectum Nobis in Christo

R.D. MICHAEL GIBBNEY

omnibus de iure requisitis fideliter expletis, ad ordinem sacrum diaconatus

die 31a mensis maii anno Domini 1973
rite, Dco iuvante, promovisse.

In quorum fidem has praesentes litteras a Cancellario Curiae Joliettensis
subscriptas, sigilloque munitas, dari iussimus.

Datum Joliettiae

Die 11a mensis iunii anno Domini 1973

*Entered
6/11/73*

Episcopus Joliettensis in Illinois

David W. [Signature]
Cancellarius

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Visitation Regarding Rev. Mr. Michael Gibbney

August 8, 1973

I was able to talk to both Father Barrett and Father Voss at Notre Dame on my visit to Mr. Gibbney. I have the impression that Mike is doing quite well at Notre Dame, and I learned this also from Father Farnisari. Father Barrett's temperament leads one to imagine that he is rather antagonistic toward the deacon, but I think that this is just Father B's manner of speech. I know this, that Father Voss was treated in much the same way. Neither he nor Mike seem to mind much, and there seems to be a general contentment. I believe that Mike will continue throughout the school year, particularly in liturgy preparation and song-leading in the parish.



Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
Chancellor



Michael Gibbney does not receive the same kind of unqualified support as do the other two candidates. The faculty vote for him was five in favor of this advancement, one said no, and one was doubtful. The student vote was also mixed, with 18 saying yes, 4 saying no, 9 being doubtful and 10 abstaining.

Michael is not the open and forward person that some are and this explains the many abotentions and some of the doubtful votes. In what people have to say of Michael I found nothing really substantial against his being ordained, it was rather a question of people not seeing enough of the positive to rain their vote.

I think that everyone is in agreement that there has been much growth in Michael and that he is gaining more and more confidence in himself. He is certainly more generous and cooperative in his contributions to the Seminary. He seems to have a genuine spiritual life and is dedicated to the ministry of the priesthood.

I feel that we cannot make everyone into the image of what we think he should be and that Michael has much to offer just as he is and will develop yet more with encouragement. He certainly listens to correction and does follow directives and therefore I think that the potential for growth is promising.

In view of all of this, I recommend that Michael Gibbney be advanced to the Order of Deacon.

Rector Gaydos - 5/12/73 - DeAndreis

Redacted February 2010
TMJA
Released April 2014

Michael Gibney: Since Michael did not indicate to me, or anyone else, what his mind was at this particular time, I asked the students the question, "Do you recommend Gibney for advancement towards the Priesthood?" The response was: 27 saying yes; 1 saying no; 5 being doubtful and 18 abstentions. As you can see, the abstentions were significant for one who lives in such a small community. The complaints against Michael were that he was not around here enough, he was not interested in De Andreis, he contributed little, his attendance at common prayer and Mass was poor. I lowered the boom on Michael on February 13 of this year. I pointed out that he needed more balance between his work in deaconing at Clarendon Hills and his duties here. I asked him why he was so faithful there and so remiss here. He said that it seemed to be a matter of motivation. I then told him that if he were not at morning prayers every day for the rest of this year, I would see to it that he never got ordained. As Mike said to me, "That's motivation!" Mike has been quite faithful in his attendance at morning prayers. What is interesting is, that I did not say anything to him, specifically, about Mass attendance and while that may have improved, it was not the dramatic change that took place in regard to morning prayers.

In the faculty discussion, there was a good deal of time spent trying to evaluate just what Michael has learned in a professional way. We seem to be of the opinion that Michael has advanced very little beyond the ninth grade catechism. He attempts to be glib but there is no substance to what he knows. He tells me that he spends an average of two hours in preparation for my classes. Either he is lying or he is extremely slow. The faculty is seriously doubtful that he will ever learn. In voting for him, 2 said yes; 2 said no; and 5 were doubtful. The two yeses were qualified; one being the provision that he ask for Priesthood and the other that this be only after a long probationary period.

Perhaps I should be apologetic about this situation, however, I am of the mind that preparing for the Priesthood is a long and gradual process. At any point in this process the recommendation of no further progress is to be expected. Just because a man is ordained a deacon and spends another year in the Seminary, there is no compulsion to advance him to Priesthood. Michael is a person who is most willing to give service. Perhaps he would make an excellent permanent deacon. We are afraid of what he would say to a parishioner if he were in charge. I suppose that while his transcript of credits is not very good, it does not reflect, as well as it should, the degree of dissatisfaction that I am now expressing. Quite frankly, this is the first year I had Mike in a small enough class to really see what makes him tick.

I was told by Mike that he is presently [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I don't know any more about it than that. Perhaps Mike will, in the future, show enough interest and do enough private study that he could present himself as a worthy candidate for the Priesthood. I think that probably he has the basic intelligence but has never learned to use it to achieve what he must.

My recommendation, then, is that Michael Gibney not be ordained to the Priesthood until a sufficient amount of time has passed for him to demonstrate his grasp of the essential elements of theology and until, of course, he gives evidence of such a grasp.

Rector Gaydos, DeAnd.
3/3/74

CONFIDENTIAL

Over

Redacted February 2014
FOIA
Released April 2014

A. Miller =

no impediment
needs improvement & security
he's amenable to direction
he has good will
he's obedient
he has creativity
he has admitted he needs to be pushed
he has a tendency to laziness

(over phone
2-19-75

Confidential

+ R.B.

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

W. Gibney
Confidential

(see phone
2-19-75)

A. Muler =

no impediment
needs improvement & maturity
he's amenable to direction
he has good will
he's obedient
he has creativity
he has admitted he needs to be pushed
he has a tendency to laziness

+ R.B.

...

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Michael Gibbney
000078

De ANDREIS

Seminary

511 EAST 127th STREET . LEMONT, ILLINOIS 60439

Faculty: 312-257-5454
Students: 312-257-6630 & 257-6470

May 3, 1974

Bishop Romeo Blanchette
Bishop of Joliet
310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Ill. 60435

Your Excellency;

I am writing to you an official report concerning your more advanced students here at De Andreis Seminary. I wish to explain that in regard to those who are finishing their studies, I followed this particular policy: I spoke to them and told them that there would be a deadline for our Vincentian students to request orders and that I am asking them to indicate to me, through their Dean, what are their intentions at this same time. What I wanted was a quasi request for orders. The faculty, in considering students, wants to know what their mind is. It is very important whether or not a student wishes to receive orders. The faculty thinks that they can respond better when there is a request. With the Joliet policy being what it is, an actual request may not come for some time and the faculty is able to speak only from what goes on now. We received responses from all in their last year except Michael Gibbney.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014 Bishop Romeo Blanchette, Page 2.

May 3, 1974

Michael Gibbney: Since Michael did not indicate to me, or anyone else, what his mind was at this particular time, I asked the students the question, "Do you recommend Gibbney for advancement towards the Priesthood?" The response was: 27 saying yes; 1 saying no; 5 being doubtful and 18 abstentions. As you can see, the abstentions were significant for one who lives in such a small community. The complaints against Michael were that he was not around here enough, he was not interested in De Andreis, he contributed little, his attendance at common prayer and Mass was poor. I lowered the boom on Michael on February 13 of this year. I pointed out that he needed more balance between his work in deaconing at Clarendon Hills and his duties here. I asked him why he was so faithful there and so remiss here. He said that it seemed to be a matter of motivation. I then told him that if he were not at morning prayers every day for the rest of this year, I would see to it that he never got ordained. As Mike said to me, "That's motivation!" Mike has been quite faithful in his attendance at morning prayers. What is interesting is, that I did not say anything to him, specifically, about Mass attendance and while that may have improved, it was not the dramatic change that took place in regard to morning prayers.

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Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

Bishop Romeo Blanchette, Page 3.

May 3, 1974

036080

My recommendation, then, is that Michael Gibbney not be ordained to the Priesthood until a sufficient amount of time has passed for him to demonstrate his grasp of the essential elements of theology and until, of course, he gives evidence of such a grasp.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

Bishop Romeo Blanchette, Page 4.

May 3, 1974

I hope that this report is sufficiently detailed to give you an idea of what is going on with your students and to help you make whatever decisions you must. I will be very happy to elaborate on this report and to communicate whatever you wish to your students. We are happy to be of service to the Diocese of Joliet and we're looking forward to your informal visit to the Seminary on

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

000082

Bishop Romeo Blanchette, Page 5.
May 3, 1974

May 29. There will be nothing special but we would like to have you out at 5:30 -- have a drink, attend Vespers, and then our supper meal. 'Till then, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis A. Gaydos, C.M.
Francis A. Gaydos, C.M.
Rector

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Chancery Office

425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

February 4, 1975

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Father Kaffer, Father Stempora, and Father Henehan

FROM: Father Ryan

Bishop Blanchette asks that you form a subcommittee of the Diocesan Seminary Board for the purpose of studying the petition of the Reverend Mr. Michael Gibbney, Deacon, for Ordination to the Priesthood. The Bishop asks that you speak to each priest at Immaculate Conception Rectory, Elmhurst, regarding this petition, as well as to representative lay persons in the parish. The Bishop also specifically asks that your committee visit the Very Reverend Francis Gaydos, C.M., Rector of De Andreis Seminary, Lemont, in order to discuss with Father Gaydos the petition of Mr. Gibbney. The Bishop has asked me to make available to you the complete information found in our Diocesan archives regarding the Reverend Mr. Michael Gibbney. Specifically, the Bishop asks you to review this material before making your recommendation to the Seminary Board.

I have taken the liberty of adding this item to the agenda for the February 18, 1975, meeting of the Diocesan Seminary Board. I trust that you will be able to accomplish your purposes in that time. The Bishop asks Father Kaffer to act as chairman of your subcommittee.

Assuring you of appreciation and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
Chancellor

DLR:kms

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Deacon Michael Gibbney

000088

February 4, 1975

Rev. Roger Kaffer
Providence High School
Lincoln Highway
New Lenox, Illinois 60451

Dear Father Kaffer:

Deacon Michael Gibbney has requested ordination to the priesthood. As you know, there are certain items in the file which you should study before you and Father Stempora and Father Micheld go to make the usual visitation. In this instance I think it would be well if part of the visitation was also a visit to the Rector before a report is made to the full Seminary Board.

With best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours in Christ,

Bishop of Joliet

RRB/sma

Michael Gibbney

000089

DIOCESE OF JOLIET
Chancery Office
425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

February 7, 1975

C O N F I D E N T I A L

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Father Kaffer, Father Henehan, and Father Stempora

FROM: Father Ryan

Enclosed please find copies of the pertinent remarks found in the personal file of the Reverend Mr. Michael Gibbney, who has petitioned for Ordination to the Priesthood. I believe that you will be able more easily to study these documents at your leisure, rather than by making a special trip to the Chancery Office.

Will each of you kindly take upon yourselves the responsibility of destroying the enclosed material after the Seminary Board Meeting on February 18th.

Thank you for your kind assistance.

The Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
Chancellor

DLR:kms

Enclosures

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Chancery Office

425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

Re: Michael Gibbney Order

February 11, 1975

To the Seminary Board Members:

In view of the fact that I will not be present for the Seminary Board meeting, I would ask that each member write one paragraph addressed to me, in which each explains his reason for his vote with reference to the petitions of [redacted] for the Diaconate and the petitions of Reverend Mr. Michael Gibbney for the Priesthood. These notes will be confidential, but will help me have an informed conscience in the matter.

Naturally, I also expect the secretary of the Seminary Board to quickly show me the minutes of the Board, so that together with what you send me, I will be able to give a reply to these two young people.

+ Romeo Blanchette

Bishop of Joliet

RRB/sma

Bp - I endorse unreservedly and confidently the ordination of Michael Gibbney. I approached my task as a committeeman with apprehension, after reading the seminary reports & concluded the invitation with confidence and relief. All the recommendations were positive. No one (in the parish) suggested any detour & positively stated there were none. Father Gogdon said his report terminated with Michael's departure from the seminary. We would have to judge the intervening ~~ten~~ months on performance, to determine if Mike was ready for ~~the~~ ordination. In my judgment, he is. Father Gogdon made the suggestion Mike might be given a comprehensive exam in theology. Father Stempora "bumped" him. ~~He~~ He should have been failed in the seminary if there were serious reservations on his readiness. After hearing priests and laity in the parish concert on Mike's sermons, I think the seminary may be out of touch with the needs of the faithful rather than Rev. Gibbney not prepared to minister to them. Deacon Gibbney seems to be doing well as an outgoing young cleric. I believe he should be ordained without warning, without reservation - but with encouragement and commendation.

Raymond Z. Kuffner
Feb 11 75

Redacted February 2014
TMJ TELEPHONE 722-6606
Released April 2014

Michael Gibbney

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Chancery Office

425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

Personnel file 800092

CONFIDENTIAL

February 17, 1975

The Most Reverend Romeo Blanchette
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Blanchette:

I voted favorably on the petitions of [redacted] and [redacted] for the Diaconate, and negatively on the petition of Michael Gibbney for the Priesthood. I shall explain my reasons.

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

000093

The Most Reverend Romeo Blanchette
February 17, 1975
Page 2

I voted negatively for the petition of Michael Gibbney because, I suppose, I seriously doubt whether or not the last few months at Immaculate Conception Rectory, as portrayed in the report of the Committee, could have the miraculous effect alleged. The reports from the seminary have been consistently negative regarding Michael, and it is only very tentatively that the Rector and faculty have allowed him to be advanced. When I questioned, at the Seminary Board Meeting, the results of his recent interviews with [REDACTED] I was told that I had no right to inquire into the matter, since it was not the Diocese or seminary [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I suppose that I have witnessed so much stress and strain in the Priesthood, particularly over the last few years, that I fear that the man of less than average ability - intellectual, emotional, spiritual, etc. - just "will not make it." I am reasonably certain that Mike Gibbney will be called to the Priesthood, and I want to assure you, if that is the case, that I will do my best to support him in his priestly life in owork, and I will not allow my present conviction to interfere with your own choice.

With respectful wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



The Reverend Daniel L. Ryan
Chancellor

DLR:kms

Enclosures

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

000095

1. Good impression
2. He said he [redacted] who recommends [redacted] and that a letter from [redacted] ordination, would be sent to me for the file.
3. I first discussed the negative points made by the rectors of the past. Then I mentioned the improvement noted as well as the positive statements.
4. I mentioned the favorable report from the Frick and the Seminary Board.
5. I mentioned a Canonical exam. to come re trustworth and basic studies (including) and auditors. This will be at some time as Virtue so that examiners need be summoned only once.
6. I told him to continue to build his self-image, to dispel shyness, to moderate his temper, and above all to be a man of prayer, out of service as a priest.
7. I gave him permission to seek Bishop Voss to ordain him if he so desires. It would be easily understood by all and I would have no objection.

+ R. B.

in formally calling him will be sent after canonical exam — soon to be held. No date to be set until then, and until Bishops' schedules are consulted.

Redacted February 2014
Released April 2014

DOE

mm. 815 705 1000
- WK. 815 695 3200 X 5411

On Sat. June 1, 1985 I met at St. Raymond's Cathedral with Fr. DOE and his sons, DOE-1 (11-10?) & DOE-2 (9-10?). They had been parishioners at St. Dominici, Polingford and good friends with Fr. Mike Gibney. On many occasions Fr. had camped out with the 2 boys and had taken them places. Fr. was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

About 10 months ago Fr. took the 2 boys to the AMC plot in Joesville, Wis. and spent the night in a motel. The boys said he flipped a coin between them to determine which one would sleep alone. DOE-1 went to bed with Fr. During the night he said that Fr. had touched him. At 4:00 a.m. DOE-1 went to the bathroom and his return went to bed with DOE-2

[REDACTED]

About 3 weeks ago Fr. drove to Union with a new trailer, which he said he was buying in Algonguin. Fr. sat at the table & was very uneasy. DOE-2 went to the garage & Fr. followed him. The grandparent, who felt something was wrong, followed Fr. & told him he should leave.

I spoke to Mike on June 3 and he admitted it. He said it was the first time anything had happened. Although DOE-2 said Fr. had a drink before going to bed, Mike said that he had been drinking. Mike denied the story of the coin toss. I told Mike that he was to see a counsellor. Since he had already [REDACTED] before [REDACTED] As of June 6th he had not yet contacted him. [REDACTED] a similar incident occurred with the father in his youth, with a

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

000129

REV. MICHAEL L. GIBNEY
282 Bryant Drive
Bolingbrook, Illinois 60439

July 1, 1985

Dear Bishop Smush:

Please do not jump to conclusions. I am not taking this situation lightly. Our conversation was immediately before my vacation. I decided I would [Redacted] as soon as I got back - which I did. When I explained this [Redacted] he thought it made sense.

I am fully aware of the seriousness of the situation and of how hard [Redacted]

Peace

Michael Gibney



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Mike,

As I mentioned in our conversation, I am listing several requirements which I expect you to fulfill:

1-



2- Meet regularly, at least monthly, with your spiritual director.

3. Boys are not to be brought into the rectory.

4. Boys are not to be taken for trips or overnights in your car.

cc Rev. J. Dougherty

July 31, 1985

Fr. Gerald J. Lynch

June 5, 1986

Reverend Michael Gibbney
St. Francis of Assisi
282 Bryant Drive
Bolingbrook, IL 60439

Dear Mike,

In order to provide for the spiritual needs of the people of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bensenville, I am appointing you as associate pastor (Canon 545) of that community, effective June 18th of this year. At the same time, I am relieving you of your pastoral appointment at St. Francis of Assisi. I also grant you general delegation for marriages at St. Charles Borromeo.

Mike, I want to thank you for your 6 years of ministry to the people of St. Francis of Assisi. I am sure that they have benefited greatly from your ministry and that you have grown from your own service to them. One does not have to be a priest for a very long period before he realizes that the people to whom he ministers are also ministers to him.

Each new assignment brings with it a new challenge as well as a new opportunity. Parishes, just like people, are quite different. These new situations offer us an opportunity to grow, both personally and in our ministry.

I know that you will bring your enthusiasm and priestly commitment to your new assignment. I would encourage you to continue in your active participation in the meetings of your cluster. Such meetings are a source of priestly and fraternal support, as well as an opportunity to share pastoral knowledge.

I assure you of my appreciation for the ministry you have carried on for these past 6 years at St. Francis of Assisi and of my willingness to be available for you should you ever wish to call on me. May the Lord bless your efforts.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

cc-Reverend Raymond Grasso
Reverend James Dougherty

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

000156

May 23, 1990

Reverend Michael Gibbney
St. Liborius Parish
71 West 35th Street
Steger, IL 60475-1699

Dear Mike,

What a special pleasure it is for me to appoint you to your first pastorate at Immaculate Conception Parish in Morris. This appointment will take effect on Wednesday, June 20th, at which time your appointment as associate pastor at St. Liborius in Steger will terminate. In keeping with the directives proposed by the Presbyteral Council and accepted by me, this appointment as pastor will extend for six years. At the conclusion of five years there will be an evaluation of your pastoral ministry as the Presbyteral Council has recommended. Depending upon this evaluation, your own personal needs and the needs of the diocese, your service as pastor can be extended for another six year term.

Mike, you have special gifts and talents and now you will have the opportunity to exercise them in the role of pastor. The parish community at Morris has always been very supportive of their priests and I am sure they will offer you their full support and cooperation. I know you will do well in this assignment.

I encourage you to make use of the talents of your people and allow them to share in the responsibilities of ministering to the parish community. It is my expectation that there be an active Parish Council as well as a finance commission. I will expect you to work with those groups and other parish committees to provide the necessary services to the parish community as well as provide for the administration of the parish resources.

I encourage you to participate in the cluster meetings of the priests of your area. There seems to be a particularly fine spirit among the priests in your cluster and I know that you will add to that spirit.

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

2.

I ask that you make arrangements with me or one of the auxiliary bishops to determine a date for a ceremony of installation at one of the weekend Masses, shortly after you have arrived at Immaculate Conception. A copy of the Rite of Installation of Pastor may be obtained from the Office of Divine Worship. The Profession of Faith will be made at the ceremony of installation.

Be assured of my blessing as you go to carry on the work of the Lord in Immaculate Conception Parish. Should there be any need, please feel free to call on me at any time. You are in my prayers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

CONFIDENTIAL
Memo - Re: Mike Gibney.

Last week, Fr. Tom Mc Guirey left word on my answering machine to return his call within a week.

On November 27th DOE-K, 27, single, a parishioner of St. Tricks in Wheaton, came to see Tom. They talked for 45 minutes before DOE could get out what he wanted to. About 1978, from the age of about 13 to 16, for 3 years, DOE had had a sexual relationship with Fr. Gibney, who at the time was stationed at Holy Queen of Heaven parish in Elmhurst.

DOE once asked Fr. G.: "Isn't this wrong?" and Fr. G. replied: "Don't you believe God forgives?"

Michael would call DOE - mother and say he fell asleep on the couch. Would it be okay if he stayed at the rectory overnight. DOE cannot believe that the pastor, Fr. Tom Fleming, didn't know something was going on.

DOE did not specify what kind of activity took place, but did indicate that it was regular. He is not anxious to talk to diocesan authorities about this, though he would if he has to - but Fr. Mc Guirey would want to be with him, because they have developed some rapport.

I expressed my concern for DOE's welfare, and told Fr. Mc Guirey I also told him he could assure DOE we will work on this at our end, that we will investigate and insist on therapy for Fr. ~~Tom~~ Gibney. (Fr. Mc Guirey said this will please DOE.) Fr. Mc G. also suggested afterward letting DOE know what we did - not in detail but in general. I have tried for several days to see Mike, but he had appointments and a funeral but we will meet this afternoon.

+ Roger L. Kuffen

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Immaculate Conception Parish

000215

516 East Jackson Street
Morris, Illinois 60450
(815) 942-0620

Rev. Michael L. Gibney
Pastor

January 27, 1992

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Diocese of Joliet
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Il 60435

Due to personal spiritual and emotional reasons, I hereby resign as Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Morris, Illinois.

I look forward to serving again in the Joliet Diocese when I return from the Jemez Program.

Thank you for the support you have given me in the past and please keep me in your prayers in the future as I will keep you in mine.

Sincerely in Christ,



Michael L. Gibney



We are called, and we are committed to be a Welcoming,
Listening, Healing, Serving and Worshiping community.

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

000216

January 31, 1992

Reverend Michael Gibbney
Immaculate Conception Parish
516 E. Jackson Street
Morris, IL 60450-2374

Dear Mike:

In the name of Bishop Imesch, I have received and accept your resignation as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Morris, effective immediately.

Also in his name, as well as in my own, I want to thank you for your pastoral ministry at Morris since you have been there as pastor. Just recently, Sister Judith, our Chancellor, commented on the beautiful and comforting funeral liturgy you had for [REDACTED]

In accordance with the discussions we had both in St. Louis and in my office last week, you are [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] February 14th. As we also discussed, you are not to celebrate a public liturgy or present yourself as a priest publicly until such time as we receive a strong recommendation to resume such ministry [REDACTED]

However, as we also discussed, you can and I would at this time encourage you to offer Mass privately within their program.

[REDACTED] There are precedents, and you will be paid as others were in similar circumstances. I'll get that information to you as soon as I can.

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

000217

Reverend Michael Gibney

-2-

January 31, 1992

Mike, I am very pleased that you are going to [redacted]

[redacted] Be assured of my support and prayers for and with you. I understand you would prefer [redacted] to Bishop Imesch rather than to me, and I'm sending a carbon copy of this letter to [redacted] so that he will clearly understand that and see to it. I foresee no difficulty in that, but we should all understand that should he [redacted] or be otherwise incapacitated, [redacted] administering the diocese in his absence, as I am doing at present. However, it is my firm expectation that Bishop Imesch will be back in charge even before your arrival in [redacted] and will remain in charge for the next decade and a half.

Thank you for your help in briefing Father Dick Smith, who will be temporary administrator of the parish for the present.

With cordial personal regards, and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet
Vicar General
By Special Mandate

RLK:bjd

CC: JLI (w/encl)

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

REV. MICHAEL L. GIBBNEY



April 16, 1992
Holy Thursday

The Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Diocese of Joliet
425 Summit Street
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Bishop,

I have been here [redacted] for two months now. [redacted]
[redacted] and I have had a lot of time to
look into myself especially through prayer.

Although it will most likely come as a surprise to many, I have
been unhappy in my ministry for some time. When questions about my
vocation arose in the past I managed to shove them aside and keep
myself busy so I would not have to deal with them. I did this
subconsciously or course. Since I have been here my meditation has
been invaded by the thoughts of my vocation and whether I want to
continue in the active ministry. I have had the luxury of time to
think about this [redacted]

[redacted] I have discovered that it has come about not because I
was "sent away" [redacted] I have had the time here to
consider it and in the quiet of my prayer my subconscious was able
to confront me with it.

[redacted] is not the place to make a decision in
regard to continuing in active ministry. Being in the active
ministry is not the place to make that decision either.

I am therefore requesting a one year leave of absence from the
Diocese of Joliet and from active priestly ministry [redacted]

You and my brother priests of the diocese are in my prayers in a
special way today.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Michael L. Gibbney

C O N F I D E N T I A L M E M O R A N D U M

TO : Bishop Roger L. Kaffer
FROM: Guy A. Sell
DATE: April 29, 1992
RE : Immaculate Conception Parish - Morris

I have reviewed the transactions in the Immaculate Conception Remodeling Fund checking account and have the following observations.

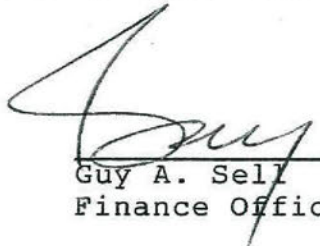
1. The account was opened July 9, 1991, as Account Number [REDACTED] at the Grundy County National Bank.
2. On July 18, 1991, a deposit of \$14,729.45 was made into this account.
3. The account was closed January 29, 1992.
4. Fifteen checks were observed to have been written from this account. The October 1991 bank statement was missing, therefore, activity for that month was not observed. The difference in the ending balance on the September 1991 bank statement and the opening balance on the November 1991 statement was \$29.73. However, there is a gap of unaccounted for checks between Check #113 and Check #127. Check #113 was the last to clear the bank in September 1991 and Check #127 is the first to clear in November 1991. It is not known if these checks were unused or if they are transactions which cleared the bank in October 1991. Also, it is not known if there was an additional deposit made that month, with the \$29.73 reduction in the balance being a net difference between deposits and checks.
5. Check #128, dated December 30, 1991, was made payable to the First Midwest Bank. According to Father Richard Smith this check was deposited into Father Michael Gibbney's personal account as a loan from the Parish Remodeling Account. There is no evidence the loan has been repaid.

Bishop Roger L. Kaffer - 2 -

April 29, 1992

6. On January 29, 1992, a debit memo in the amount of \$6,421.97 was issued by the Grundy County National Bank to close the Remodeling Fund Account. The debit memo appears to be the result of a cash withdrawal by Father Gibbney. There is no evidence to disclose the disposition of this withdrawal.
7. Father Smith stated that at the time of the initial deposit into the Remodeling Fund Account a Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$14,500 for Mass stipends matured and was not rolled over. It is thought that the \$14,500 plus interest is the source of the \$14,729.45 deposited into the Remodeling Account on July 18, 1991.

These are my initial observations relative to this one bank account. It is my intention to examine all the parish bank accounts and financial matters of the parish. I also intend to look further for the missing October 1991 bank statement.



Guy A. Sell
Finance Officer

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

MEMORANDUM

March 25, 1993

TO: Bishop Imesch
✓ Bishop Kaffer
Jim Byrne

FROM: Sister Judith

RE: Fr. Michael Gibbney

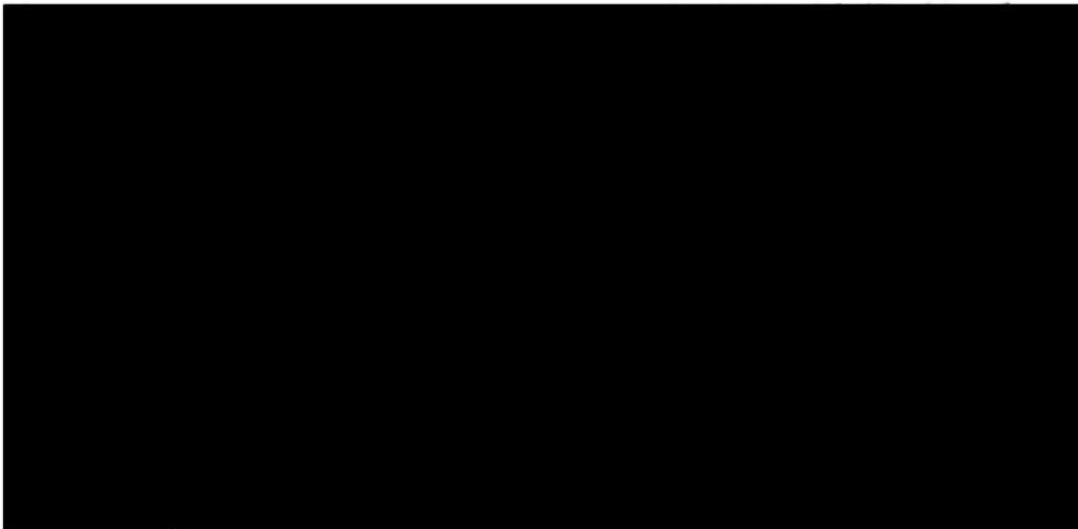
[REDACTED] called this morning. When he was 11 or 12 years old he was abused several times by Fr. Michael Gibbney at the rectory of St. Francis Assisi in Bolingbrook.

He looked on Fr. Gibbney as his friend. He was allowed to drink & smoke while with Fr. Gibbney. While on trips with Fr. Gibbney to Minnesota and Wisconsin he was abused also.

[REDACTED] will be sending Bishop Kaffer a detailed letter regarding his association with Fr. Gibbney. His concern is to see that Fr. Gibbney is accountable for what he did; he does not want to cause a sensation which would result in discrediting other priests.

I thanked him for his call and told him that someone would be in contact with him.

Judith
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF



Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

000020

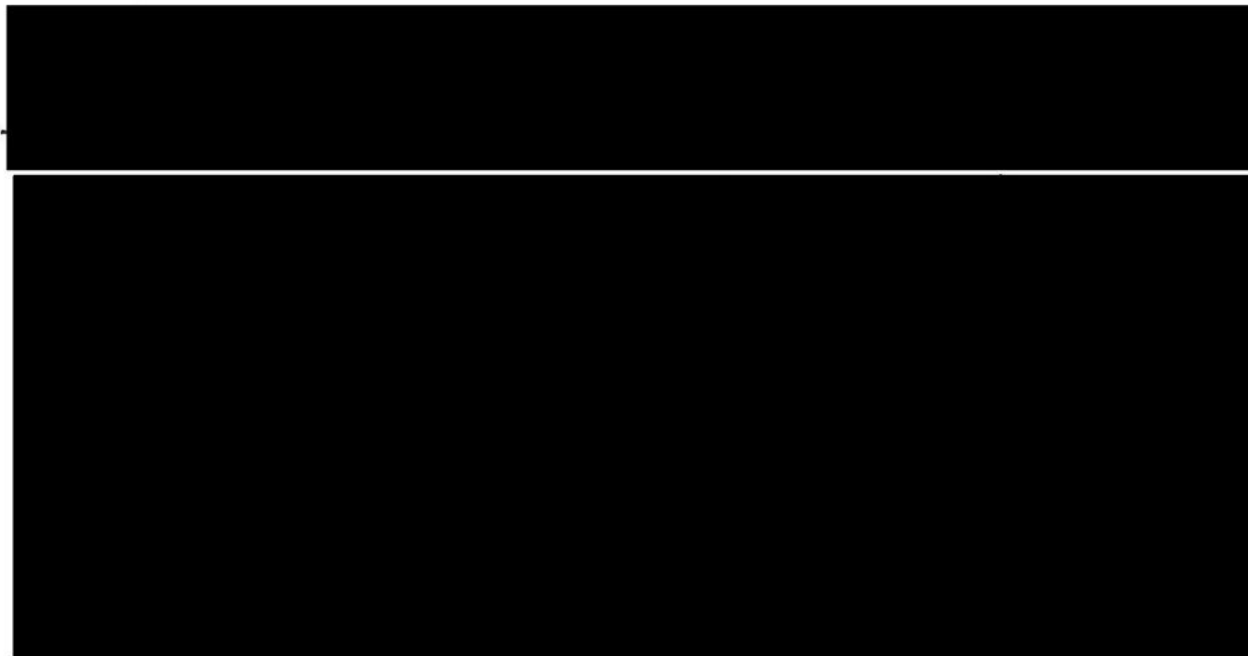
Bishop Roger Kaffer
Chancery Office
425 Summit St.
Joliet, IL. 60435

March 26, 1993

Dear Bishop Kaffer,

Please take a brief moment to consider that what I have written here has been done after considerable meditation. I have had to make a concerted effort with trusted friends to be able to gain the spiritual clarity to look at these issues objectively. *I will speak graphically, and explicitly.* The reason for this is because I don't know what one in my position should do or what will help. I just know that I can't leave anything out.

The following pages are not for the morally or sexually squeamish. I have one opportunity to expose this creep and I intend to take every available option in doing so. And by this I help myself and many of those who have shared this kind of trauma. I have to the best of my memory tried to recall these incidents and this story in the fullest of detail.



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Released April 2014



I will leave in your judgment, the discretion of who to share these documents with. You may do this if you feel that the impact cannot be thoroughly described otherwise.

Thank You for Your Courage

Sincerely,



Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

I met Fr. Michael Gibbney around age 11. I remember the first interaction of interest I had with him [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I know my parents knew and trusted him. After all he was a spiritual leader of the mass. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I remember that he had a lot of toys. Every gadget, compass, radar detector, [REDACTED] He had a cool blue police light in his car and radios and scanners, CB's, a motorcycle, walkie talkies, a motor home, a sauna in the house, he had a cool stereo, lots of keys to stuff.

[REDACTED]

The first time I felt a little funny with him was when [REDACTED] [REDACTED] He had a blue Chevy wagon. He said he could use some help moving the stuff, and we could go swimming at his parents house. I brought my swimming trunks. I thought it kind of funny that we both undressed in the same small bedroom in the back of the house. I remember he said "You aren't bashful are you?". He blatantly stared at my naked waist as I changed. [REDACTED]

Gibbney
00 333

Redacted February 2014
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Released April 2014

March 25, 1993

Memo re: [REDACTED]

I returned [REDACTED]'s phone call [REDACTED]. I told him: [REDACTED] I wish simultaneously to thank you, to apologize and express my regrets at what happened to you. Please do send me a letter. As soon as I receive it, I will confront Michael Gibbney. He is no longer functioning as a priest. He has undergone psychological evaluation and therapy."

[REDACTED]

He said he thought there probably would be others coming forward, but said he doesn't know of anyone else himself. He did express concern that Father Gibbney needs help and I reiterated that he had undergone psychological evaluation and therapy, but of course I was not privy to his discussions with his therapists.

[REDACTED]

I did tell him I had been principal of Providence High School from 1970 to 1985, and in 1984 I had gone to the Holy Land and composed a prayer after saying Mass on Calvary on my favorite feast, the Feast of the Sacred Heart. It helps me through a lot of tough situations and I told him I was going to send him a copy this afternoon before I left for Confirmation. He thanked me.

R. Z. K.
Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

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After swimming, we again had to change together in that small room.

[REDACTED]

He introduced me to [REDACTED] which entailed showering afterwards. He wasn't bashful about his erection on two of these occasions. Also, he took me and another boy as well.

The next time I remember being in a sexually uncomfortable situation was when he asked me if I would like to go to Minnesota for the weekend.

[REDACTED]

When we got to Minnesota the first stop was dinner at this family's house.

[REDACTED]

The two of them stayed up and talked and pulled out a hide-a-bed for me.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], his body was close to mine and smelled of what I would come to find out was alcohol sweat.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] priest rubbing me especially on the butt and legs.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

job.

I got my first blow

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The next incident was on another trip to Wisconsin. I'm not sure why I went, but I did. I guess I wanted to get away from my family for a weekend.

[REDACTED]

I was 12 by the next trip.

[REDACTED]

alone in the motel room. It happened just the same way,- the "massage" it got to be called. I

[REDACTED]

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There was one more trip to [REDACTED], and another to Minnesota but the second trip to Minnesota was at a motel and not with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Several times, I went to the rectory prepared for a "massage". There was a sauna, and cold beer in the motor home. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] I stayed out with him all night in his
motor home. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Released April 2014

000359 7

March 28, 1994

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I beg the Holy Spirit to heal you and all who, like you, may have been hurt by a priest. Please pray for me.

May this Easter Season be a joyful one.

With cordial personal regards and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet
Vicar General

RLK:bjd

Enclosures

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000360

STATEMENT REGARDING CONFIDENTIALITY

I, [REDACTED] have previously communicated to Bishop Kaffer allegations of sexual abuse inflicted upon me by Father Michael Gibbney.

At the time of those communications, and at the present time, I consider those allegations to be confidential, and were made to said Bishop in his capacity as a priest, and made with the expectation that these communications would be held confidential.

Dated: 4/1/94

[REDACTED]

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Released April 2014

3
03037

April 24, 2002

Mr. Doek
Office: 312-

I received a call from Mr. Doek concerning abuse that took place from 1976 to 1980.

Doek was 11 years of age, a member of Mary Queen of Heaven Parish in Elmhurst. The abusive priest was Father Michael Gibbney.

Father Doek would take altar boys on trips, about 6 at a time. Doek said that he knew Father attempted to do something with those other boys but does not know if he succeeded.

The first incident occurred when Father took him on a retreat in Wisconsin. Subsequent incidents occurred at the parish rectory. Doek spent many nights at the rectory when Father Tom Fleming, the pastor, was away on retreat, etc. Doek thought that the housekeeper may have figured something was wrong since he stayed when Father Fleming was out of the rectory.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

I expressed my sorrow at what he has experienced, told him that in accord with our policy the matter would be referred to the Chair of the Review Committee, and that someone from the Committee would contact him. I also told him that counseling would be made available if he felt it was needed.

Judith A. Davies, OSF
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

000374

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

June 22, 1995



Dear [REDACTED],

This is in reply to your letter of June 20.

Should you wish to contact with Michael Gibbney, please address a letter to him in care of the Chancery, 425 Summit Street, Joliet, IL 60435, and it will be forwarded to him.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Judith A. Davies, OSF.

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

Redacted February 2014

T.M.A.
Released April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

Chancery

000375

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

Christ's Mass, 1995

Dear [REDACTED]

With the angels at Bethlehem and with the Pope in Manila, my Christmas message to you is "Fear not!" Be not afraid - I bring you tidings of great joy - and of great hope from the one I like to call the Pope of Hope, John Paul II! In spite of all the problems, in spite of the power of Satan and sin, in spite of all of our disappointments with ourselves and others, Jesus Christ has come! He has won! And all we have to do is plug into his victory!

I continue to say that the most profound experience of my entire life was World Youth Day in Manila last January. It was there that I presided at the most thrilling and hope-filled Mass of my priesthood. It was the second of three days of catechetical preparation for the Papal visit. With several dozen other priests, I heard confessions several hours each morning. On that second day, I was the main celebrant for 12,624 young people, ages 30 and under. The theme of the day and the homily was Hope. I was concluding, as I often do at Confirmation by saying: "Be proud of the Gospel! Be proud of the Pope! Be proud of your Catholic faith! Be proud of Jesus Christ!" I had my concluding sentence all written out: "Stand up for Jesus Christ, and tell the world of His love." ("Tell the World of His Love" was the Manila World Youth Day song.) As soon as I said: "Stand up for Jesus Christ....over 12,000 young people leapt to their feet and cheered for two minutes, not allowing me to finish my sentence! - When they finally calmed down, I added: "And tell the World of His Love!" And they broke into the song. I get goose bumps recounting it. I got goose bumps when it happened.

In Manila, the Pope said: "The Church looks forward to the future with confidence!" This was simply an echo of what he said last year in his outstanding document - The Advent of the Third Millennium: If we are faithful to the action of the Holy Spirit, there will be a new springtime of Christianity at the beginning of the next Millennium.

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Earlier this year, I read his very positive autobiographical remarks in: "Crossing the Threshold of Hope." Recently, I have been reading his biography by Tad Szulc. If anyone would have reason not to hope, it would be him, but he is such a Pope of Hope!

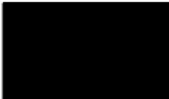
This year of hope was crowned for me at his Mass in Baltimore. There were probably a dozen Cardinals, nearly two hundred bishops, and several hundred more priests concelebrating with the Pope for a crowd of about 50,000 people in Oriole park in Camden Yards. As I came back after communion at that concelebrated Mass, I experienced a Kairos moment, in which time is irrelevant. In making my Thanksgiving with Jesus Christ, sitting in the midst of nearly 200 bishops, the successors of the Apostles, and concelebrating Mass with the successor of Peter, I was right back at the Last Supper, and I did pray very much for all those who receive this Christmas greeting, (and many others, both living and dead.) Without Jesus, nothing else counts. As long as we are with Jesus, nothing else matters. So indeed we should fear not. Indeed, we have reason for great hope! May the peace, joy, hope and love of Jesus Christ be yours during this Holy Christmas Season, all through 1996, and beyond!

With cordial personal regards, and a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain, fearing not and with great hope,

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,



Bishop Roger L. Kaffer



hope you have a very Merry Christmas and
Blessings in 1996!

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Released April 2014

000379

TO: Diocesan Review Committee
FM: Thomas A. O'Donnell *AAD*
DATE: April 25, 2002
RE: Michael L. Gibbney

On April 25, 2003, at approximately 11:00AM, review committee member Thomas A. O'Donnell interviewed DOE-K, M/W, DOB [REDACTED] so DOE provided the downtown telephone number where he can be easily reached. That number is (312) [REDACTED]. Committee member O'Donnell interviewed [REDACTED] y at DOE's place of employment [REDACTED] (312) [REDACTED]. The following is a non verbatim summary of the interview.

In 1976 DOE was an eleven year old altar boy at Mary Queen of Heaven Church in Elmhurst, Il. DOE [REDACTED]

DOE stated while he was an altar boy he was sexually abused by one of the parish priests, Father **MICHAEL L. GIBBNEY**, M/W, DOB [REDACTED]. The first time Gibbney abused DOE was during an overnight trip to a shelter in Wisconsin [REDACTED] Gibbney, [REDACTED] took DOE on the trip and stayed overnight in a motel. That night Gibbney asked DOE if he would like a massage [REDACTED] During the massage Gibbney masturbated DOE

Gibbney continued to sexually abuse DOE approximately two times a month for the next three or four years. The abuse consisted of mutual oral sex and masturbation between DOE and Gibbney. Gibbney usually molested DOE in his room in the rectory at Mary Queen of Heaven Church. Gibbney would ask DOE to stay overnight when the pastor, Father Fleming, was out of town. [REDACTED]

Gibbney's parents lived in [REDACTED] and they had a swimming pool in their back yard. When Gibbney's parents were gone for the evening, Gibbney and DOE would swim naked in the pool. Gibbney often molested DOE on these occasions. Gibbney also owned a camper and he often took DOE and other altar boys, including B-Q and B-W, on extended camping trips. Gibbney would sleep with a different boy each night during the trip. On one trip, when [REDACTED] was approximately 15 years old, Gibbney took the boys to [REDACTED] One day Gibbney took the boys [REDACTED] and met a friend. The friend accompanied Gibbney and the boys

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Released April 2014

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-2-

for the rest of the trip. The first night the friend slept with DOE [REDACTED]

DOE stated that Gibbney left Mary Queen of Heaven abruptly and was assigned to a parish that DOE thought was called St. Andrew and was located in Bolingbrook. DOE visited Gibbney one time at the new parish and Gibbney sexually abused DOE in the rectory. That was the last time Gibbney abused

[REDACTED]

DOE had no other information at this time and the interview was terminated at approximately 11:45AM.

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO.

275

000381

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

TO: Diocesan Review Committee
FM: Thomas A. O'Donnell *TAO*
DATE: April 25, 2002.
RE: Michael L. Gibbney

On April 25, 2002, Committee Member Thomas A. O'Donnell ascertained that Michael L. Gibbney, M/W, DOB [REDACTED] Illinois. Gibbney has a 2001 Ford, Il. license plate [REDACTED] and a 1998 Honda, Il. license plate [REDACTED]. Gibbney has an unlisted phone number.

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Released April 2014

000382

TO: Diocesan Review Committee
FM: Thomas A. O'Donnell *TAOD*
DATE: April 29, 2002
RE: Michael L. Gibbney

On April 29, 2002, at approximately 9:30 AM, review committee member Thomas A. O'Donnell interviewed [REDACTED], M/W, DOB [REDACTED] concerning his knowledge of Michael L. Gibbney. Committee Member O'Donnell asked [REDACTED] if he, O'Donnell, could meet to conduct an interview and [REDACTED] said he was comfortable talking to O'Donnell on the telephone. The following is a non verbatim summary of the interview.

[REDACTED] was an altar boy at Mary Queen of Heaven Church in Elmhurst and he graduated from Mary Queen of Heaven school in [REDACTED]. Michael L. Gibbney was a priest at Mary Queen Of Heaven Church and, according to [REDACTED] Gibbney engaged in a lot of inappropriate conduct. Committee Member O'Donnell asked [REDACTED] what he meant by inappropriate conduct and [REDACTED] answered that Gibbney often wrestled with the altar boys and would slap the bare stomachs of the boys. Gibbney also tried to grab they boys' genitals during the wrestling matches. [REDACTED] stated that he did go on camping trips with Father Gibbney. Gibbney liked to sleep with different boys each night. [REDACTED] stated that Gibbney placed his hand inside [REDACTED]'s sleeping bag and masturbated [REDACTED] during the camping trip. [REDACTED] stated this happened more than once and less than five times. [REDACTED] remembered another adult on the camping trip but [REDACTED] could not remember when the person joined the trip. [REDACTED] thought the person, who was a friend of Gibbney's, was a young priest.

[REDACTED] stated that most of the boys knew that Gibbney had a relationship with a boy named [REDACTED] who often stayed overnight in the rectory. Gibbney eventually left Mary Queen of Heaven and moved to a parish in Bolingbrook. [REDACTED] had no additional information and the interview was terminated at approximately 10:00 AM.

DOE K

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Released April 2014

000383

TO: Diocesan Review Committee
FM: Thomas A. O'Donnell *TAO*
DATE: April 30, 2002
RE: Michael L. Gibbney

On April 30, 2002, at approximately 8:30 AM, Review Committee Member Thomas A. O'Donnell interviewed B Q, M/W, DOB [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Committee member O'Donnell interviewed Q [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The interview concerned Q's knowledge of Michael L. Gibbney. The following is a non verbatim summary of the interview.

Q attended Mary Queen of Heaven in Elmhurst and graduated from the school in [REDACTED]. Q was an altar boy when he was in [REDACTED] grades and Father Gibbney was one of the parish priests. Q often went swimming at Gibbney's parents' house in Lombard with Gibbney and other boys. Nobody removed their swimming trunks in the pool. Father Gibbney often took altar boys on day trips and overnight camping trips. Gibbney took 5 boys on an extended trip to [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED] a friend of Gibbney's joined the trip. Q believes the friend was a seminarian. Father Gibbney liked to give boys back rubs. On one occasion Gibbney was wrestling with Q and he overpowered Q and laid on top of him face to face. Q [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Gibbney did not touch Q during the rest of the trip. On other occasions Gibbney would tell all the boys to pull out their penises [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was reluctant to provide Committee Member O'Donnell with the names of other boys. He stated all the boys talked together and two brothers on the trip admitted that Gibbney had fondled their genitals. One boy named K had a "relationship" with Father Gibbney. O'Donnell asked Q what he meant and he indicated that K was often abused by Gibbney. Q denied being abused by Gibbney other than during the wrestling matches. [REDACTED] had no other information and the interview was terminated at approximately 9:30 AM.

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Released April 2014

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ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Vicar General



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-8271
Fax: (312) 337-6379

May 10, 2002

Most Reverend Joseph Imesch
Diocese of Joliet
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

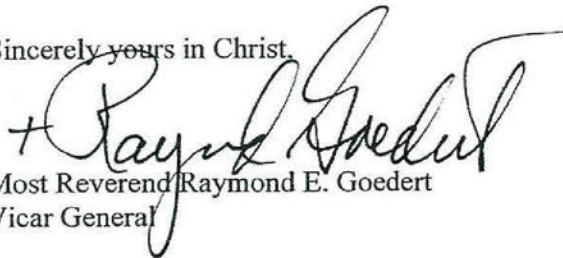
Dear Bishop Imesch:

At our Provincial Bishops' Meeting on May 8, I brought to your attention an allegation I received from Mr. P K, concerning his abuse by a priest at Mary Queen of heaven Parish in Elmhurst. This would have happened in the late 1970s. Although P K could not recall the priest's name exactly, he thought it was something like "Gidney." I presume it was Father Michael Gibbney.

I am enclosing the file memo I made after my conversation with P K. I would appreciate whatever you can do to help him bring closure to this matter. He seems to have his life in order, so I don't think you will be dealing with someone who has been severely damaged by the abuse. His primary concern when he called me was to make sure that no other child will ever be harmed by Father Gibbney.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,


+ Raymond E. Goedert
Most Reverend Raymond E. Goedert
Vicar General

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Released April 2014

000386

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO


Vicar General





Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-8271
Fax: (312) 337-6379


MEMORANDUM

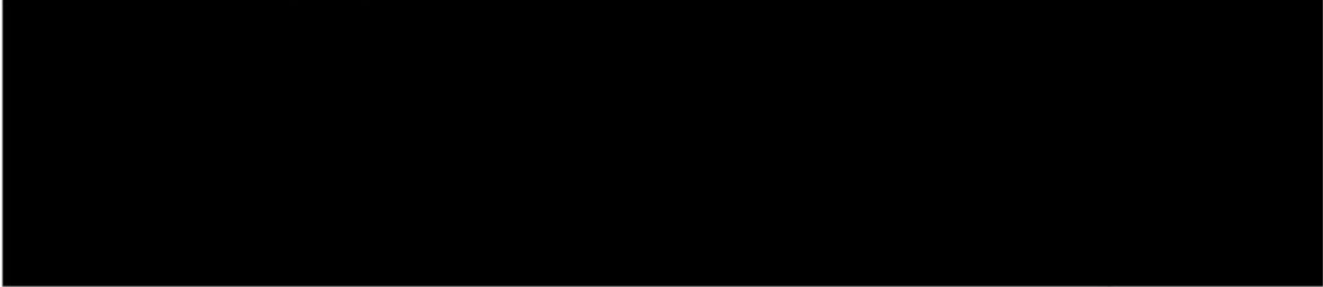
DATE: MAY 2, 2002
TO: FILE
FROM: BISHOP RAYMOND GOEDERT 
RE: MR. PK

PK called me on April 30. I was not able to return the call until today. 




PK was born on January . He is years old now. As a child, he attended Mary Queen of Heaven school in Elmhurst and graduated from there. When he was in grade school, probably around the 4th or 5th or 6th grade, he said that the parish priest used to take the kids camping. PK and , , went with the priest on a particular occasion. Just where they went, he wasn't sure, but the priest used to take the kids to which is an area out southwest near the Illinois River.

PK said he thought the incident happened in a hotel room. At least, that's where he remembered the priest abused him (I did not ask the nature of the abuse). PK felt uncomfortable about it and knew that it was wrong, and from that point on he stayed away from the priest. So it only happened to him once. 





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Released April 24, 2002
Memo
May 14, 2002
Page 2

000387

pastor. He also mentioned that this young priest was a chaplain or had something to do with the Elmhurst Fire Department.



After speaking to PK, I then looked up the Kenedy Directory for 1977 and 1978. In the 1978 directory, on page 416, Father Thomas Fleming is listed as the pastor of Mary Queen of Heaven and Father Michael L. Gibbney is the associate.

I then looked up in the 1999 directory and there was no Gibbney listed, so it could be that he is either deceased or left the active ministry.

I promised PK that I would contact Bishop Imesch about this and the Joliet Diocese will take the matter from here on in.

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Released April 2014

000388

April 24, 2002

Mr. TK
Office: [REDACTED]

I received a call from Mr. TK concerning abuse that took place from 1976 to 1980.

TK was 11 years of age, a member of Mary Queen of Heaven Parish in Elmhurst. The abusive priest was Father Michael Gibbney.

Father would take altar boys on trips, about 6 at a time. TK said that he knew Father attempted to do something with those other boys but does not know if he succeeded.

The first incident occurred when Father took him on a retreat in Wisconsin. Subsequent incidents occurred at the parish rectory. TK spent many nights at the rectory when Father Tom Fleming, the pastor, was away on retreat, etc. TK thought that the housekeeper may have figured something was wrong since he stayed when Father Fleming was out of the rectory.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I expressed my sorrow at what he has experienced, told him that in accord with our policy the matter would be referred to the Chair of the Review Committee, and that someone from the Committee would contact him. I also told him that counseling would be made available if he felt it was needed.

Judith A. Davies, OSF
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

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Released April 2014

MRS-Z
53821

Dear Sister Judith Davies,
I know you are the spokesperson in the chancery office and if you cannot help me please direct this letter to someone who will. I have to have some answers.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] said, "Doe told me that he was molested when we lived in Bolingbrook." I was shocked but not surprised. We left Bolingbrook, St. Francis of Assisi Parrish in 1986 when Doe was completing [REDACTED] grade. Doe had been an altar boy and also was taken on several overnight trips with Father Mike Gibney. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED] Z

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Released April 2014

000434

MRS-Z

April 22, 2004

Today I spoke with MRS-Z concerning her letter that arrived at the Chancery this morning. MRS-Z is the mother of [REDACTED] DOC (age

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] told MRS-Z that DOC had been molested by Michael Gibney.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I told MRS-Z that the Diocese has a Review Committee, then asked if she and [REDACTED] would be willing to speak with someone on behalf of the Review Committee. She agreed to do so, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I told her that the person would identify herself as connected with the Committee.

The summer before 1986, DOC went to [REDACTED] with Gibney and other kids in a camper. Oftentimes Gibney took kids to fish fries in Wisconsin. MRS-Z said that the problem of clergy sexual abuse is not limited to the United States.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

110

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Released April 2014

SUMMARY : [REDACTED]

May 3, 2004

To: Diocesan Review Board
Re: [REDACTED] and Family / (Fr.) Gibbney
From: Cynthia A. Power
Review Committee Vice-Chair

Referral:

On 04-23-04, Sister Judith Davies phoned, asking if I could speak with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] had disclosed to [REDACTED] at Christmastime, that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] had been molested by Michael Gibbney when the family lived in
Bolingbrook and attended St. Francis of Assisi Parish. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Contact:

Telephone tag of five calls finally resulted in successfully scheduling a phone consultation session on 04-26-04.

Results:

[REDACTED] detailed her son [REDACTED]'s, alter boy experience and several overnight trips with Fr. Gibbney to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

- I reassured [REDACTED] I was available to meet and / or speak with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

Respectfully submitted,

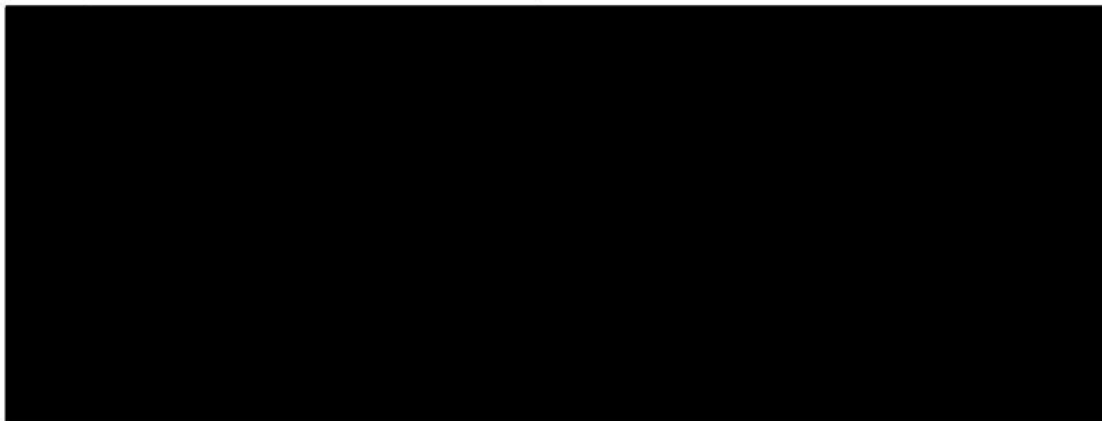
Cynthia A. Power, MA,LCPC,CSC,CAS,CSAT,CCGC,CPCGC,ICGC
Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor
Certified Sex Counselor
Certified Addictions Specialist
Certified Sex Addictions Therapist
Certified Compulsive Gambling Counselor
Certified Problem & Compulsive Gambling Counselor
Internationally Certified Gambling Counselor

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May 13, 2004

This afternoon I spoke with *MRS-Z* concerning a possible interview with [REDACTED]



The conversation concluded with my telling *MRS-Z* that someone would be contacting her on behalf of the Review Committee to conduct the interviews and would arrange for dates and times.

ADD

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Released April 2014

No. 3-04-

APPEAL TO THE
APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS
THIRD DISTRICT

FROM THE
CIRCUIT COURT OF WILL COUNTY

FILED
MAY 26 11:30
COURT
ILLINOIS

JAMES F. FONCK,

Plaintiff-Appellant,

v.

BISHOP JOSEPH L. IMESCH,
as Trustee for the Diocese of Joliet Trust
and MICHAEL L. GIBNEY,

Defendants-Appellees.

No. 2002 L 567

Hon. James E. Garrison,
Judge Presiding

NOTICE OF APPEAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Plaintiff's appeal (a) from the order of January 27, 2004 dismissing with prejudice plaintiffs' Third Amended Complaint and (b) from the order of April 28, 2004 denying plaintiff's Motion to Reconsider and Vacate the Order of January 27, 2004. To the extent that they constitute procedural steps in the progression leading to the dismissal order of January 27, 2004 and denial of reconsideration of April 28, 2004, plaintiff appeals also from the orders of January 9, 2003 and April 4, 2003, dismissing, respectively, plaintiff's First and Second Amended Complaints. (Copies of the orders of January 27, 2004 and April 28, 2004 are appended to this Notice of Appeal as Exhibit A and B.)

Plaintiffs request that the Appellate Court grant relief by vacating and reversing the judgment and denial of reconsideration, finding that plaintiff's complaint is not barred by lapse of time (or otherwise) as a matter of law as to either defendant, and remanding this cause to the Circuit Court for further proceedings including trial on the merits, and any other or additional relief or order that the

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Appellate Court deems warranted, appropriate or necessary under the plenary power conferred by S.Ct.R. 366(a)(5).

Atty. No. 248614
Michael L. Bolos, Esq.
MICHAEL L. BOLOS, LTD.
116 N. Chicago Street – Suite 555
Joliet, Illinois 60432
815-723-0610



Michael L. Bolos

Atty. No. 00019488
Keith M. Aeschliman, Esq.
168 N. Ottawa Street – Suite 200
Joliet, Illinois 60432
815-726-3033

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Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

March 28, 2005

Dear [REDACTED]

May the peace of the Risen Lord be with you in this holy season!

With the adoption of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in June of 2002, the Bishops in the United States have tried to respond more pastorally to those who have been abused by priests. Although dioceses have instituted safe environment training programs, background screenings and codes of conduct, no one has asked you for suggestions about ways of providing a more pastoral response to survivors and ways for preventing future abuse.

The Office of Child and Youth Protection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has asked Mary A. Lentz, a child abuse prevention specialist, to conduct an anonymous survey to gather these suggestions. Questions were developed through meetings with survivors around the United States. If you are interested in participating in the survey, you may do so by logging onto www.victim-outreach.com or by contacting Ms. Lentz at:

100 North Main Street
Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022

if you wish a paper copy. The survey will be conducted from March 30, 2005 to May 4, 2005. The survey does not ask for any identifying information about you, your abuse or abuser.

I value your thoughts and suggestions as to ways the Church can improve outreach to those who have been harmed by abuse. If the Church can find ways to understand more clearly the pain you have endured and to learn how better to prevent abuse, it will benefit everyone, children and adults alike.

I want to assure you that this survey is entirely confidential. Neither the Project Director, the Office of Child and Youth Protection, nor any Bishop or Diocesan Personnel will know from whom or what location responses are received. Once the information has been collated the Office of Child and Youth Protection will publicly share the survey results.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Sister Mary Frances Seeley at (815) 263-6467, or the Office of Child and Youth Protection at (202) 541-5413.

Thank you for your consideration. Be assured of my continuing prayers for you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

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Personal & confidential

June 24, 2002



WY WE NEED FOR SECRET

Dear 

On April 1, 1994, you made a statement regarding confidentiality. I just wanted to tell you that we have been required to turn over all our records in the case to the States Attorney and this note concerning confidentiality is in it, and I just hope that he honors that. But we had no choice, and I wanted to alert you.

Be assured of my continuing prayers for and with you. I think of you often and pray for you. Please pray for me.

With cordial personal regards, and with a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayers always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,

+ Roger L. Kaffer

Most Reverend Roger L. Kaffer
Auxiliary Bishop of Joliet

RLK:bjd

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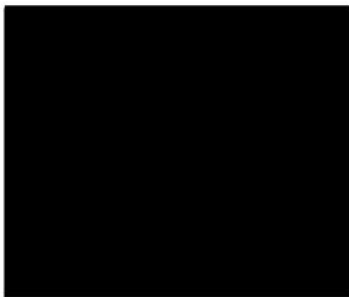
Printer Friendly

Page 1 of 1

Chicago Sun-Times
www.suntimes.com

Back to regular view
<http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-priest05.html>

Print this page



Man files suit against Elmhurst priest

October 5, 2002

BY CHARLES B. PELKIE

A Florida man on Friday filed a lawsuit alleging that he was sexually abused as a youth by a priest from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet.

It was the third in what Joliet attorney Keith Aeschliman vowed would be a series of civil lawsuits alleging sexual molestation by local priests.

The lawsuit, filed in Will County Circuit Court, alleges that the Rev. Michael L. Gibbney sexually abused a 13-year-old altar boy at Mary Queen of Heaven Church in Elmhurst in 1978 and 1979.

The plaintiff, James F. Fonck, is now a 37-year-old man who is self-employed and living in Florida, according to Aeschliman. "He's had tremendous difficulty in dealing with this issue, although coming forward has helped," Aeschliman said.

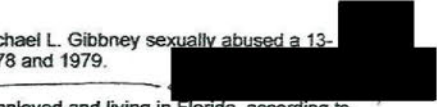
As with previous lawsuits, the complaint also names Bishop Joseph Imesch as a defendant.

The lawsuit alleges that the bishop and other church officials should have known of Gibbney's "dangerous and exploitive propensities." It also accuses the bishop and diocesan officials of failing to report acts of sexual abuse to the proper authorities and creating "an atmosphere of fear, shame and secrecy" that stymied the reporting of acts of sexual abuse allegedly committed by Gibbney.

Attempts to reach Gibbney for comment were not successful.

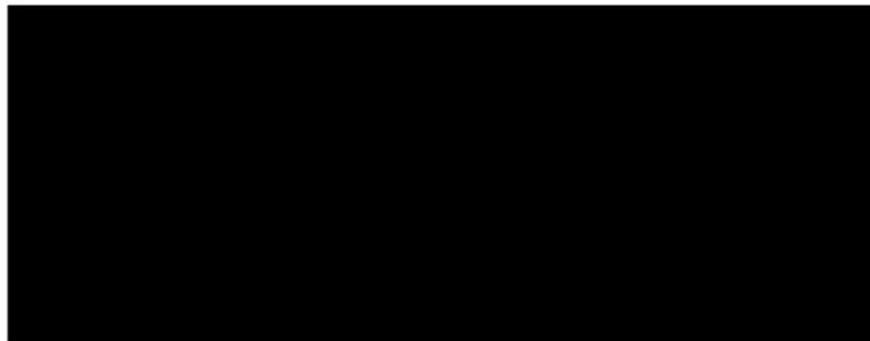
Joliet Herald News

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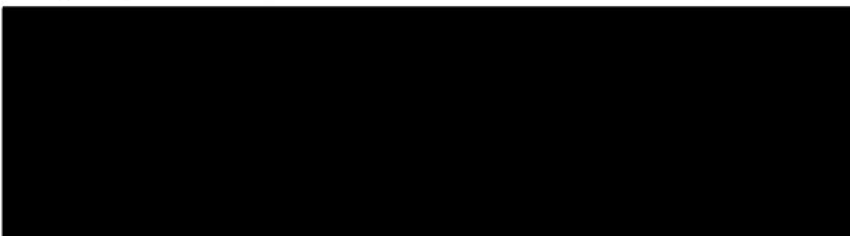
Age 11, early 1978 the first memory I have is Fr. Mike or perhaps MG (both hereby meaning Father Micheal Lawrence Gibbney) at Saint Dominic church in Bolingbrook. I had met him through Fr. Jim Nowak (deceased). Fr. Nowak always invited me to [redacted] and oddly spent more time in the steam showers than [redacted]

[redacted] Nowak was in his 50's I sensed. Once he asked me in his black Ford Granada "Do I come off strongly as ... a homosexual." (to an 11 year old boy). I said yes. We did not speak again.

I had no more than an introduction to Fr. Gibbney at first.



[redacted] Saint Francis of Assisi on Whitewater Drive. The rectory building was just 100 yards from the multifunctional church building. Being a ranking experience alter boy Fr. Jim Dougherty introduced me to Fr. Micheal Lawrence Gibbney.



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[REDACTED] I met MG
again when he was assigned there.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 6th grade.
[REDACTED] 11 years old.

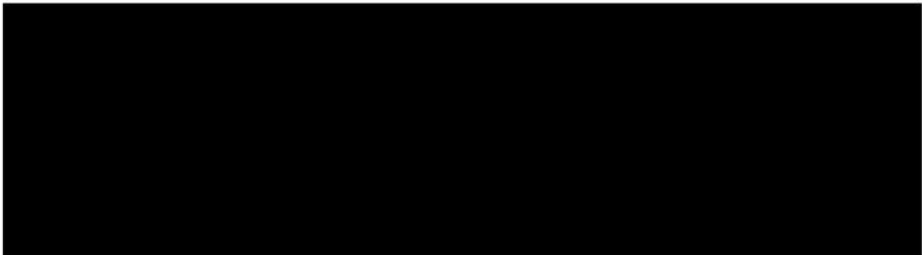
[REDACTED] this guy pursued me, persuaded me and took me under his wing so to speak.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Took a few trips in the station wagon which was filled with all sorts of radios and scanning devices. It was just short of a cop car. Bluelight and Fire Fighter badges. He had power. He could go anywhere there were fireman and walk on site. The blue light was very cool.

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MG's MO was to take me out of that physical environment and into one where he either has control or you would never run because there's no way home. The early sex happened not in the church but away from it. Some happened in the church. Some happened in a motor home. Some happened in motels. Some happened in the rectory living room. Some happened in his bedroom. Some happened in his sauna. Some happened in Wisconsin, Minnesota and a southern Illinois camper park.



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I was down to underwear and watching TV. He asked if I wanted a
massage - that was the keyword, it was always a massage.
Codeword

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] he took me and my friend [REDACTED] in the
motor home to a southern Illinois camper park.

[REDACTED]

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I woke up with his hand in my underwear fondling me when it was very dark or late at night.

[REDACTED]

Another trip was to Minnesota, [REDACTED] to visit [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Each night is was drinks until [REDACTED] went to bed and then the massage and then the blow jobs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Diocese. Fr. Hardon represented his presence as on behalf of Cardinal George and the Holy See. The meeting lasted for hours and Hardon made it perfectly clear that the Church hierarchy had known of [redacted] misconduct for some time. Hardon, acting on orders, tried his best to convince us not to go public with any more information on [redacted] homosexual activity. Hardon on behalf of Cardinal George and the hierarchy, promised RCF a "relationship" with the hierarchy if we were "obedient".

- 9. On January 14, 1998 I received a personal call from Archbishop George of Chicago. (The caller ID showed the number [redacted]). He gave me a private fax number of [redacted]. George asked me not to hold our press conference scheduled for the following day. He stated: "If your first priority is to remove [redacted] do not go public." He said the Vatican would not work through the press. He asked RCF to allow the Holy See time to try and remove Ryan. He would not give us any guarantees or make any promises. He never once suggested that there was any doubt about [redacted] misconduct, in fact, George confirmed Hardon's statement regarding the hierarchy's knowledge of [redacted] problems.
- 10. On January 15, 1998 RCF held a press conference at which time we released [redacted] statement.

Bad apples attract more bad apples. 'I have secrets about you; you have secrets about me. I won't fink on you; you won't fink on me.' Blackmail and extortion are the ways things are kept quiet in the Church. They were one way to build trust. It's 'I know this about you and you know this about me, so I'll take you along with me.' People go through stages in their lives. They may no longer be active sexually, but they have a sexual history and have to deal with people from their past. (Plante, T. 'Bless me Father for I have sinned' Perspectives on Sexual Abuse committed by Roman Catholic priests' cited in Latin, D. 'Sex scandals bare Church's sordid secrets', San Francisco Chronicle, 14 August 1999, p. 3)

Father Lawrence Gibbs

SUIT AGAINST PRIEST TIP OF ICEBERG? An attorney representing a victim in a civil suit against Rev. Lawrence M Gibbs, a Joliet priest, says he's received calls from other victims, including two mothers linking their children's suicides to Gibbs' abuse. The suit accuses Gibbs of using liquor to force a long-term sexual relationship on a boy, starting when he was 11. The victim, now 22, attends Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. The suit says Bishop Joseph Imesch of the Joliet diocese knowingly transferred Gibbs to a position at St. Joseph's in charge of altar boys after he was accused of similar offenses at a church in Lombard. Source: Chicago Sun-Times 1/6/93.

As you will see, Bishop Joseph Imesch was aware of Fr. Gibbs' sexual contact with young boys as early as 1980 yet he continued to protect and defend Gibbs until 1992 while moving him from parish to parish and allowing him access to other children as a "Catholic Priest." WHY? Also note that Imesch's first auxiliary

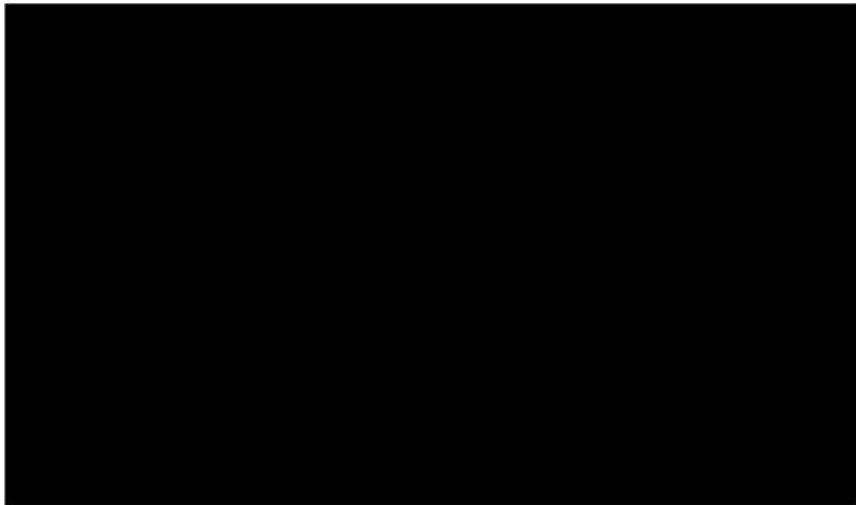
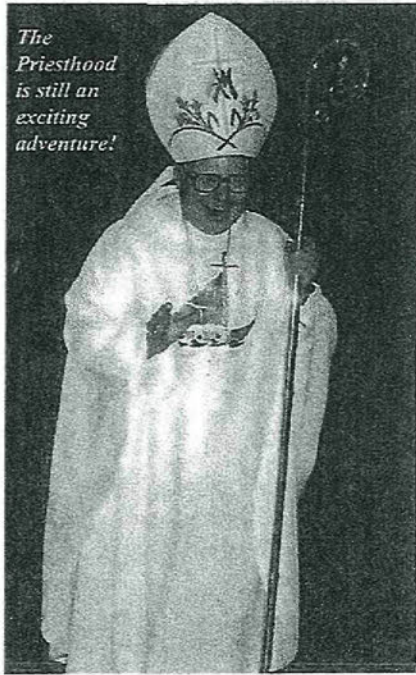
http://www.badbishops.com/bsh/bsh/imesch_j.html

3/14/2005

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FILE MEMORANDUM

June 14, 2005

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

This morning I received a call from Ms. Leah McClusky of the Archdiocese of Chicago who stated that she had received a call from a Mrs. DOE H. [REDACTED] 815-

Mrs. DOE husband recently told her that he had been abused by a priest back in 1981/1982 while at St. Francis Assisi in Bolingbrook.

This afternoon I was unsuccessful in attempting to reach Mrs. DOE but left her a voice mail message: that Ms. McClusky had conveyed her message, that I was sorry her husband had been abused, that Sister Mary Francis Seeley is our Victim Assistance Coordinator and so she and her husband would be welcome to speak with her and if she chose to speak with me, I would be available on Thursday or Friday morning.


Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

FILE MEMORANDUM

June 16, 2005

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: Mr. [REDACTED]

This morning I received a call from Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who had been abused by Father Michael Gibbney in 1983. At the time, Mr. [REDACTED] was about 12 years old.

Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he had not received any calls from Sister Mary Frances Seeley. His concern was the status of Fr. Gibbney. I assured him that he was no longer in ministry and had left in January of 1991. [REDACTED]

I told Mr. [REDACTED] that I would contact Sister Mary Frances Seeley and have her call him; that should he wish to speak with Bishop Imesch about what he experienced, the Bishop would be happy to speak with him; all he would need to do is call the Chancery to make an appointment.

Sister Mary Frances said that she had never received any calls yesterday and thought that perhaps Mrs. [REDACTED] had the wrong number.

Judith A. Davies, OSF
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

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June 27, 2005

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your most recent letter. I regret that I was unable to respond to you before now. As you know, I was recently at the Bishops' conference and thereafter I had several commitments that took me away from my office. I apologize for my delay.

I am aware that Bishop Kaffer apologized to you over the telephone some years ago. I also want to apologize for the abuse you suffered as a child and for the pain you continue to experience because of that abuse. While I realize that nothing I can say will erase the past, I truly regret that the trust you placed in a priest was violated. Serious damage has been done to you. My concern is that you become as well as possible under the circumstances.

In my previous letter, I mentioned that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] However, I am thinking that it might be best to delay discussion of specifics at this time. I want to give you the opportunity to fully communicate what happened to you and its impact on your life to whomever you wish and to the extent that you believe it is in your best interest. To reach an understanding prior to that might give the impression that [REDACTED] in order to prevent you from further communication with the media and the general public. That is definitely not my intent.

[REDACTED] However, should you

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June 27, 2005

2

wish to talk to me before that time, please feel free to call me. If I am not in the office, I will return your call as soon as possible, so that we can speak directly.



I sincerely regret that you have suffered estrangement from your parents and from family members because of what happened to you. No child is ever at fault or should be blamed when abused by an adult. I will certainly communicate to your parents that the abuse you underwent as a child was not your fault.

I pray for your well being. With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014
Sr. Judith Davies
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From: [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, June 27, 2005 5:49 PM
Subject: [REDACTED]

Did you catch that radio show this morning? [REDACTED] I have it on tape if you'd like it.
Got about 400 emails here as well looking for answers to why I'm being ignored.
I publicly offered a compromise live on the air this morning for all of Joliet to hear.

[REDACTED]

Bob Calarisi, Bernie Baurle, Jim Dougherty, Gibbney, Imesch, all the clergy at JCHS/JCA that we knew so well.

Did he get that communication?

Amazing what a person has to do to get a Bishops attention these days....

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000561

Sr. Judith Davies

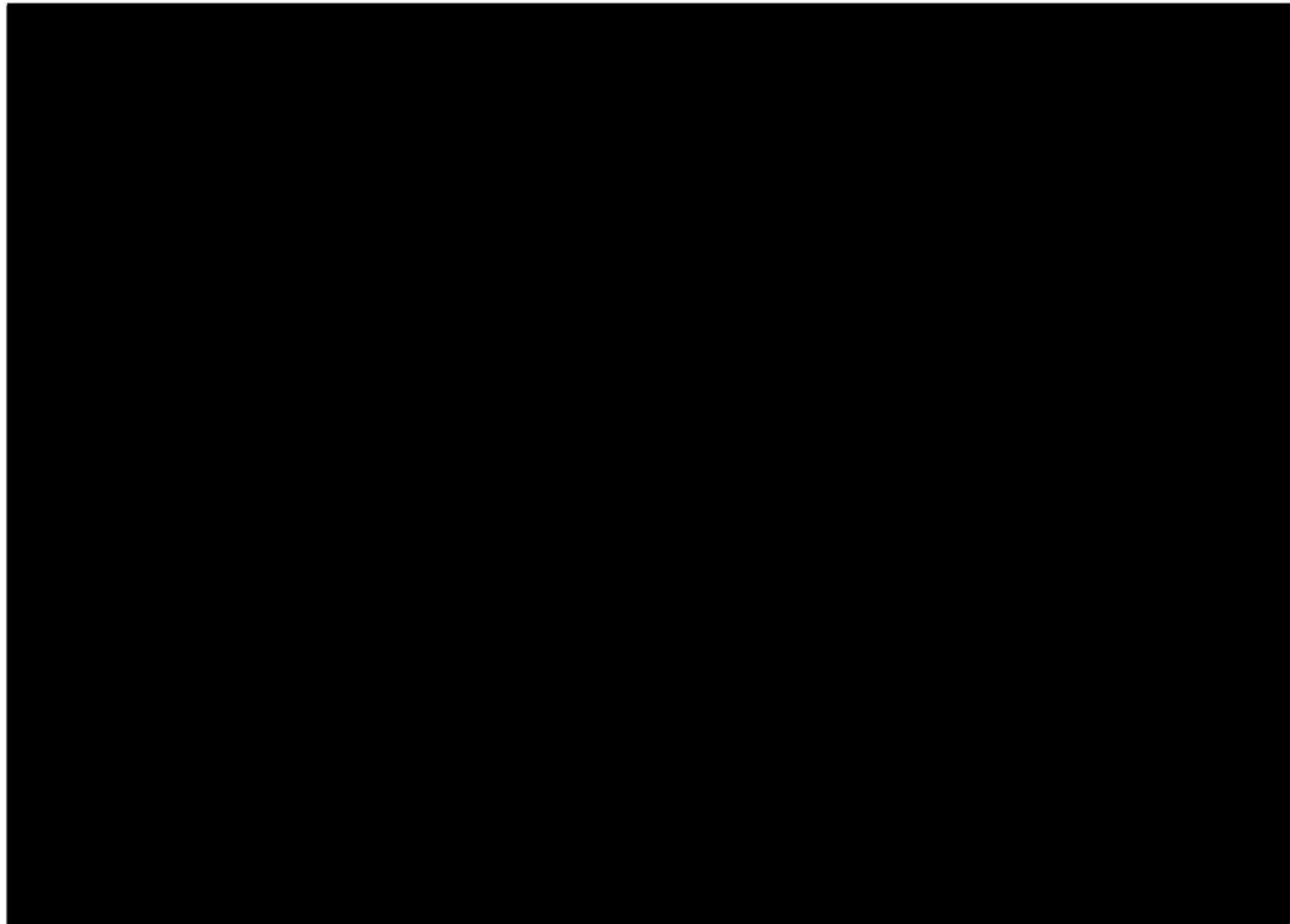
From: [REDACTED]@aol.com
Sent: Friday, July 01, 2005 8:36 PM
To: jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org
Subject: Fwd: 005-H

He's relentless.

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

From: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]@aol.com
Sent: Fri, 1 Jul 2005 16:05:22 -0500
Subject: Fwd: 005-H

I blanked out this person name - just a note but asked me to send on anonymously
It's helping people to heal hundreds of these.



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000562

00c-H

Reverend Joseph Imesch
Diocese of Joliet
Joliet, IL 60436

July 1, 2005

Dear Rev. Joseph Imesch,

My name is 00c-H [redacted] and I am writing you this letter under circumstances which I wish never existed. [redacted]

[redacted] I will explain that I have been a victim of child molestation by Michael Gibney who resided at the parish of St. Francis of Assisi in Bolingbrook during the years of 1982-1984 on numerous occasions. [redacted]

[redacted]

My youth and innocence taken from me at that point. I will not go into details but will say there were many occasions. The first taking place in 1982 on a trip to Minnesota [redacted]

[redacted] This was the first occurrence of molestation. [redacted]

On all occasions these incidents of molestation took place as trips. This lasted from the time I was in 7th grade until a freshman in high school in 1984. I also remember Michael Gibney giving me [redacted] and any alcoholic drink wanted. Just a part I would like to add.

[redacted]

[redacted]

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000602

Sr. Judith Davies

From: [REDACTED]@aol.com
Sent: Saturday, July 16, 2005 3:11 PM
To: jdavies@dioceseofjoliet.org
Subject: Fwd: confirmation

[REDACTED] mellows further.

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

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]@aol.com
Sent: Fri, 15 Jul 2005 16:49:48 -0500
Subject: confirmation

Hi [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] here. Just wanted to confirm
1. I see that UPS has delivered exactly what the Bishop requested
 2. I hope that you received the PDF of the page from 1993?

(My entire account has been in that building or at someone's attention there for 13 years without action. 13 years. That's DOS 3.00, Windows and Internet weren't even around.)

I pray this in the time of action and closure long overdue. I've done my work and I anticipate a commitment on his next steps shortly.

[REDACTED] is looking forward to speaking with him anytime necessary.

I now have 5 more people coming forward that would like to stay anonymous for now. They can take up their own matters, I will direct them to Victim Services, but the conduit is fill ing with a ground swell.

Peace,



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000708

Summary

Interview of **Doc- M**
February 17, 2005 ²⁰⁰⁶

After meeting with you on Thursday, February 16, 2005, I did make contact with I [REDACTED] later that afternoon to attempt to schedule a meeting with him. [REDACTED] advised that he was to be out of town the coming weekend [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was suggested we meet the afternoon of Thursday February 23, 2006 and he suggested we meet at my office, which I agreed to. [REDACTED] called later that day, after office hours, and left a message that I call him. I followed up with him on Friday morning, February 17th, and he indicated that I had "caught him off guard" on Thursday and he wanted more information as to why a meeting was necessary as he had already meet with the Bishop and Sister Mary Francis Seeley and thought they had all the information needed. I advised that that was not the case and additional information was needed so that we could review the case more completely and work towards a possible resolution. He indicated he would call me when he returned from out of town to see if we could meet on Wednesday if possible. I received a follow-up call a few minutes later from [REDACTED] indicating he could meet with me later Friday morning. We agreed to meet at 10:30 am in my office [REDACTED] arrived at that time with [REDACTED] and we talked for about an hour and fifteen minutes.

[REDACTED] is [REDACTED] He is well groomed and was apparently coming to the interview from work. He was wearing jeans and a sweater. [REDACTED] was born [REDACTED]. He indicated he wanted [REDACTED] to sit in on the meeting and I advised that was perfectly fine. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] At first they did not know what additional information was needed and they also wondered why, after notifying the diocese in June of last year, the process has taken so long to get a response. They both indicated they thought the matter had been referred to the insurance long ago. [REDACTED] indicates that they are also very upset that Father Gibbney may have been involved in abuse cases before being transferred to [REDACTED] parish, St. Francis of Assisi in Bolingbrook. She mentioned she was aware of a case in a parish in Elmhurst. In the conversation [REDACTED] indicated she thinks the delay was caused by the diocese waiting for the outcome of appeals that were recently decided.

I apologized to them for any delays involved or any miscommunications they feel there has been in this case. I indicated that I had recently been assigned to the matter and that, as I explained in our phone conversations, I needed additional information to review the matter more completely so that we could possibly resolve his case. They wondered how much longer the process would take and I indicated that dependent on how the meeting went we could possibly get back to them in a three week time period with a more definitive answer.

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[redacted] indicated that he went to [redacted] and became an altar boy when he was in the [redacted] grade and continued being an altar boy through [redacted]. He states that Gibbney was in charge of the altar boys and would put together trips that he would take some altar boys on. The first trip [redacted] went on was a trip to Minnesota where only he and Gibbney went. [redacted]

[redacted] could not remember exactly when this occurred, he thinks he was 12 years old and does not know if it happened when he was in the [redacted] or [redacted] grade. He indicates he and Gibbney stayed one night in a hotel room and that Gibbney fondled him [redacted]

[redacted] indicated that Gibbney organized other [redacted] trips and he thinks he went on a trip each year that he was an altar boy. Usually the trips were 4-5 days and [redacted]. He says Gibbney at first had or had use of a motor home that they went in and later they would go in a camper. [redacted]

[redacted] He states that the same type of fondling/ejaculation happened on this trip and he indicates that it happened "a couple of times" during the course of this trip as he did not sleep in the camper with Gibbney each night. There was not enough room for all the boys to sleep in there and they were rotated each night. He does not know if the other boys had the same experiences. [redacted]

[redacted] same type of fondling/ejaculation occurred on these trips "a couple of times" each trip. In addition to the trips, [redacted] states that he did go to the rectory 2-3 times each year where this type of activity took place in the rectory. [redacted]

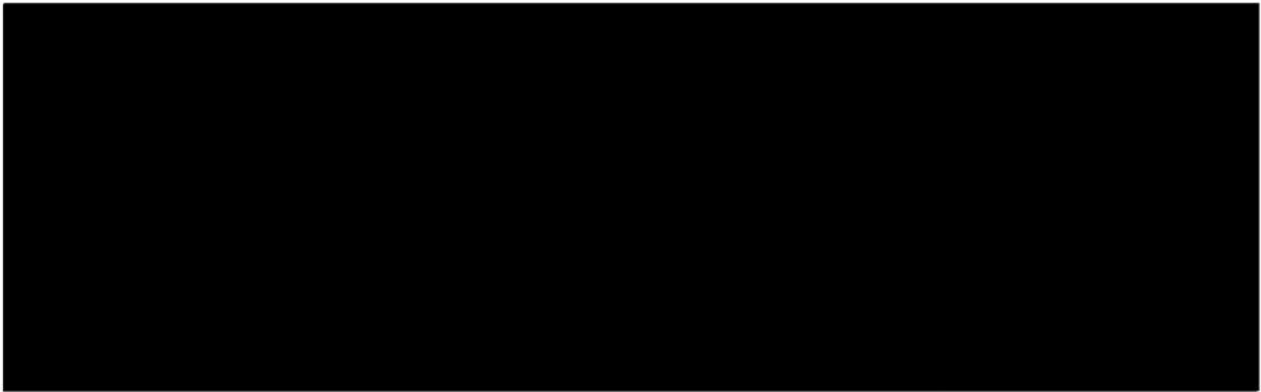
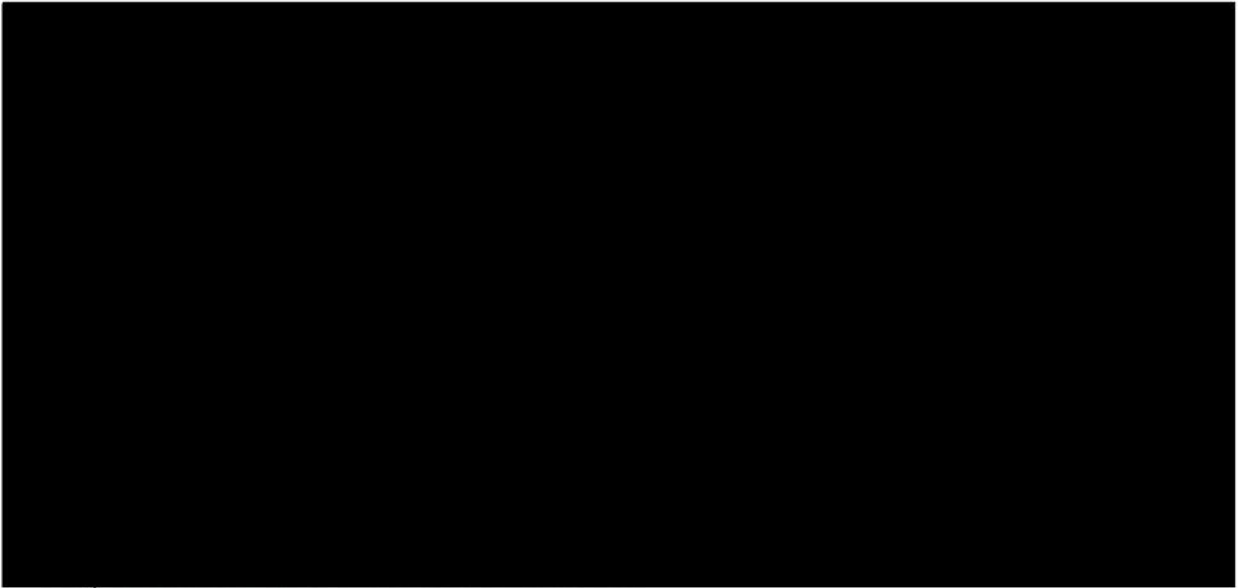
[redacted]

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They both indicated they appreciated the opportunity to talk about this incident and they are anxious to conclude this matter and move on. I advised them that I would try to get back to them in a 3 week time period and would also advise if any additional information is needed.

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000729



CATHOLIC MUTUAL GROUP®

serving the temporal needs of the church since 1889

October 18, 2006

Personal & Confidential

Mr. James C. Byrne
Spesia, Ayers and Ardaugh
1415 Black Road
Joliet, Illinois 60435

RE: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Byrne,

I met with [REDACTED], on Thursday, October 12, 2006 at which we time we had a lengthy discussion regarding his case. [REDACTED]

Regarding the incident [REDACTED] believes it occurred [REDACTED] in 1978. The incident occurred just before he was to enter the [REDACTED] grade at Mary Queen of Heaven School in Elmhurst. He indicates that Father Michael Gibbney visited his home to ask him if he would like to accompany him [REDACTED] on a [REDACTED] trip

He indicates [REDACTED] other boys went. [REDACTED] was the youngest and he thinks the other boys were either in high school or were just starting high school. They took the trip in a [REDACTED] RV.

As the RV did not have enough beds to sleep everyone, they had to "double up". One night early in the trip, [REDACTED] slept in the same bed as Father Gibbney. At some point during the night, [REDACTED] awoke and indicates that Gibbney was fondling him in the genital area. [REDACTED]

St. Charles Pastoral Center
402 So. Independence Blvd.
Romeoville, IL 60446-2264
(815) 838-2142

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] did attend [REDACTED] grade at Mary Queen of Heaven, although he stated he would have preferred not to. The principal, Sister [REDACTED] and his teacher, Sister [REDACTED] talked to him after he had started as they heard he had returned early from the trip. [REDACTED] told them Gibbney touched him in a bad way and he wanted to leave school. The nuns indicated they would take care of the issue and [REDACTED] believes they may have talked to a priest named [REDACTED] who came from a large family in the parish and he believes he was an influential priest. [REDACTED] may not have been associated with the Diocese.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] When Sister [REDACTED] heard he was alone with Gibbney, she reprimanded Gibbney for this.

[REDACTED]

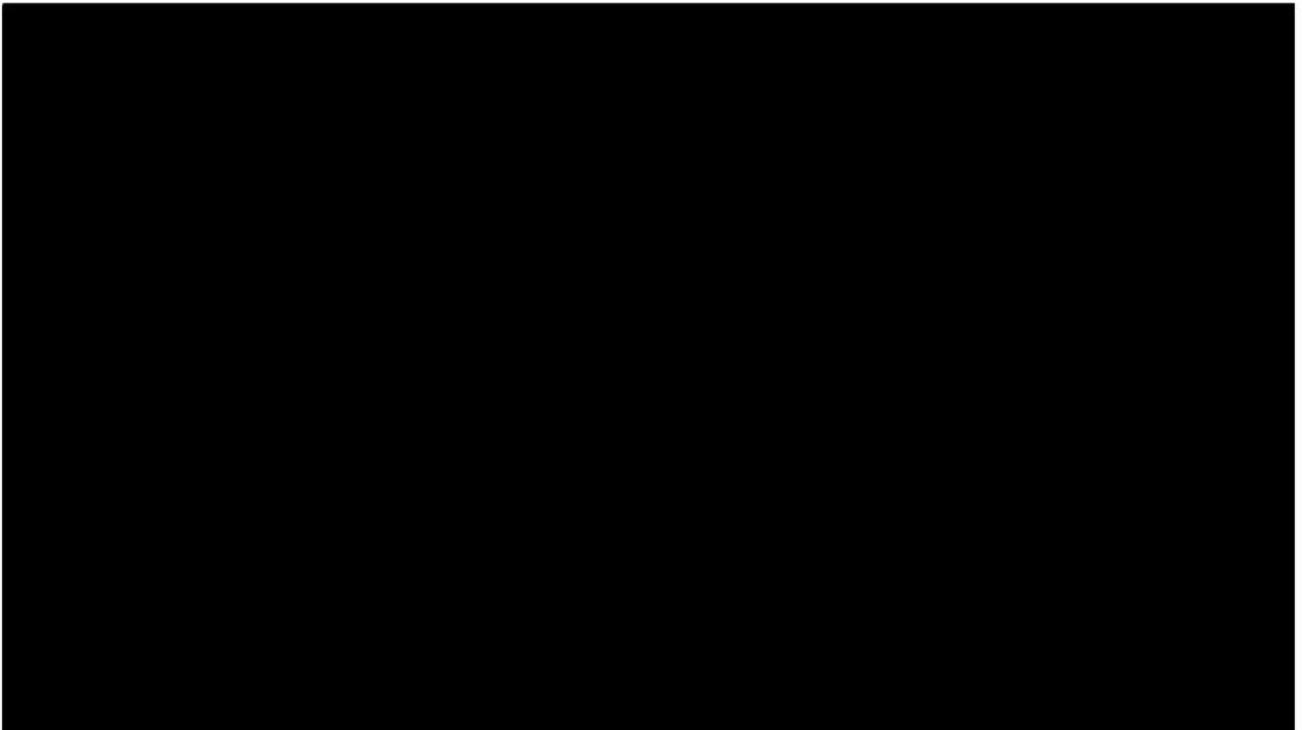
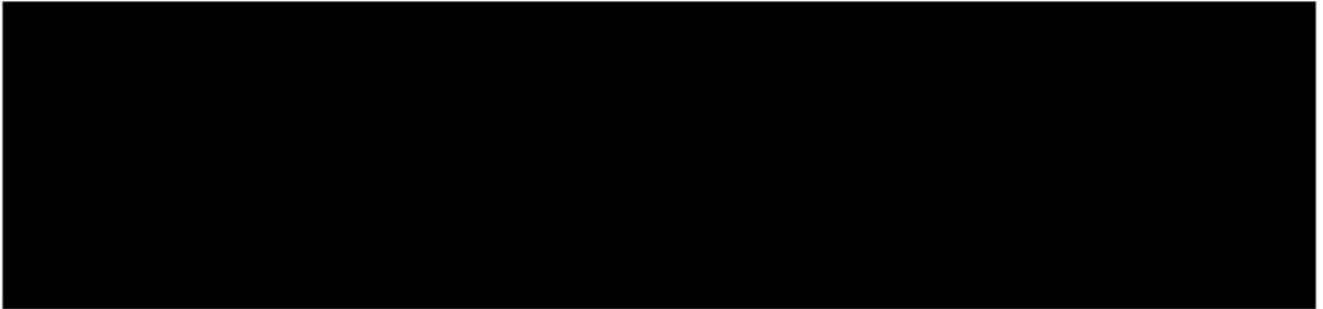
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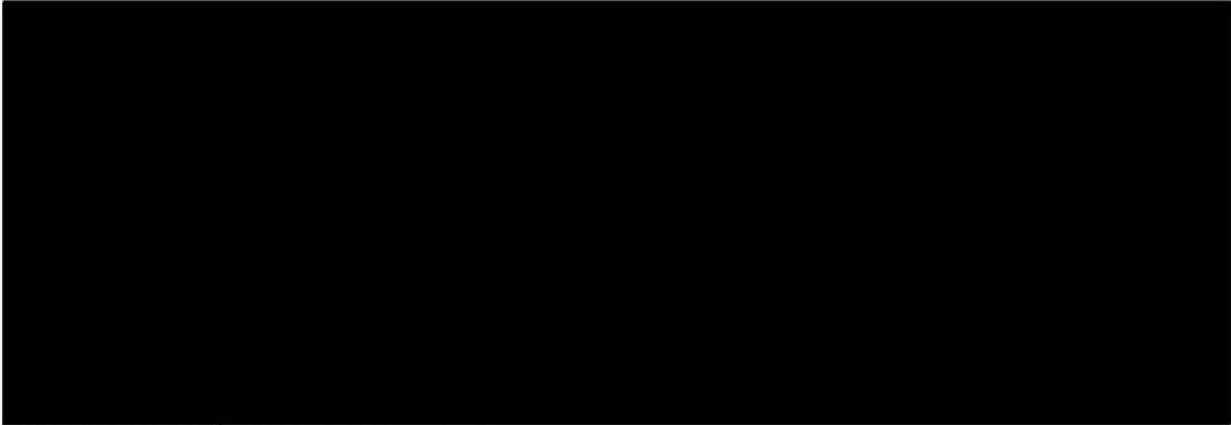
000731



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I advised [redacted] would relay his information and would try to get back with him as quickly as possible. Once you have had a chance to review this letter, please call me to discuss what further information or investigation may be needed.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over the text "Sincerely yours,". Below the signature, the name of the sender is redacted with a black box.

Claims/Risk Manager

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000740

FILE MEMORANDUM

December 3, 2007

FROM: Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF

RE: **DOE-B** Allegation against Michael Gibney

This afternoon I received a call from Lea McClusky of the Archdiocese of Chicago [redacted] regarding an allegation made against Michael Gibney by a Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] was born on [redacted] and currently lives in [redacted]

Mr. [redacted] alleges that at the age of 11, Michael Gibney took him at night to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, and abused him.

I contacted Sr. Mary Frances Seeley this afternoon, provided her with Mr. [redacted] name and telephone number and asked to to contact him. I also relayed all of the above information to Mr. James Byrne.

Judith A. Davies
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

C.C. *Bishop Sastri*
James Byrne

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000753



CATHOLIC MUTUAL GROUP®

servicing the temporal needs of the church since 1889

February 5, 2008

Mr. James C. Byrne
Spesia, Ayers and Ardaugh
1415 Black Road
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Mr. Byrne,

After receipt of information from your office on January 23, 2008, I was able to make contact with Mr. Doe-13 on January 25, 2008. At that time, we scheduled a meeting for Monday February 4, 2008 at Mr. Doe-13's home in _____

I met with Mr. Doe on February 4th and spent about 50 minutes discussing the abuse that took place, Mr. Doe's life since these acts and his expectations of the Diocese. In my initial phone conversation, Mr. Doe indicated he did not feel a meeting was necessary as he felt he explained the circumstances involved and his expectations quite clearly. I advised him that I would need to secure additional information and also indicated we would need a better understanding of how the abuse may have impacted his life. At the outset of our meeting, Mr. Doe presented me with the attached letter addressed to the bishop and dated February 3, 2008. _____

After review of this letter, we did discuss the episodes of abuse he was subjected to, however, he did not elaborate much further on the details over what information he provided in his letter dated December 10, 2007. When discussing the abuse, Mr. _____ did become emotional and would take a brief time to compose himself and we would continue with our meeting. Mr. Doe indicated he initiated his pursuit of recompense for the abuse he suffered after he was _____

St. Charles Pastoral Center
402 S. Independence Blvd.
Romeoville, IL 60446-2264
(815) 838-2142
Facsimile (815) 834-4079

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Released April 2014

100754

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for the first time, he broached the topic of the abuse that he had been subjected to. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee then contacted the Archdiocese of Chicago, through whom, Mr. Doe was referred to the Diocese of Joliet.

[REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] is 51 years of age and was born [REDACTED]. He states Gibbney was a friend of a friend of their family and he and his parents met Gibbney while they were living in Westmont. Doe was a student at Holy Trinity Parish and his parents were quite faithful and believed Gibbney, a seminarian at the time, would be a good mentor for their son. [REDACTED]'s parents liked Gibbney quite well and when Gibbney would ask to have [REDACTED] accompany him to the pastoral center they readily agreed.

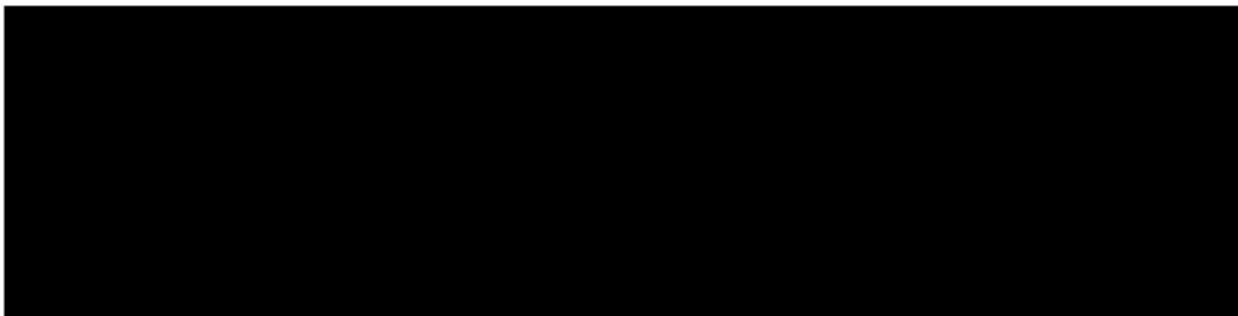
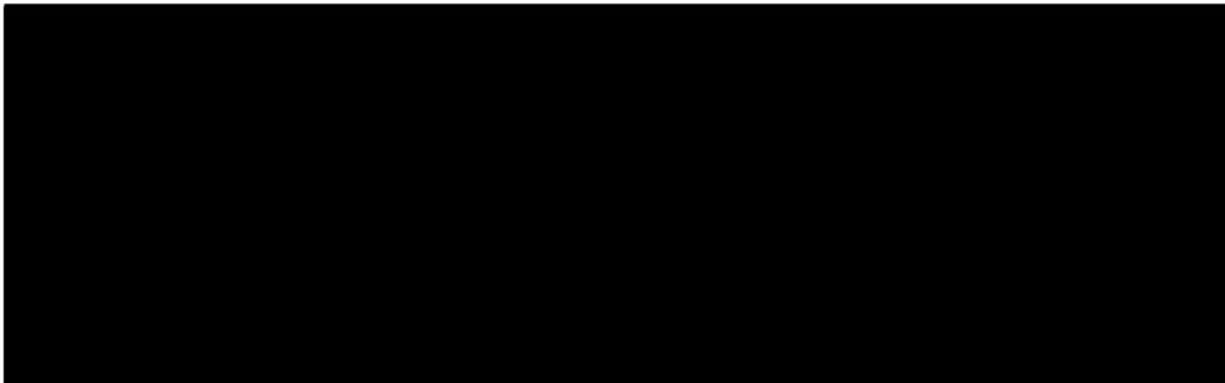
The initial event took place when Doe believes he was 12 or 13. He and several friends from Holy Trinity accompanied Gibbney to the pastoral center for basketball. It was during this time that Gibbney took each of the boys into [REDACTED] and he exposed his genitals to them. Sometime after this, [REDACTED] is not certain about timing, Gibbney arranged with Mrs. Doe for Doe to accompany him back to the pastoral center ostensibly to use the gym. This time Doe was alone with Gibbney and they visited Gibbney's room [REDACTED]. Gibbney undressed and had Doe do the same. He then forced Doe to the bed, [REDACTED] and Gibbney rubbed his penis in this area until ejaculation. The third incident occurred again after Gibbney arranged a visit to the pastoral center for Doe with Mrs. Doe. Doe indicates the two played basketball and when everyone else who was in the area left, Gibbney and Doe went to the showers [REDACTED]. Gibbney approached Doe [REDACTED] and rubbed his erect penis there until ejaculation. The last and final time occurred when Doe indicates he was 16 or 17 years old. Gibbney picked him up at home and took him to a parish rectory where Gibbney was staying. Gibbney made an alcoholic beverage for each, then removed his clothes and asked Doe to do the same. Doe refused, Gibbney then masturbated and drove Doe home. Doe indicates that was basically the last time he saw Gibbney, except when [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

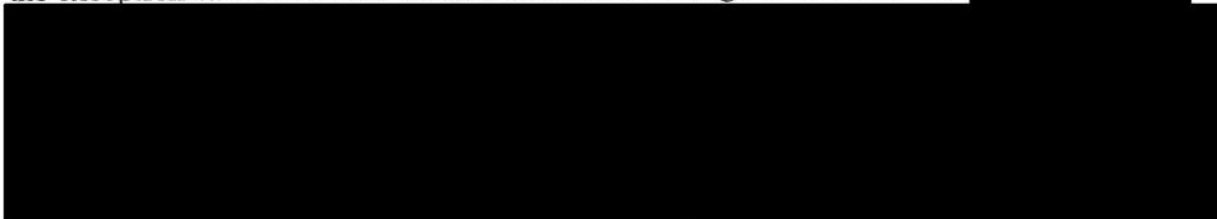
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[REDACTED] He presents a good appearance and his well spoken. He was neatly and fashionably dressed and his hair, as expected from his profession, is well coiffed. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I found Mr. Doe to be confident and in control during our meeting, with the exception of the times he became emotional talking about the abuse. [REDACTED]



[REDACTED] He further indicated that he was aware of how the Diocese of Joliet had treated abuse victims in the past and this has not been good. He stated he hopes the "new bishop" will deal with these cases in a better manner. [REDACTED]

Given a somewhat strident stance on his demand, I asked Mr. Doe if his demand was at all negotiable. Rather than say no, he did indicate he had nothing to negotiate with. From this I sense he will negotiate but can't say how much. Rather than make an offer to him at the end of our meeting, I did advise Mr. Doe that I would get back to him in 2 weeks and attempt to resolve his claim. I did indicate the Diocese was interested in doing this. As an aside, Mr. Doe did ask about Catholic Mutual's involvement. I did advise Catholic Mutual has a relationship handling property and liability claims for the Diocese, but this is not a case we are involved in as far as insurance coverage is concerned. I did advise I was asked by the Diocese to assist in his matter, in an attempt

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Released April 2014

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to come to a reasonable resolution. He seemed to know about Catholic Mutual, the Diocese and Gibbney.

Prior to entering negotiations, I thought it would be appropriate for you to review this information and Mr. [REDACTED]'s stance. My initial plan, given the statute considerations, was to initiate negotiations in the \$ [REDACTED]-\$ [REDACTED] range. Given Mr. [REDACTED] correspondence to the Bishop, and, perhaps, his view of me as a middleman, I am uncertain whether he will attempt to try to negotiate, via letter, with the Diocese or Bishop himself. Please let me know your thoughts regarding the initial offer and I will proceed.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

Claims/Risk Manager

Redacted February 2014

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Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

St. Charles Pastoral Center

402 S. Independence Blvd.
Romeoville, Illinois 60441-2238

815-838-8100
Fax 815-838-8129

April 8, 2008

Mr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. "B"

Please find attached a settlement draft from the Diocese of Joliet in the amount of \$ [REDACTED]. Also attached is a copy of a draft the diocese issued in the amount of \$ [REDACTED] to Allstate International Assignments, Ltd. to purchase the structured settlement on your behalf.

Thank you for your cooperation in resolving this very difficult matter for you. Should you have any questions regarding the drafts attached, feel free to contact me. Additionally, should you wish to meet with Bishop Sartain, as offered in his letter of January 10, 2008, he would be more than happy to do so. You can make these arrangements by contacting his office directly.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Wright

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 Released April 2014



CONGREGATIO
 PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,
 Palazzo del S. Ufficio

20 April 2011

718/2010 - 31494

PROT. N. _____

(In responsione fiat mentio huius numeri)

CONFIDENTIAL

Your Excellency,

On 14 December 2010, the Congregation for Clergy forwarded to this Dicastery the petition, dated 1 April 2010, of the **Rev. Michael L. GIBBNEY**, a priest of the Diocese of Joliet, who has been accused of sexual abuse against minors and has requested from the Holy Father the grace of dispensation from all the obligations of priesthood, including celibacy.

This Congregation, after having carefully examined the documents of the present case and in light of the *votum* expressed by Your Excellency, decided on 12 March 2011 to forward the petition to the Holy Father for his decision. Subsequently, on 8 April 2011, Pope Benedict XVI granted the Rev. Michael L. Gibbney the grace of dispensation *iuxta petita*, from all priestly obligations, including celibacy. Enclosed you will find two copies of the relevant Decree. Your Excellency is kindly requested to ensure that the priest is duly notified thereof. I would ask you also to return one of the signed copies of the Decree to this Office.

Finally, Your Excellency notes that Mr. Gibbney would like to enter into marriage with a Catholic woman who is free to marry. Given that his petition lacked any mention of the accusations of sexual abuse and, therefore, any penitent recognition of wrong-doing on his part, Your Excellency should exercise caution in granting Mr. Gibbney's request to enter into the Sacrament of marriage.

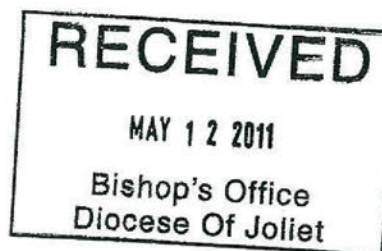
With prayerful support and every best wish, I remain

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

✠ Luis F. LADARIA, S.J.
 Titular Archbishop of Thibica
 Secretary

-Enclosures-

His Excellency
Most Rev. Joseph M. SIEGEL
 Diocesan Administrator,
 Diocese of Joliet
 425 Summit Street
 Joliet, Illinois 60435
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA





CONGREGATIO PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

Prot. N. 718/2010

Joliettensis in Illinois
(Joliet in Illinois, U.S.A.)

D.nus **Michael L. GIBBNEY**, presbyter huius dioecesis, humiliter petit dispensationem ab omnibus oneribus sacrae Ordinationi conexas

Summus Pontifex Benedictus, Papa XVI

Die 8 m. Aprilis a. 2011

habita relatione de casu a Congregatione pro Doctrina Fidei,
precibus praedicti sacerdotis annuit iuxta sequentes rationes:

1. Dispensationis Rescriptum a competenti Ordinario oratori quamprimum notificandum est:

- a) Eius effectum sortitur a momento notificationis;
- b) Rescriptum amplectitur inseparabiliter dispensationem a sacro coelibatu et simul amissionem status clericalis. Nunquam oratori fas est duo illa elementa seiungere, seu prius accipere et alterum recusare;
- c) Si vero orator est religiosus, Rescriptum concedit etiam dispensationem a votis;
- d) Idemque insuper secumfert, quatenus opus sit, absolutionem a censuris.

2. Notificatio dispensationis fieri potest vel personaliter ab ipso Ordinario eiusve delegato aut per ecclesiasticum actuarium vel per "epistulas praescriptas" (*registered*). Ordinarius unum exemplar restituere debet rite ab oratore subsignatum ad fidem receptionis Rescripti dispensationis ac simul acceptationis eiusdem praeceptorum.

3. Notitia concessae dispensationis adnotetur in Libris baptizatorum paroeciae oratoris.

4. Quod attinet, si casus ferat, ad celebrationem canonici matrimonii, applicandae sunt normae quae in Codice Iuris Canonici statuuntur. Ordinarius vero curet ut res caute peragantur sine exteriore apparatu.

5. Auctoritas ecclesiastica, cui spectat Rescriptum oratori rite notificare, hunc enixe hortetur, ut vitam Populi Dei, ratione congruendi cum nova eius vivendi condicione, participet, aedificationem praestet et ita probum Ecclesiae filium se exhibeat. Simul autem eidem notum faciat ea quae sequuntur:

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- a) *Sacerdos dispensatus eo ipso amittit iura status clericali propria, dignitates et officia ecclesiastica; ceteris obligationibus cum statu clericali conexis non amplius adstringitur;*
- b) *exclusus manet ab exercitio sacri ministerii, iis exceptis de quibus in can. 976 et 986 § 2 CJC ac propterea nequit homiliam habere, nec potest officium gerere directivum in ambitu pastorali neve munere administratoris paroecialis fungi;*
- c) *item nullum munus absolvere potest in Seminariis et in Institutis aequiparatis. In aliis Institutis studiorum gradus superioris, quae quocumque modo dependent ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo fungi nequit;*
- d) *in aliis vero Institutis studiorum gradus superioris ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica non dependentibus nullam theologiam disciplinam tradere potest;*
- e) *in Institutis autem studiorum gradus inferioris dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica, munere directivo vel officio docendi fungi nequit. Eadem lege tenetur presbyter dispensatus in tradendo Religione in Institutis eiusdem generis non dependentibus ab Auctoritate ecclesiastica.*

6. Ordinarius curet, quantum fieri potest, ne nova condicio presbyteri dispensati fidelibus scandalum praebeat. Attamen, si adest periculum minoribus abutendi, Ordinarius potest factum dispensationis necnon causam canonicam divulgare.

7. Tempore autem opportuno, Ordinarius competens breviter ad Congregationem de peracta notificatione referat, et si qua tandem fidelium admiratio adsit, prudenti explicatione provideat.

Contrariis quibuscumque minime obstantibus.

Ex Aedibus Congregationis, die 8 m. Aprilis a. 2011

William Card. Levada

Gulielmus Cardinalis LEVADA
Praefectus

+ *Aloisius Ladaria*

✠ Aloisius Franciscus LADARIA, S.J.
Archiep. titularis Thibicen.
a Secretis

Dies notificationis MAY 17, 2011

Michael J. Gibbney
Subsignatio Presbyteri in signum
acceptationis

+ *Joseph M. Siegel*
Subsignatio Ordinarii

Redacted February 2014
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Released April 2014

SPEZIA & AYERS
Attorneys at Law

James C. Byrne
John M. Spesia
Christian G. Spesia
Jeffrey S. Taylor
Martin J. Shanahan, Jr.
Mark A. Lichtenwalter
Gabriel G. Orenic
Michael R. Stiff
Tricia M. Pellegrini
Michael S. Hopkins
H. Richard Hagen

1415 Black Road
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Ph 815.726.4311

Fx 815.726.6828

www.spesia-ayers.com

June 15, 2012

Of Counsel:

E. Kent Ayers
Thomas M. Ewert
Kent Slater

Mr. Terrance M. Johnson, Esq.
North Pier Chicago
455 East Illinois Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Douglas F. Spesia
(1940-2010)

Re: *Supplemental Response of Records*

=====
[REDACTED] vs the Diocese of Joliet
Father Michael Gibbney

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As per the Court Order entered on May 5, 2012 for the Diocese to produce Tribunal Records regarding 14 priests. I am hereby enclosing Tribunal Records of Father Michael Gibbney consisting of 52 pages.

You were previously furnished Father Gibbney's priest file consisting of 788 pages. Page 785 refers to a Petition dated April 1, 2010 of the Rev. Michael Gibbney. I have now located that Petition, which is enclosed in the Tribunal Records, which were submitted together with Father Gibbney's Petition to the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith. You will note that some of the Tribunal Records are duplicates of what was in the priest's file.

I am also enclosing a Privilege Log for four pages of these Tribunal Records, which are the same identical four pages claimed as privilege in the priest's file.

My Best Regards,
SPEZIA & AYERS

By: 
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm
Enclosures

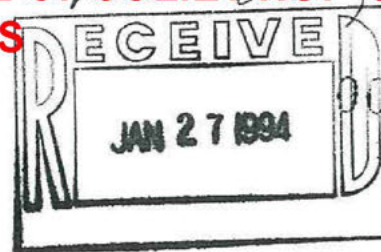
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PRIVILEGE LOG
Tribunal Records
of
Father Gibbney

<u>Tribunal Page</u>	<u>Priest File Page</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Document</u>	<u>Privilege</u>
Page 28	(346)	1-25-1994	From Carol Stone to Bishop Imesch and James C. Byrne	Attorney-Client
Page 29	(347)			
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Page 31	(349)			

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Released April 2014

**INTERSTATE
INSURANCE
GROUP**



January 25, 1994

55 East Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60603
312-346-6400
FAX 312-346-5748

Bishop Joseph L. Imesch
Diocese of Joliet
425 Summit St.
Joliet, IL 60435

CERTIFIED MAIL #P 868 903 127
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

James C. Byrne
James C. Byrne & Associates
Attorneys & Counselors at Law
815 N. Larkin Ave., Suite 202
Joliet, IL 60435

CERTIFIED MAIL #P 868 903 128
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

RE: Insured: Diocese of Joliet
Claimant: [REDACTED]
Claim No.: 01-1-5-[REDACTED]

Dear Bishop Imesch:

This letter references a sexual misconduct claim with respect to Father Gibbney and will serve to inform you of Interstate Fire & Casualty Company's (IFC) position with respect to coverage under the policies.

As you are aware, IFC provided excess liability coverage to your Diocese from September 1, 1978 to September 1, 1985 under Policy #83-0152628 and #83-0169758 with policy limits of \$4.8 million, excess \$200,000 provided by the Diocese's SIR and Lloyds. In addition, IFC provided excess liability coverage to the Diocese from September 1, 1985 to 1986 under Policy #83-0172320 with policy limits of \$800,000, excess the Diocese's SIR and Lloyds, which included sex abuse exclusion endorsements stating that coverage does not apply to claims arising out of the sexual or physical abuse or molestation or the insured's failure to control or prevent the acts of sexual or physical abuse or molestation of any person by any employee of the insured or any volunteer worker. There is, therefore, no coverage under this IFC policy.

IFC's policy of insurance #83-0169758 is a "following form" to the Lloyds policy, and the provisions of the immediate underlying policies are incorporated as part of this policy.

Interstate Fire & Casualty Company
Chicago Insurance Company
Interstate Indemnity Company

Member Companies of The Fireman's Fund Insurance Group

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Released April 2014

Interstate Insurance Group

Bishop Joseph L. Imesch
James C. Byrne
January 25, 1994
Page 2

000347

From the limited information we have received, we understand the alleged facts of the sexual misconduct claim to be as follows:

The claimant alleges sexual abuse at the hands of Father Gibbney some time after June of 1980 and continued for approximately three years. At the time of the first alleged abuse, the claimant was approximately 11 years of age and indicates he can recall 10 separate incidents over this period of time, generally occurring at the rectory and also in Minnesota and Janesville, WI. Father Gibbney had friends apparently in the state of Minnesota and may also have had the use of the summer cottage owned by his parents in Janesville, WI. The extent of injuries sustained has not been reported.

We understand that the Diocese has maintained contact with the claimant and is seeking to minister to him, but we do not know in what manner. We would appreciate being advised of such. We understand the claimant has communicated with an attorney but apparently is not represented. We also understand he desires to press criminal charges against Father Gibbney.

IFC's policies are excess in nature and, therefore, are not triggered until the underlying umbrella policies are exhausted. Paragraph 2 "Limit of Liability - Underlying Limit" provides as follows:

It is expressly agreed that liability shall attach to the Company only after the underlying umbrella insurer(s) have paid or have been held liable to pay the full amount of the respective ultimate net loss liability...

Coverage attaches only for those persons who qualify as an insured. Generally, insured is defined to include an official or employee of the named insured while acting within the course and scope of his duties as such.

Based on the information provided, it is IFC's opinion that if the allegations are proven, Father Gibbney was acting outside the course and scope of his priestly duties and for his self-gratification when he allegedly abused [REDACTED]. Father Gibbney, therefore, would not be qualified as an insured under IFC's policy, and IFC would not indemnify Father Gibbney nor allow his defense costs to be incorporated into the underlying limits and/or self-insured retention in order to reduce same, so as to activate IFC's excess liability coverage. Furthermore, there is no coverage whatsoever for Father Gibbney personally due to intentional torts or acts.

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TMJA
Released April 2014

Interstate Insurance Group

Bishop Joseph L. Imesch
James C. Byrne
January 25, 1994
Page 3

The intentional infliction of physical and/or emotional injury falls outside the scope of coverage under the definition of "occurrence" which generally requires that any such injury or damage for which coverage is claimed be neither expected nor intended. Further, the policy specifically excludes liability for assault and battery committed by or at the direction of anyone claiming coverage thereunder.

Should it be proven that the Diocese of Joliet knew or should have known of Father Gibbney's proclivities, these activities, knowledge of the Diocese of his activities and failure to take any action to prevent his inappropriate conduct, if proven, could void coverage. As noted above, there is no coverage for expected or intended personal injury.

Generally, an occurrence is defined as an accident or happening or event which unexpectedly and unintentionally results in personal injury or property damage during the policy period. Should the allegations fall outside of our policy period, we would respectfully decline coverage in regards to that period of time.

It is IFC's opinion that if the alleged abuse covered more than one policy period, a separate underlying primary limit and a separate self-insured retention for each policy would be applicable. Any portion of injuries sustained during any policy period triggers that policy period's underlying primary and self-insured retention.

Depending on the law in the State of Illinois, there may be a statute of limitations defense in this matter rendering the claim time barred.

To the extent that this claim for damages should include punitive and exemplary damages, there is no coverage for these damages against the Diocese, as punitive damages are not insurable in Illinois.

This reservation of rights is without prejudice to IFC's right to assert any other policy defenses which may be applicable as ascertained during further investigation of the referenced matter. IFC does not waive any of the terms or conditions of the applicable policies and does not waive any of the defenses which may now or hereafter exist for this claim.

Interstate would also like to remind you of the continuing obligation of the insured to fully and completely cooperate with IFC in connection with this matter as well as of the insured's obligation to keep Interstate fully informed and apprised of developments as this matter proceeds. Non-compliance with this obligation may restrict or bar coverage. Therefore,

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Interstate Insurance Group

Bishop Joseph L. Imesch
James C. Byrne
January 25, 1994
Page 4

IFC requests to be copied on pertinent correspondence and pleadings filed or served if it would matter in litigation. Your cooperation in this area is highly appreciated.

I would also appreciate your assistance in my investigation into this claim in order to assess liability and establish Interstate's coverage position by providing the following information or answers to questions:

1. Personnel file on Father Gibbney including secret archives material mentioning his sexual misconduct in any way.
2. Any and all materials that mention sexual abuse allegations.
3. Father Gibbney's response to the allegation.
4. The exact extent of injuries.
5. Any demand for damages.
6. What is the strength of a statute of limitations defense?

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



Claim Representative

CMS:wlk4
1/10

cc:





Registered February 2014
TMJ
Released April 2014 Tribunal

310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

815-722-2256
Fax 815-722-6692

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Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6632

June 9, 2010

His Eminence Claudio Cardinal Hummes, O.F.M.
Prefect
Sacred Congregation for the Clergy
Piazza Pio XII 3
00193 Rome, Italy,

Your Eminence,

I respectfully submit to the judgment of the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy the attached petition of Michael Lawrence Gibbney, a priest of the Diocese of Joliet, to be reduced to the lay state and dispensed from all the obligations attached to Holy Orders, including that of celibacy.

Father Gibbney, now 62 years of age, was ordained to the priesthood on May 24, 1975. He withdrew from active ministry in June of 1992. He is currently working as a sales associate and lives in the Diocese of Joliet. He hopes to contract marriage with a Catholic woman, who is free to marry.

The following is preliminary information and background on Father Gibbney.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Michael Lawrence Gibbney was born on September 6, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois and is the second oldest of three children, having two sisters. His parents are deceased but they were active Catholics. Michael was educated in the following schools:

St. Alexander Catholic Grammar School, Villa Park, Illinois, 1952-1961
Quigley Preparatory Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, 1961-1964
St. Procopius Academy, Lisle, Illinois, 1964-1966
St. Charles Borromeo College Seminary, Romeoville, Illinois, 1966-1968
St. John Vianney College Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, 1968-1970
DeAndreis Seminary, Lemont, Illinois, 1970-1974

Michael repeated freshman year at Quigley Seminary after failing Latin. Generally, he was a below average student throughout his course of studies. Michael was ordained to the diaconate on May 31, 1973. However, his ordination to the priesthood was delayed in light of the concern of the seminary faculty regarding his poor academic standing and his lack of motivation in relation to spiritual exercises. Michael was ordained to the order of

Redacted February 2014
T.M.J.
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Office of the Bishop

425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435

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presbyter on May 24, 1975 at St. Alexander Catholic Church in Villa Park, Illinois.
After ordination to the priesthood, Father Michael was assigned as follows:

- May 27, 1975, Associate Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Elmhurst, Illinois
- July 5, 1976, Associate Pastor, Visitation Parish, Elmhurst, Illinois
- August 22, 1977, Associate Pastor, Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish, Elmhurst, Illinois
- June 19, 1980, Associate Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Bolingbrook, Illinois
- June 18, 1986, Associate Pastor, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Bensenville, Illinois
- June 22, 1988, Associate Pastor, St. Liborius Parish, Steger, Illinois
- June, 20, 1990, Pastor, Immaculate Conception Parish, Morris, Illinois
- January 27, 1992, Resigned as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish
- June 1, 1992, Leave of absence

After his resignation as pastor, Michael spent time [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In April of 1992, Bishop Joseph L. Imesch wrote to Michael and granted him a leave of absence, effective on June 1, 1992. At the time, the reason for the leave of absence was in relation to Michael's unhappiness in ministry. However, by 1993, an allegation was made by a man who claimed that he had been sexually abused as a minor by Michael. There are eleven men who have alleged that they were sexually abused by Michael and financial settlements have been made. Since the charges were brought against Michael prior to the Dallas Charter, the Diocesan Review Board did not consider them.

CIRCUMSTANCES RELATED TO LEAVING MINISTRY

Father Michael Lawrence Gibbney is presently making this petition to the Holy Father for an indult of laicization. As to his reason for leaving ministry, it is necessary to examine his years of formation in the seminary. It is clear that he did not achieve academic success. He did not seem to ever work diligently. There is evidence that he lacked self-confidence. He involved himself in many outside activities as a means of avoiding responsibilities related to course work and even spiritual exercises. His superiors were also concerned about his grasp of theology and so it was recommended that his ordination to the priesthood be delayed for one year. Father Michael stated that he was unhappy in ministry. More significantly, it is evident that there were serious difficulties in his sexual adjustment. In his testimony which he provided for his petition, when asked if there were any problems in his sexual adjustment prior to ordination, he said that it was "not an issue." However, after ordination, when asked if he had any issues with sexual adjustment, his response was, "I do not think so." Given the subsequent allegations of abuse which have been made against Father Michael, it is clear that there indeed were serious issues in relation to his sexual adjustment which gravely affected his ministry. Thus, not only did Father Michael choose to request a leave of absence, it is clear that he could never be accepted back into active ministry.

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Diocese of Joliet

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JUDGMENT ABOUT SCANDAL

Given the allegations of sexual abuse and the trend to laicize such priests, there will be no scandal given if the dispensation is granted.

VOTUM OF THE ORDINARY

Michael Lawrence Gibbney is presently making this petition to the Holy See for an indult of laicization. I support and endorse his request for the following reasons. First of all, it is evident that he struggled academically throughout his time in the seminary. His theological understanding was in question to the point that his ordination was delayed. Secondly, Michael's commitment to priestly ministry is questionable. His own insecurity had a major affect on his ability to focus on the needs of the laity rather than on himself. While not admitting to the perpetration of the sexual abuse of minors, his involvement with youth in compromising circumstances is without question. It is possible to state that Michael should never have been ordained and can never be permitted to exercise any priestly ministry.

Accordingly, your Eminence, may I recommend to the favorable judgment of the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy the enclosed petition for Michael Lawrence Gibbney to be reduced to the lay state and dispensed from all the obligations attached to Holy Orders, including that of celibacy.

With renewed sentiments of highest esteem and personal good wishes, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain
Bishop of Joliet-in-Illinois

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 607
TRIBUNAL RECORDS

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MANDATE

I, Bishop J. Peter Sartain, Bishop of Joliet-in-Illinois, hereby appoint the Very Reverend Joseph J. Tapella, JCL, Judicial Vicar, to instruct the petition of the Reverend Michael Lawrence Gibbney for a dispensation from all the obligations arising from Sacred Orders, including that of celibacy, so as to be returned to the lay state. I also appoint Reverend Richard L. Smith, JCL to serve as Notary in this case.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Joliet on this 31st day of March in the year 2010.

Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain
Bishop of Joliet-in-Illinois

Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

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Michael L. Gibbney



April 1, 2010
Holy Thursday

Pope Benedict XXVI
The Holy See
Vatican, Italy

Your Holiness,

I humbly request your consideration in the matter of my laicization. I was ordained for the Diocese of Joliet in 1975. After eighteen years of ministry I left the priestly ministry in 1992. At the beginning of my priesthood I was very happy and felt the call to serve the Lord and the Church as a Priest. By 1992 I felt that I had given my self so entirely to the priesthood that I had no private life what ever and was no longer a happy priest. After several months of introspection, discernment and spiritual [REDACTED] counseling I asked for and received a leave-of-absence from the Diocese of Joliet.

I have been away from priestly ministry for eighteen years and have no desire to return. I have plans to marry a wonderful woman. She is free to marry in the Catholic Church and I would only want to be married in the Catholic Church. I have known her for sixteen years and we have become very close. At this time I cannot imagine life without her inspiration, help and love.

I therefore request to be released from all obligations of the priesthood including that of celibacy so I may continue my life, not as a priest, but in the good graces of the Catholic Church.

Humbly yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael L. Gibbney".

Michael L. Gibbney



Diocese of Joliet

Revised February 2014
T.M.N.
Released April 2014 Tribunal

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PETITION FOR LAICIZATION OF REVEREND MICHAEL L. GIBBNEY

Fr. Tapella: What is your name, current address and telephone number?

Michael Gibbney: Michael Gibbney



Fr. Tapella: What is your current occupation?

Michael Gibbney: Sales Associate

Fr. Tapella: What is the date and place of your birth?

Michael Gibbney:



Fr. Tapella: What was the name of your parents?

Michael Gibbney:



Fr. Tapella: Have they passed away?

Michael Gibbney: Yes.

Fr. Tapella: What is the diocese of your incardination?

Michael Gibbney: Diocese of Joliet.

Fr. Tapella: Would you describe your family background, such as the stability of your parent's marriage.

Michael Gibbney: Very stable. It was a great place to grow up. I never heard them argue to tell you the truth

Fr. Tapella: Do you have brothers and sisters?

**FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 610
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Michael Gibbney: I have two sisters, one older [REDACTED] and one younger [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Fr. Tapella: How was your relationship with your parents when you were growing up?

Michael Gibbney: Very good. Dad was the disciplinarian and mom was a mother.

Fr. Tapella: How was your relationship with your sisters?

Michael Gibbney: Well, my older sister and I fought when we were children; we get along much better now. We are all very close.

Fr. Tapella: What was the economic and social background of your family?

Michael Gibbney: I think it was like upper middle-class.

Fr. Tapella: Would you describe your religious practices and religious education in your home.

Michael Gibbney: We went to church every Sunday. I went to Catholic school, Catholic high school, and Catholic college. My parents were both daily communicants. They instilled that in me at a very early age.

Fr. Tapella: Would you describe your personal social development, for example your dating experiences.

Michael Gibbney: Not a lot of dating experiences. I took a girl to the prom once. I had a girlfriend for a little while when I was in St. Paul, nothing serious ever became of anything.

Fr. Tapella: When did you first consider becoming a priest?

Michael Gibbney: Probably in eighth grade when the priest came in and said does anybody want to take the entrance test for Quigley Seminary? That was directly after school and I did.

Fr. Tapella: What were your thoughts about becoming a priest at that time?

Michael Gibbney: It just seemed something I wanted to do and felt called to do.

Fr. Tapella: Did you consult anyone about your decision to enter the Seminary?

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Michael Gibbney: My parents obviously. They always supported me. At the parish I'm sure, I don't remember who it was, maybe Fr. Stempora was the parish associate, I talked to him. My parents always supported me. Whenever I would go back to school; my father would say now don't do this on account of us.

Fr. Tapella: Where did you study for the priesthood?

Michael Gibbney: I started at Quigley in Chicago and then transferred to St. Procopius in Lisle and then I was at St. Charles Borromeo for two years and then to St. John Vianney, St. Thomas College in St. Paul, Minnesota and then to DeAndreis for theology.

Fr. Tapella: Was there any interruption in your course of studies?

Michael Gibbney: No.

Fr. Tapella: During your Seminary years were there any serious moral problems that could have been considered obstacles to your seeking or accepting ordination?

Michael Gibbney: Not to my knowledge.

Fr. Tapella: Was there any undo pressure or influence in regard to seeking or accepting ordination?

Michael Gibbney: No, not at all.

Fr. Tapella: Would you describe the condition of the Seminary during your theology years; your opinion of the moral standard in the Seminary.

Michael Gibbney: Moral standard in the Seminary was by the book, I guess you would say..

Fr. Tapella: Was there regularity and quality in your spiritual exercises while in the Seminary?

Michael Gibbney: Yes, I spoke with my Spiritual Director regularly.

Fr. Tapella: What about in the Seminary itself as far as they offered Morning Prayer for example and daily Mass, etc.

Michael Gibbney: Yes, every day.

Fr. Tapella: And you participated in this?

Michael Gibbney: Yes. There might have been a couple of mornings that I over slept.

**FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 612
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Fr. Tapella: How would you say the spiritual exercises in the Seminary affected your own spiritual growth?

Michael Gibbney: One thing it instilled was about the Office, it's always been, to me, a beautiful prayer.

Fr. Tapella: Was the obligation of celibacy fully explained to you prior to your ordination to the diaconate?

Michael Gibbney: I believe so.

Fr. Tapella: Would you say you fully understood the nature of that obligation?

Michael Gibbney: Yes.

Fr. Tapella: Did you freely assume the obligation of celibacy?

Michael Gibbney: Yes.

Fr. Tapella: Did you have any problems with sexual adjustment before ordination?

Michael Gibbney: No.

Fr. Tapella: Did you have any problems with sexual adjustment after ordination?

Michael Gibbney: I don't think so.

Fr. Tapella: How would you say your concept of the priesthood changed and deepened during your years in the Seminary?

Michael Gibbney: I was allowed to work in my home parish while I was at DeAndreis. I think that and the association with the priests there deepened my desire.

Fr. Tapella: Was there any hesitation in receiving orders?

Michael Gibbney: No more than anybody else.

Fr. Tapella: When were you ordained to the diaconate?

Michael Gibbney: 1973.

Fr. Tapella: That was in Joliet?

Michael Gibbney: That was at St. Charles Borromeo.

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Fr. Tapella: Where were you ordained to the priesthood and when?

Michael Gibbney: I was ordained a priest at St. Alexander Church in Villa Park on May 24, 1975.

Fr. Tapella: Would you list your assignments.

Michael Gibbney: As a deacon I was at Notre Dame in Clarendon Hills, I was assigned at Immaculate Conception in Elmhurst, and to Visitation in Elmhurst, and to Mary Queen of Heaven in Elmhurst, and then out to Bolingbrook to St. Francis of Assisi, and then to Bensenville at St. Charles Borromeo, then to St. Liborius in Steger and finally pastor at Immaculate Conception in Morris. So I started and ended at Immaculate Conception.

Fr. Tapella: Would you say you enjoyed priestly ministry and its responsibilities?

Michael Gibbney: I did up until the end.

Fr. Tapella: Would you describe ways you took initiative in responding to pastoral needs in your priestly ministry?

Michael Gibbney: Basically anything that was asked I did whether it was by the pastor or people in the parish who needed help.

Fr. Tapella: During your priesthood how faithful were you to private spiritual exercises, such as rosary, breviary, and sacrament of reconciliation.

Michael Gibbney: Rosary not so much, but breviary everyday and reconciliation as often as I could.

Fr. Tapella: Did you have a Spiritual Director?

Michael Gibbney: Yes.

Fr. Tapella: You saw that person regularly?

Michael Gibbney: Yes.

Fr. Tapella: Were there any expectations you brought to the priesthood that were not met?

Michael Gibbney: I don't think so.

Fr. Tapella: In general, what failures personal or in your priestly ministry did you experience?

**FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 614
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Michael Gibbney: At the end when I was in Morris I wasn't happy doing what I was doing. Morris was more of a fish bowl than any other parish I had ever been in and that's what kind of blew it I think.

Fr. Tapella: Could you expand on what you mean by it was more a fish bowl because we are talking about people reading this who won't necessarily understand what you mean.

Michael Gibbney: The rectory was literally wrapped around the inside of the church and the school. People would always have to know you were home. Once when I was alone and I had the flu and the police were knocking on the door because I had to go to the hospital and anoint a dead person. I believed I deserved a private life and that was stolen from me.

Fr. Tapella: Did you address that issue with anyone or try to resolve it?

Michael Gibbney: No, I did not.

Fr. Tapella: To what extent did you share with other priests difficulties you experienced in priestly ministry?

Michael Gibbney: I talked to Fr. Frank Vitus quite often. We commiserated with each other.

Fr. Tapella: Was there any alcohol or chemical dependency or serious illness whose consequences might have influenced your present decision in any way?

Michael Gibbney: No.

Fr. Tapella: Would you give the reasons you left the active priesthood.

Michael Gibbney: I was no longer enjoying being a priest. I was on sabbatical, I was waiting in [REDACTED] trying to decide what to do and it just came to me, I think I'd be happier someplace else and it was that I had no private life anymore. I guess that is one thing I didn't expect in the priesthood. It's one thing to be told you'll be twenty-four hours on call and it's quite another to actually live it. I applied for a leave of absence and it was granted and I never came back.

Fr. Tapella: So your long-range plans are to do what?

Michael Gibbney: To be married.

Fr. Tapella: Is the person you wish to marry free to marry?

**FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 615
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Michael Gibbney: Yes, she is.

Fr. Tapella: Do you plan to work and live in the area where you were known as a priest?

Michael Gibbney: No.

Fr. Tapella: Are you confident that those who know you are supportive of your desire to be laicized?

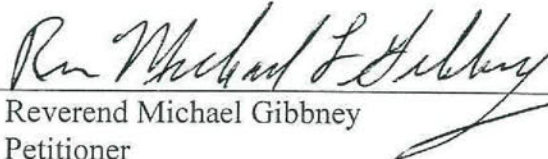
Michael Gibbney: Yes, when I mentioned it to Fr. Frank Vitus he said it's about time.

Fr. Tapella: Is there anything you wish to add or modify in your testimony?

Michael Gibbney: I don't believe so.

Fr. Tapella: Do you swear before God that your answers are wholly true?

Michael Gibbney: I do so swear.


Reverend Michael Gibbney
Petitioner


Reverend Joseph J. Tapella
Instructor

April 7, 2010



Diocese of Joliet
Tribunal

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MICHAEL GIBBNEY

1. Can you comment on Michael's family background?
2. Are you aware of the circumstance surrounding Michael's decision to be ordained?
3. When did you first meet Michael?
4. Did Michael seem to enjoy his priestly ministry?
5. Did Michael try to meet the needs of the people of the parish?
6. In what way did Michael take initiative in responding to pastoral needs in his priestly ministry?
7. How did Michael get along with other priests and with the laity?
8. Was Michael receptive to following the directives of the pastor?
9. In conflict situations could Michael compromise to solve differences?
10. Did Michael exhibit anger in an appropriate manner or did he hold it in or act out aggressively?
11. What serious problems were perceived in Michael's priestly ministry?
12. Did Michael have any difficulties with the obligations of celibacy?
13. Please set examples in which Michael failed to fulfill his priestly responsibilities.
14. Do you have anything to add?
15. Do you swear to the truth of your statements?

[Redacted Signature]


Signature

Joseph J. Tepik
Instructor

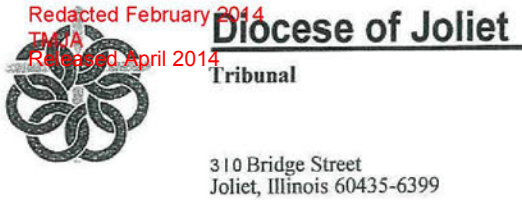
FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 617
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1. Yes. He is the middle child of loving and supportive parents.
2. Somewhat, I was very young at the time.
3. 
4. Yes.
5. Yes.
6. H tried to improve relationships and communication with is parishioners.
7. He seemed to get along very well.
8. Yes, as far as I know.
9. Yes.
10. Appropriate manner.
11. None that I know of.
12. Not that I know of.
13. I don't know of any.
14. Michael is a good man and I hope that he's given the chance to pursue the life he wants.
15. Yes.

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MICHAEL GIBBNEY

1. **Can you comment on Michael's family background?** Mike has two sisters, Mary is older, and Rosemary is much younger. His parents were very devoted Catholics.



2. **Are you aware of the circumstance surrounding Michael's decision to be ordained?**

I am assuming that he was ordained for all of the reasons seminarians give for why they would want to be ordained.

I know Mike attended Quigley for either one year or two, and then he went to Benet when it was considered a high school seminary. He went on to St. Charles Borromeo for two years of college and then when St Charles closed he attended St. John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul MN. I know he valued those two years. I am sure he went there because his cousin was a tenured professor at St. Thomas College. He always spoke very fondly of his years in Minnesota. Michael then attended DeAndreis Seminary in Lemont.

Mike was a good student, and I think he had a desire to serve others and minister to their needs. He was extremely talented as a teacher, and he did get involved with those who he ministered to in the seminary.

3. **When did you first meet Michael?**

I first met him at a weekend to see what the seminary was like. I was a senior at Providence High School and I was discerning a vocation. I was invited to attend a weekend at St. Charles and I met Mike, John Stringini, Rusty Shaugnessy, and Mike Lane. All of them became priests. Those are the people that attracted me and helped me make my decision.

4. **Did Michael seem to enjoy his priestly ministry?**

Yes, He got along well in the parish, parishioners seemed to have liked his homilies, and he was good at teaching, and a willingness to be involved with his parishioners. His relations with his pastors however were another issue. More on that on question #8.

5. **Did Michael try to meet the needs of the people of the parish?**

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Mike was very creative in his approach to ministry, and he wanted to get involved with the parishioners in their activities. He was very active in the schools and when he was sent to a parish without a school, he missed it.

6. **In what way did Michael take initiative in responding to pastoral needs in his priestly ministry?-**

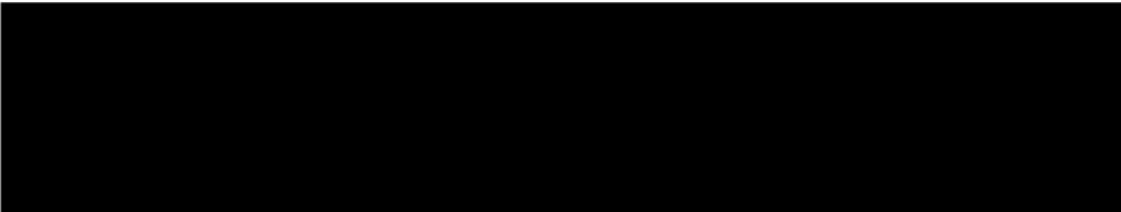
For instance, He was asked to be a Fire Department chaplain, and he was able to set up briefing sessions with the firefighters to deal with difficult situations. This was done way before this became standard practice among police and firefighters. He did creative things with the children in the school. He used puppets in his homilies to the school children. Once at Morris he got a bunch of pumpkins donated and they had a carving contest. .

7. **How did Michael get along with other priests and with the laity?**

He got along well with the laity and he got along well with his associates in the parish. However, there were two exceptions both were priests who had other issues.

8. **Was Michael receptive to following the directives of the pastor?**

Ok, I need to preface these next questions with the following explanation. Please bear with me. I guess the question depends on how you define associate pastor, vs. assistant pastor. When Michael was given the opportunity to be a true associate to the pastor he flourished, however when he was considered an assistant, he bristled under authority of the pastor. Sadly to say Michael had only one pastor that treated him like an associate. He stayed at the parish for 5 years. It was a newly formed parish and he was given responsibility, and made to feel like a team player. In his other parishes he did not have pastors who either delegated authority or were more interested in being in charge and the boss rather than a co-worker. He did not stay at those parishes for very long.



9. **In conflict situations could Michael compromise to solve differences?**

He went along, we did a lot of sharing when he felt that something wasn't right but he went along, even if he was not happy.

10. **Did Michael exhibit anger in an appropriate manner or did he hold it in or act out aggressively? As far as I know he dealt with it in an appropriate manner.**

Yes I think he did. We did a lot of sharing and talking when he was angry with something but he always handled it in an appropriate way

11. **What serious problems were perceived in Michael's priestly ministry?**

Not as far as I can tell.

He

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12. Did Michael have any difficulties with the obligations of celibacy?

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No.

13. Please set examples in which Michael failed to fulfill his priestly responsibilities.

I can't think of any at the moment

14. Do you have anything to add?

When Mike became a pastor I felt he was very conscientious, and he was also the youngest pastor the parish had in many years. He was very eager to do things with the RE and the school. He was well liked by both groups. He had a good relationship with his staff. However, he did live with an older priest

[REDACTED]

He was also consumed with the demands of the hospital and a number of nursing homes. One day he was upset that the hospital sent the police to wake him up so that he can respond to an emergency, when he himself was very sick with the flue. I felt that the parish ate him up literally and he had a hard time saying NO to people's demands. He left the parish after that telling me he had started to worry about his drinking. He went to counseling, and on Holy Thursday he wrote a letter to the bishop telling him he would not be coming back to priestly duties in the diocese.

[REDACTED] he got a job at St. Francis Hospice in Blue Island.

[REDACTED]

15. Do you swear to the truth of your statements?

Signature: Rev. [REDACTED]

Instructor : Joseph J. Topp



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Diocese of Joliet

Tribunal

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MICHAEL GIBBNEY

1. Can you comment on Michael's family background?
2. Are you aware of the circumstance surrounding Michael's decision to be ordained?
3. When did you first meet Michael?
4. Did Michael seem to enjoy his priestly ministry?
5. Did Michael try to meet the needs of the people of the parish?
6. In what way did Michael take initiative in responding to pastoral needs in his priestly ministry?
7. How did Michael get along with other priests and with the laity?
8. Was Michael receptive to following the directives of the pastor?
9. In conflict situations could Michael compromise to solve differences?
10. Did Michael exhibit anger in an appropriate manner or did he hold it in or act out aggressively?
11. What serious problems were perceived in Michael's priestly ministry?
12. Did Michael have any difficulties with the obligations of celibacy?
13. Please set examples in which Michael failed to fulfill his priestly responsibilities.
14. Do you have anything to add?
15. Do you swear to the truth of your statements?



Joseph J. Tjall
Instructor

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 622
TRIBUNAL RECORDS

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Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To: Reverend Joseph J. Tapella

Witness Questionnaire for Michael Gibbney as answered by [REDACTED]

1. Michael's family background was a loving environment. Religion was a big part of the household. Michael and his two sisters, one older and one younger, were taught at a young age good manners and family values. He was very close to his parents throughout their lives.
2. The circumstance surrounding Michael's decision to be ordained was cultivated at a young age. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]
4. I feel that Michael did enjoy his priestly ministry. This enjoyment was felt in how he communicated with parishioners and he had a gift for speaking which was reflected in the homilies he gave.
5. Michael did try to meet the needs of the people of the parish by having an active roll in parish activities and liturgies. I felt he made himself accessible to members of the parish.
6. In regards to how Michael took initiative in responding to pastoral needs, I am not familiar with this as I was not a member of his parish.
7. In my opinion Michael did get along well with other priests and the laity. He got along well with all people.
8. In regards to how Michael followed the directives of the pastor there are no conflicts I know of.

9. In conflict situations I feel that Michael was able to compromise and solve differences.
10. I felt that Michael's anger was used in an appropriate manner and he was very professional in emotional situations.
11. Any problems I perceived in affiliation with Michaels's priestly ministry were unknown to me.
12. [REDACTED] I am not aware of any difficulties he may have had with the obligations of celibacy.
13. I personally have no examples in which Michael failed to fulfill his priestly responsibilities.
14. In closing I wanted to express that Michael is a good person and he truly cares about people. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
15. I do swear to the truth of my statements.

[REDACTED]

TRIBUNAL RECORDS

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0941

Michael L. Gibbney has been able to do satisfactory work in his studies, by and large, and seems to be serious, sincere, and responsible. Mike is a bit difficult to get to know. He just does not seem to have anything to say. We saw an improvement in him after he had an accident with his car (serious for the car, minor for Mike), for it gave the community a chance to be concerned about Mike and I think Mike was encouraged. I think the lad is rather shy and lacking in confidence when among his peers. The faculty voted four in his favor, one against him, and one was doubtful. I would recommend that he be granted his requests for Tonsure and the first two Minor Orders.

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TMSA
Released April 2014

Rector Gaydos DeAnc
2/25/71

1) Mike Gibbney: We believe that Mike is a good candidate for the Priesthood even though he is slow in studies. However, if he is going to get all the necessary information to be a successful priest, he is going to have to work hard and use the brains he has. That has been Mike's problem this year: he has given his studies only minimal attention. He has been distracted by many outside activities, especially work at Borromeo Seminary. Many have remarked, including his fellow Joliet students, that Mike is never around. I do believe that this denial of Orders at this time will be the incentive Mike needs to get him moving again.

Director Rohrich, DeAnd.
4/12/72

Michael Gibbney has requested the Order of Acolytes. During this past year it seems that Michael has not been greatly involved in his major tasks of studying and being a good member of the seminary. He spent a great deal of time running about. As one of the faculty members said: "Mike is not preparing very well for the priesthood but will make a fine errand boy." I talked with Mike about these things and he seemed to recognize his mistakes. He accepted very well what I had to say and assured me that he will pursue the priesthood much more actively in the future. I tried too to build up Mike's own self-image, for I suspect that much of his shyness and lack of visibility is due to poor self-image. These matters were brought to Mike's attention just a month ago and I am sure that we are going to have to have much more time to observe Mike before we could vote positively for his advance. At the Faculty Meeting early in March the vote was: one in favor of Orders, four opposed and three doubtful. I would concur with the faculty and recommend that Mike not be advanced at this time.

CONFIDENTIAL

Rector Gaydos De And.
4/14/72

Mike is better for this recent confrontation. He knows better where he stands and in what direction he should go. I would recommend that he be allowed to pursue his studies for the priesthood for another year, or at least the first quarter of next year. If we do not see improvement that promises final success in the priesthood I would then recommend that he be asked to terminate his studies.

Rector Gaydos DeAnd.
3/3/73

Michael Gibbney. Michael Gibbney is asking for the ministry of Acolyte. Michael has grown a great deal during this year. He has ceased running out of the Seminary and has become a better student. While his openness with authorities still leaves something to be desired I think that he has made great progress. He seems to have a solid prayer life. He will become a better student when he learns to live with his limitations. He is not bright and is most reluctant to participate in class discussions. He is aware of this and trying to change. The Faculty voted six in favor of his advancement to Acolyte and one opposed. I would recommend his advancement. Mike is planning to ask for the Diaconate at the end of the year, but as I said above, the Faculty will look at that issue in due time.

TRIBUNAL RECORDS

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Rector Gaydos, DeAnd.
3/3/74

CONFIDENTIAL

Michael Gibney: Since Michael did not indicate to me, or anyone else, what his mind was as to his attitude at the time, I asked the students the question, "Do you recommend Gibney for advancement towards the Priesthood?" The response was: 27 saying yes; 1 saying no; 5 being doubtful and 18 abstentions. As you can see, the abstentions were significant for one who lives in such a small community. The complaints against Michael were that he was not around here enough, he was not interested in De Andreis, he contributed little, his attendance at common prayer and Mass was poor. I lowered the boom on Michael on February 13 of this year. I pointed out that he needed more balance between his work in deaconing at Clarendon Hills and his duties here. I asked him why he was so faithful there and so remiss here. He said that it seemed to be a matter of motivation. I then told him that if he were not at morning prayers every day for the rest of this year, I would see to it that he never got ordained. As Mike said to me, "That's motivation!" Mike has been quite faithful in his attendance at morning prayers. What is interesting is, that I did not say anything to him, specifically, about Mass attendance and while that may have improved, it was not the dramatic change that took place in regard to morning prayers.

In the faculty discussion, there was a good deal of time spent trying to evaluate just what Michael has learned in a professional way. We seem to be of the opinion that Michael has advanced very little beyond the ninth grade catechism. He attempts to be glib but there is no substance to what he knows. He tells me that he spends an average of two hours in preparation for my classes. Either he is lying or he is extremely slow. The faculty is seriously doubtful that he will ever learn. In voting for him, 2 said yes; 2 said no; and 5 were doubtful. The two yeses were qualified; one being the provision that he ask for Priesthood and the other that this be only after a long probationary period.

Perhaps I should be apologetic about this situation, however, I am of the mind that preparing for the Priesthood is a long and gradual process. At any point in this process the recommendation of no further progress is to be expected. Just because a man is ordained a deacon and spends another year in the Seminary, there is no compulsion to advance him to Priesthood. Michael is a person who is most willing to give service. Perhaps he would make an excellent permanent deacon. We are afraid of what he would say to a parishioner if he were in charge. I suppose that while his transcript of credits is not very good, it does not reflect, as well as it should, the degree of dissatisfaction that I am now expressing. Quite frankly, this is the first year I had Mike in a small enough class to really see what makes him tick.

I was told by Mike that he is presently [redacted] and that he will not request the Priesthood until he "knows himself." I don't know any more about it than that. Perhaps Mike will, in the future, show enough interest and do enough private study that he could present himself as a worthy candidate for the Priesthood. I think that probably he has the basic intelligence but has never learned to use it to achieve what he must.

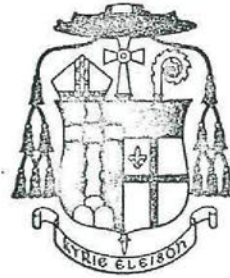
My recommendation, then, is that Michael Gibney not be ordained to the Priesthood until a sufficient amount of time has passed for him to demonstrate his grasp of the essential elements of theology and until, of course, he gives evidence of such a grasp.

over

23

000103

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014



R O M E O

MISERATIONE DIVINA ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA
EPISCOPUS JOLIETTENSIS IN ILLINOIS

RAIMUNDUS IACOBUS VONESH, EPISCOPUS TITULARIS VANARIONENSIS

Omnibus praesentes litteras inspecturis salutem et in Domino benedictionem.
Notum facimus et testamur Nos Missam in pontificalibus celebrantes in oratorio
Ecclesiae Paroecialis S. Alexandri, apud Villa Park, Illinois,

dilectum Nobis in Christo

R.D. Michael Gibbney

omnibus de iure requisitis fideliter expletis, ad ordinem sacrum presbyteratus

die 24a mensis maii anno Domini 1975

rite, Deo iuvante, promovisse.

In quorum fidem has praesentes litteras a Cancellario Curiae Joliettensis
subscriptas, sigilloque munitas, dari iussimus.

Datum Joliettae

Die 29a mensis maii anno Domini 1975

+ R. J. Vonesh

Episcopus Joliettensis in Illinois
Auxiliaris

Thomas W. Tracy
Cancellarius

De mandato Episcopi

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Immaculate
Conception
Church 177 South York St. Elmhurst Il. 60126

CONFIDENTIAL

1876-1976

March 16, 1977

The Most Reverend Raymond J. Vonesh
Diocese of Joliet
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois

Dear Bishop Vonesh,

In response to your phone call yesterday, I offer the following: Father Michael Gibbney came to Immaculate Conception and served the Parish as a Deacon for one year, and served here as a Priest for one year also.

My own personal appraisal is that Mike is really his own worst enemy. We all have problems in our relationships - he has more than the average, both in number and in size. He did not ask to leave Immaculate Conception, nor did I ask that he be removed. A year ago, there was a serious need for an associate at Visitation, and Mike was willing to go. He talked the matter over with me, and I had hopes that the "fresh start" might be good for him. In fact, I remember making the remark, "Jack will either make or break him."

I really suspect that he has been spoiled somewhat by his family, and has had his own way pretty much in life. He seems to be suffering from a kind of inferiority complex. He needs things to play with - e.g., photography, camping, mechanical things, etc. - and he displays considerable skill in some of these areas. I really think his life is made up mostly of "hobbies", including his priesthood.

To his credit, he related rather well with [redacted]. (But [redacted] was stronger than he, and perhaps "mothered" him somewhat). To his credit, he took a sincere interest in our high school seminarians and some other seminarian friends, and made them feel important.

My personal style in relating to Father Mike was to allow him freedom to move, and to be available to him if needed. I did not attempt to dominate nor manipulate him. Perhaps I failed to offer sufficient and adequate direct guidance. Recalling my own ^{five} ~~four~~ years at Visitation, I felt that perhaps Monsignor Podesta could more comfortably offer such direct guidance. He is a head strong young man, and he does need guidance.

Perhaps, this is not much help. But it is what comes to my mind at this moment.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Arthur J. Maher
Pastor

AJM/d

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 628
TRIBUNAL RECORDS

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000262

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

REV. MICHAEL L. GIBBNEY

[REDACTED]

April 16, 1992
Holy Thursday

The Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Diocese of Joliet
425 Summit Street
Joliet, IL 60435

Dear Bishop,

I have been here [REDACTED] for two months now. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I have had a lot of time to
look into myself especially through prayer.


Although it will most likely come as a surprise to many, I have
been unhappy in my ministry for some time. When questions about my
vocation arose in the past I managed to shove them aside and keep
myself busy so I would not have to deal with them. I did this
subconsciously or course. Since I have been here my meditation has
been invaded by the thoughts of my vocation and whether I want to
continue in the active ministry. I have had the luxury of time to
think about this [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

People have asked me whether this questioning [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I have discovered that it has come about not because I
was "sent away" [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] in the quiet of my prayer my subconscious was able
to confront me with it.

[REDACTED] make a decision in
regard to continuing in active ministry. Being in the active
ministry is not the place to make that decision either.

I am therefore requesting a one year leave of absence from the
Diocese of Joliet and from active priestly ministry [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

You and my brother priests of the diocese are in my prayers in a
special way today.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Michael L. Gibbney

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 24, 1992

Reverend Michael L. Gibbney
[REDACTED]

Dear Mike,

Thanks for the letter you wrote to me on Holy Thursday. I appreciated your prayers for myself and for our brothers in ministry.

I was glad that I had a chance to talk to you on the phone before receiving your letter informing me that you wanted to take a one year leave of absence at the conclusion of [REDACTED]. I guess it is always a shock for me when a priest says he wants to take a leave of absence, and your case was no different. I regret that we were not able to talk earlier about your unhappiness in ministry, but I realize that is not the easiest topic to bring up with one's bishop.

I can very well imagine that it was not easy to come to this decision to ask for a leave, and I give you credit for having the courage to do so. It will certainly not be easy re-entering the business world and finding a way to make a living. Yet, I agree with you that the best way to find out about returning to ministry is to not minister for awhile. I trust enough in the Lord that He will help to guide you in making the right decision.

You have been a good priest and have accomplished a great deal despite not being happy. I guess that means that you covered it well, even though I know it also means that there was considerable pain for you.

Mike, I plan on announcing your leave of absence, along with all of our priest assignments on the week-end of June 6-7. By that time we might know when to make it effective.

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 630
TRIBUNAL RECORDS

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

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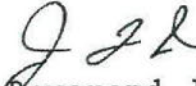
2.

As I mentioned to you on the phone, I plan on coming out to visit you on May 21st. I will be in touch with you before that time with regard to my plans, but I will probably fly in that morning and leave the next day. I believe a 4 o'clock appointment has been arranged for me on the 21st.

Mike, you are in my prayers each day. May this time be a time of growth and peace for you.

With every best wish,

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Be - Bishop Kopper

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 631
TRIBUNAL RECORDS

000379 32

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

TO: Diocesan Review Committee
FM: Thomas A. O'Donnell (AAd)
DATE: April 25, 2002
RE: Michael L. Gibbney

On April 25, 2003, at approximately 11:00AM, review committee member Thomas A. O'Donnell interviewed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The following is a non verbatim summary of the interview.

[REDACTED] was an eleven year old altar boy at Mary Queen of Heaven Church in Elmhurst, Il. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated while he was an altar boy he was sexually abused by one of the parish priests, Father **MICHAEL L. GIBBNEY**, [REDACTED]. The first time Gibbney abused [REDACTED] was during an overnight trip to [REDACTED] Wisconsin [REDACTED] Gibbney, [REDACTED] took [REDACTED] on the trip and stayed overnight in a motel. That night Gibbney asked [REDACTED] if he would like a massage [REDACTED] [REDACTED] During the massage Gibbney masturbated [REDACTED]

Gibbney continued to sexually abuse [REDACTED] approximately two times a month for the next three or four years. The abuse consisted of mutual oral sex and masturbation between [REDACTED] and Gibbney. Gibbney usually molested [REDACTED] in his room in the rectory at Mary Queen of Heaven Church. Gibbney would ask [REDACTED] to stay overnight when the pastor, Father Fleming, was out of town. [REDACTED]

Gibbney's parents lived in [REDACTED] and they had a swimming pool in their back yard. When Gibbney's parents were gone for the evening, Gibbney and [REDACTED] would swim naked in the pool. Gibbney often molested [REDACTED] on these occasions. Gibbney also owned a camper and he often took [REDACTED] and other altar boys, including [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], on extended camping trips. Gibbney would sleep with a different boy each night during the trip. On one trip, when [REDACTED] was approximately 15 years old, Gibbney took the boys to [REDACTED]. One day Gibbney took the boys [REDACTED] and met a friend. The friend accompanied Gibbney and the boys

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-2-

for the rest of the trip. The first night the friend slept with [REDACTED] and anally assaulted him.

[REDACTED] does not remember the friend's name and does not know if the man was a priest.

[REDACTED] stated that Gibbney left Mary Queen of Heaven abruptly and was assigned to a parish that [REDACTED] thought was called St. Andrew and was located in Bolingbrook. [REDACTED] visited Gibbney one time at the new parish and Gibbney sexually abused [REDACTED] in the rectory. That was the last time Gibbney abused [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] does not want Gibbney to hurt anyone else.

[REDACTED] had no other information at this time and the interview was terminated at approximately 11:45AM.

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000378

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

April 24, 2002

[REDACTED]

I received a call from Mr. [REDACTED] concerning abuse that took place from 1976 to 1980.

[REDACTED] was 11 years of age, a member of Mary Queen of Heaven Parish in Elmhurst. The abusive priest was Father Michael Gibbney.

Father [REDACTED] would take altar boys on trips, about 6 at a time. [REDACTED] said that he knew Father attempted to do something with those other boys but does not know if he succeeded.

The first incident occurred when Father took him on a retreat in Wisconsin. Subsequent incidents occurred at the parish rectory. [REDACTED] spent many nights at the rectory when Father Tom Fleming, the pastor, was away on retreat, etc. [REDACTED] thought that the housekeeper may have figured something was wrong since he stayed when Father Fleming was out of the rectory.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I expressed my sorrow at what he has experienced, told him that in accord with our policy the matter would be referred to the Chair of the Review Committee, and that someone from the Committee would contact him. I also told him that counseling would be made available if he felt it was needed.

Judith A. Davies, OSF
Sister Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor

35

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

000386

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Vicar General



Post Office Box 1979
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979
(312) 751-8271
Fax: (312) 337-6379

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 2, 2002
TO: FILE
FROM: BISHOP RAYMOND GOEDERT
RE: MR. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] called me on April 30. I was not able to return the call until today. [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are deceased.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was born on [REDACTED]. He is 35 years old now. As a child, he attended Mary Queen of Heaven school in Elmhurst and graduated from there. When he was in grade school, probably around the 4th or 5th or 6th grade, he said that the parish priest used to take the kids camping. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], went with the priest on a particular occasion. Just where they went, he wasn't sure, but the priest used to take the kids to Yorkville which is an area out southwest near the Illinois River.

[REDACTED] said he thought the incident happened in a hotel room. At least, that's where he remembered the priest abused him (I did not ask the nature of the abuse). [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I asked [REDACTED] if he recalled the name of the priest. He thought it was something like Father Gidney, but he wasn't sure and was only able to guess at the spelling, but he said he was a young priest, probably in his mid-thirties at the time. He said that Father Fleming was the

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 635
TRIBUNAL RECORDS

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030387

Memo
Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

pastor. He also mentioned that this young priest was a chaplain or had something to do with the Elmhurst Fire Department.



After speaking to [REDACTED], I then looked up the Kenedy Directory for 1977 and 1978. In the 1978 directory, on page 416, Father Thomas Fleming is listed as the pastor of Mary Queen of Heaven and Father Michael L. Gibbney is the associate.

I then looked up in the 1999 directory and there was no Gibbney listed, so it could be that he is either deceased or left the active ministry.

I promised [REDACTED] that I would contact Bishop Imesch about this and the Joliet Diocese will take the matter from here on in.



Revised February 2014
T.M.H.
Revised April 2014 Tribunal

Diocese of Joliet

310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

815-722-2256
Fax 815-722-6692

VOTUM OF THE INSTRUCTOR

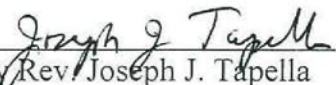
Having instructed the case of Michael Lawrence Gibbney, who is petitioning the Holy Father to be dispensed from the obligations of the priesthood, including that of celibacy, I am certain, that Michael, like every other priest who so petitions, has a great love for the Church. Otherwise, it would be clear that there would be no desire on the part of any priest to make such a request. It is evident that Michael continues to attend Mass on a regular basis and views the dispensation as a means of attaining peace of mind and of being able to contract marriage in the Church.

Michael has been most anxious in the processing of his petition. At this point in his life, as one witness stated, he desires companionship and thus hopes to marry in the Church. Thus, his decision to make this petition is not an abandonment of the Church, but rather a desire to live in harmony with the Church.

Therefore, I humbly recommend that the Holy Father grant the petition of Michael to be dismissed from the obligations of the priesthood, including that of celibacy. Since it has been almost twenty years in which he has not sought to minister as a priest, and since the allegations of abuse which have been made would have to be further investigated, he seeks the dispensation in order to have peace of mind in the latter years of his life.

It is evident that no scandal will be given if the dispensation is granted. The large population in this area makes Michael's presence virtually anonymous. Also, people have the realization that it is not possible, nor is it wise, for some priests to continue in ministry.

In conclusion, it is Michael's sincere hope that the Holy Father will look with mercy on him and enable him to contract marriage in the Church. Thus, I join Michael in humbly requesting that his petition be granted and that he be dismissed from the obligations of the priesthood, including that of celibacy.


Very Rev. Joseph J. Tapella
Instructor

June 10, 2010
Joliet, Illinois

38



Diocese of Joliet

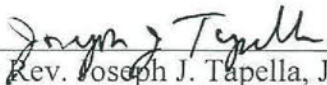
Registered February 2014
Tribunal
Released April 2014

310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

815-722-2256
Fax 815-722-6692

SUMMARY

Diocese:	Joliet-in-Illinois
Petitioner's name:	Michael Lawrence Gibbney
Date of birth:	[REDACTED]
Date of priestly ordination	May 24, 1975
Date of petition for laicization	June 1, 2010
Reason for petition:	A desire to contract marriage in the Church
Present occupation of petitioner:	Sales manager
Marital status:	Single
Votum of Ordinary of incardination:	Affirmative


Very Rev. Joseph J. Tapella, JCL
Instructor

Given at Joliet, Illinois on this
10th day June in the year 2010.



Registered February 2014
T.M.J.
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Diocese of Joliet
Tribunal

310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

815-722-2256
Fax 815-722-6692

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the acts of the above-cited case, beginning with the Table of Contents and ending with certificate, page , are the original writings or exact duplicates of original writings and form the authentic acts of this case to be transmitted forthwith to the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy.

Richard L. Smith
Rev. Richard L. Smith, JCL
Ecclesiastical Notary

Given at Joliet, Illinois on this
11th day of June in the year 2010.



Redacted February 2014
Released April 2014
Diocese of Joliet
Tribunal

310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

000040

815-722-2256
Fax 815-722-6692

April 9, 2010



Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

As you are aware, Michael Gibbney has asked our assistance in applying for laicization. He has named you as a witness on his behalf. Enclosed you will find a questionnaire which I would ask you to complete and return to me at your earliest convenience. It will be best if you can type your answers.

I am sure that Michael will be very appreciative of your assistance. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph J. Tapella".

Reverend Joseph J. Tapella
Vicar General

JJT:hm
Enclosure

COPY

Redacted February 2014
T.M.J.
Redacted April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

Tribunal

000041

310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

815-722-2256
Fax 815-722-6692

MICHAEL GIBBNEY

1. Can you comment on Michael's family background? *yes. He is the middle child of loving and supportive parents.*
2. Are you aware of the circumstance surrounding Michael's decision to be ordained? *some what. I was very young at the time*
3. When did you first meet Michael? *[Redacted]*
4. Did Michael seem to enjoy his priestly ministry? *yes*
5. Did Michael try to meet the needs of the people of the parish? *yes*
6. In what way did Michael take initiative in responding to pastoral needs in his priestly ministry? *He tried to improve relationships and communication with his parishioners*
7. How did Michael get along with other priests and with the laity? *He seemed to get along very well.*
8. Was Michael receptive to following the directives of the pastor? *yes, as far as I know*
9. In conflict situations could Michael compromise to solve differences? *yes*
10. Did Michael exhibit anger in an appropriate manner or did he hold it in or act out aggressively? *appropriate manner*
11. What serious problems were perceived in Michael's priestly ministry? *None that I know of*
12. Did Michael have any difficulties with the obligations of celibacy? *not that I know of*
13. Please set examples in which Michael failed to fulfill his priestly responsibilities. *I don't know of any*
14. Do you have anything to add? *Michael is a good man and I hope that he's given the chance to pursue the life he wants*
15. Do you swear to the truth of your statements? *yes*

[Redacted Signature]

Signature

Instructor



Redacted February 2014
T.M.S.
Released April 2014

Diocese of Joliet

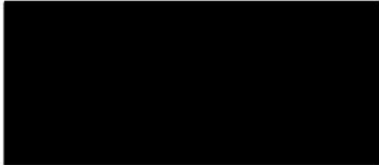
Tribunal

310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

000142

815-722-2256
Fax 815-722-6692

April 9, 2010



Dear Father [REDACTED]

As you are aware, Michael Gibbney has asked our assistance in applying for laicization. He has named you as a witness on his behalf. Enclosed you will find a questionnaire which I would ask you to complete and return to me at your earliest convenience. It will be best if you can type your answers.

I am sure that Michael will be very appreciative of your assistance. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe".

Reverend Joseph J. Tapella
Vicar General

JJT:hm
Enclosure

COPY



Registered February 2014
TM, ®
Released April 2014 Tribunal

310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

000043

815-722-2256
Fax 815-722-6692

April 9, 2010



Dear Ms. [REDACTED]:

As you are aware, Michael Gibbney has asked our assistance in applying for laicization. He has named you as a witness on his behalf. Enclosed you will find a questionnaire which I would ask you to complete and return to me at your earliest convenience. It will be best if you can type your answers.

I am sure that Michael will be very appreciative of your assistance. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph J. Tapella".

Reverend Joseph J. Tapella
Vicar General

JJT:hm
Enclosure

COPY

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 643
TRIBUNAL RECORDS



Registered February 2014
TAMM
Released April 2014
Diocese of Joliet
Tribunal

000044

310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

815-722-2256
Fax 815-722-6692

April 9, 2010

Michael Gibbney

Dear Mike:

Enclosed is your testimony. Please make any changes or add any pertinent information. Sign the last page and return it to me.

Your witnesses will be contacted today. Please encourage them to reply.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Reverend Joseph J. Tapella
Vicar General

JJT:hm
Enclosures

COPY

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 644
TRIBUNAL RECORDS

Redacted February 2014
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Released April 2014

000045



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

16269

June 18, 2010

No.

This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer

Rev. Joseph J. Tapella
Judicial Vicar
Diocese of Joliet
310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

Dear Father Tapella:

I acknowledge your kind letter of June 15, 2010, with enclosure.

Rest assured that the case pertaining to the dispensation of MICHAEL GIBBNEY from all obligations arising from Holy Orders, including celibacy, has been forwarded through the diplomatic pouch to the Congregation for the Clergy.

With cordial regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Pietro Sambi
Apostolic Nuncio

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 645
TRIBUNAL RECORDS

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014



CONGREGATIO
PRO CLERICIS

000046
Romae, die 28 Augusti 2010

N. 20102026/S

Reverendissime Pater,

Die 17 mensis Iulii anni 2010 huc rite pervenerunt acta processus administrativi pro dispensatione ab obligationibus sacrae Ordinationis in favorem D.ni **Michael Lawrence GIBBENY**, presbyteri diocesi Iolitten in Illinois.

Eadem acta sub N. 20102026/S in tabulario Dicasterii persignata sunt.

Quam primum ac iuxta proportionata tempora, de eorundem pertratactione nuntium habebis.

Quo par est obsequio, me profiteor, in Domino

✠ Mauro Piacenza

Archiep. a Secretis

Excellentissime Domino
Domino **J. Peter SARTAIN**
Episcopo Iolittensis in Illinois
425 Summit St.
Joliet, Illinois 60435
USA

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

000047

From: Office of Bishop Siegel
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 9:51 AM
To: Mary McGuire
Subject: FW: Thanks

From: Michael Gibbney [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 6:43 PM
To: Office of Bishop Siegel
Subject: Thanks

Hello Bishop Joseph,

Fr. Joe Tapella told me that you would be contacting the Vatican to check on the status of my case. I just wanted to thank you for this. I know that I am an old man now but I really can't wait to spend the rest of my life with a very special lady.

May God continue to bless you and your ministry.

Michael Gibbney

2/16/2011

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

000048

From: [REDACTED] jmcs [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 3:23 PM
To: Mary McGuire
Subject: letter to CDF
Attachments: Gibbney.doc
[REDACTED]

Here is the letter. Please proof and print for my signature. We will send it via the Apostolic Nunciature. I believe you still have that address. Please prepare the following cover letter to Archbishop Sambi.

Your Excellency,

I would be most grateful if you would forward the enclosed letter to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican.

Thank you for your assistance. May God bless you and collaborators at the Nunciature.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Rev....

- ① Protocol # = Prot. N.
- ② 2 originals to Pietro Sambi

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 648
TRIBUNAL RECORDS

Diocese of Joliet
Office of the Bishop

Relayed February 2014
TMJA
Relayed April 2014

000049



425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435
www.dioceseofjoliet.org

February 15, 2011

Most Reverend Pietro Sambì
Apostolic Nuncio
Apostolic Nunciature
3339 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Prot. N. 718/2010

Your Excellency,

I would be most grateful if you would forward the enclosed letter to the
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican.

Thank you for your assistance. May God bless you and all collaborators
at the Nunciature.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph M. Siegel".

Most Rev. Joseph M. Siegel
Diocesan Administrator
Auxiliary Bishop

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 649
TRIBUNAL RECORDS

Diocese of Joliet
Office of the Bishop

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

000050



425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435
www.dioceseofjoliet.org

Prot. N. 718/2010

February 15, 2011

Monsignor Damiano Marzotto
Under-Secretary
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
00120 Vatican City State
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

Dear Msgr. Marzotto,

I am currently serving as Administrator for the Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois and recently received your correspondence regarding Rev. Michael L. Gibbney and his case that is currently before the Congregation (Prot. N. 718/2010). Could you give me a brief update on the status of his case? Do you have any idea when the case will be concluded?

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

May the Lord bless you and your collaborators in your important work for the Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph M. Siegel".

Most Rev. Joseph M. Siegel
Diocesan Administrator
Auxiliary Bishop

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 650
TRIBUNAL RECORDS

Diocese of Joliet
Tribunal
Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

000051



310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435
815-722-2256
Fax 815-722-6692

May 25, 2011

William Cardinal Levada
Prefect
Congregations for the Doctrine of the Faith
Piazza del. S. Uffizio, 11
00193 Roma
Italy

Your Eminence,

Enclosed you will find the rescript dispensing Michael Lawrence Gibbney from all of the obligations of the priesthood, including that of celibacy. He accepted the rescript in writing on May 17, 2011.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Joseph J. Tapella
Judicial Vicar

FR. GIBBNEY SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 651
TRIBUNAL RECORDS

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

000052
3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

16269

June 3, 2011

No.

This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer

Rev. Joseph J. Tapella
Judicial Vicar
Diocese of Joliet
310 Bridge Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435-6399

Dear Father Tapella:

In the temporary absence of the Most Reverend Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Nuncio, I acknowledge your kind letter of May 25, 2011, with enclosure.

Rest assured that the documentation pertaining to the dispensation for Fr. Michael Lawrence Gibbney has been forwarded through the diplomatic pouch to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

With respectful regards and prayerful best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Jean-François Lantheaume
Monsignor Jean-François Lantheaume
chargé d'affaires a.i.