

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

SPESIA & AYERS

Attorneys at Law

E. Kent Ayers
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

September 26, 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] *vs* Diocese of Joliet
=====
Father Lawrence Gibbs

Dear Mr. Johnson:

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

- 1.) **Priest file of Father Lawrence Gibbs** consisting of **1,184** pages.
- 2.) **Five Separate Privilege Logs** for documents in this priest file.
- 3.) **Investigator's Records** – I have not been able to locate all of my office files on [REDACTED] vs-Gibbs, and therefore, this category may have to be supplemented.

Names of Accusers

The only individual who has made accusations that have been made public is that [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. All others have never been made public and the existing Protective Order prohibits their disclosure.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA & AYERS

By: 
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm
Enclosures

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

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

SPESIA & AYERS

Attorneys at Law

E. Kent Ayers
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

September 26, 2011

Of Counsel:

Thomas M. Ewer
Kent Slater

VIA MESSENGER

The Honorable Michael Powers
Will County Courthouse
14 W. Jefferson Street
Joliet, Illinois 60432

Douglas F. Spesia
(1940-2010)

Re: ██████████'s Diocese of Joliet
Privilege Log
for
Father Lawrence Gibbs

Dear Judge Powers:

Enclosed are five Privilege Logs and the corresponding documents of Diocesan records on Father Lawrence Gibbs for an in-camera review and ruling and are as follows:

1. Mental Health Records of Gibbs;
2. Mental Health Records of An Accuser;
3. Mental Health Records of An Accuser;
4. Attorney-Client Privilege; and
5. Third Party Privacy Records, reflecting partial deletions.

Respectfully Submitted

SPESIA & AYERS

By: 
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

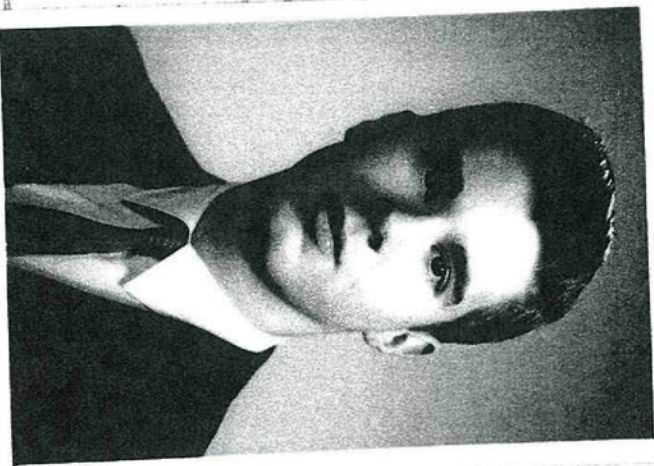
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Terrance M. Johnson, Esq., et al ✓
Mr. Joseph M. Laraia, Esq.
Mr. Stuart L. Bressler, Esq.

Redacted February 2014
 TMJA
 Released April 2014

GIBBS, LAWRENCE

| ORDERS | DATE CONFERRED | ORDAINING BISHOP | PLACE | DATE CONFERRED | DATE RELIEVED |
|----------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| TONSURE | | | | | |
| FIRST MINORS | | | | | |
| SEC. MINORS | | | | | |
| SUB-DIACONATE | | | | | |
| DIACONATE | 3/19/69 | Romeo R. Blanchette | Christ the King Sem., W. Ch. | | |
| PRIESTHOOD | 5/12/73 | Glen E. Lynn | Glen E. Lynn, St. James | | |
| DATE APPOINTED | | ASSIGNMENT | | DATE LEFT | |



DATE OF BIRTH 1/10/44 OF BIRTH Chicago, Ill
 HOME ADDRESS Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago
 HOME PARISH 51 East Division, Chicago



GIBBS, Rev. Lawrence

FATHER'S NAME Gordon (deceased)
 MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME Margaret (living)
 NATIONALITY
 SPEAKING KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH
 PUBLIC SPEAKING RATING
 PREPARATORY EDUCATION Quigley Prep Sem., St. Mary of Lake Jr. Col., St. Procopius Col., St. Meinrad, Ind.
 DEGREES BA in Philosophy, Master of Divinity, Master of Education
 REMARKS: Doc of Ministry '84

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|------|------------------------------|--------|---|----|------|
| 5 | 14 | 1973 | Glen E. Lynn, St. James | ASSOC. | 6 | 14 | 1977 |
| 6 | 14 | 1977 | Downers Grove, Divine Savior | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 7 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 7 | 1 | 1977 |
| 8 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 9 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 10 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 11 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 12 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 13 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 14 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 15 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 16 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 17 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 18 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 19 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 20 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 21 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 22 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 23 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 24 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 25 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 26 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 27 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 28 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 29 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 30 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 31 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 32 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 33 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 34 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 35 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 36 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 37 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 38 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 39 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 40 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 41 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 42 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 43 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 44 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 45 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 46 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 47 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 48 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 49 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |
| 50 | 1 | 1977 | St. Joseph, St. James | ASSOC. | 9 | 1 | 1977 |

10001

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

0038

LAWRENCE GIBBS

There are ~~4~~ ³ alternatives: ~~_____~~

~~1) Take _____~~

1) Seek laicization.

2) Seek leave of absence working as a layman and return to ~~_____~~ extended deaconate.

3) Continue as a deacon indefinitely.

The majority recommended that the 3 alternatives be presented to the deacon to make his choice. A minority of 2 recommended laicization.

The above are the notes taken by the
Ministry Board Secretary, Fr. Kupper.

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Gibbs
000075

2. Gibbs
by you -
4/29/71

Dr. Currah - Fr. Inskip.

Not bright - running scared - trip to show with pipe, wordsness.

Cancelled appts. - "I'm so close to people" - scap!

Astounded from people -

Pussy-footed attitude toward him by those who have spoken to him.

A little kid -

Very Averse Individual -

6 mos. to year away from ordination - has to realize

"I don't know if I could live with him" - Dr. Currah

Get another view point - transfer him.

Frightened kid - not too bright

of ART MATHER - type -

If he can't clear u. - forget it.

Decision - do you want a little less than ordinary man?

Not psychiatric.

xxx - oh - not a serious mistake.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

4/24/71.

Fr. W. Cullen -

000076

at wemy.

Tensions -

(Re: Rev. L. Gibbs)

Gibbs - altercation with Principal - his fault - "stuck + tired of Cullen's - half-arsed approach" - apologized.

- indicated mid-week not to be on hand Sat. pm., had spent \$35⁰⁰ in inauguration fee.

- Vacation - more than 5 weeks - overnight every week.

- 4/23 - call from Fr. Cunningham - can Gibbs come? (Loyola)

- 4/24 - in dining room - Cullen could not get to E. Fisher

- "Fr. Ryan thinks I should stay on another year"

- "Bishop at CCW"

- "Tensions possible source of scandal in parish"

- He should be sent to where there are 4 or 5 priests.

- NO common sense - or judgment -

- Lacks appreciation of situation -

- Exaggerated importance of self - pompous - Jesus scholarship.

- Dream-world.

- Cannot or will not accept direction.

- One day took 10 min. to give 3 simple announcements.

DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Chancery Office

425 SUMMIT STREET
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

000122

12/28/70

Sister Lucille Krypel, principal of St. Ambrose School, Joliet, came to see me at my request re: Rev. Mr. L. Gibbs. I had heard from Father Niles Gillen, who knew nothing of the situation of G. that Sister Lucille might have some information.

She indicated that G. was of good will, but that he and Fr. Cullen were not getting along. His (G) homilies were poor, and he was 'turning away' some people by his attitude of ritualism in the celebrations of the liturgy. She wondered why he was so ritualistic - perhaps because he did not really want to get close to people in inviting them to pray. She is sure that he thinks he is close to people, or at least says that he is, but the opposite is true.

One day in the sacristy, when Fr. Stempora was to celebrate Mass, Sister came to say that the boy who was supposed to read the Epistle was not prepared, and that G. should read it. G. went into a big harangue that he would not, it ~~is~~ is not the place of a deacon, etc. Finally, evidently, at the pleading of Fr. S. G. read the Epistle.

Sister has told the deacon that he is not ready for ordination. She sees him as very immature. She knows of some persons who are not attending Mass at Saint Ambrose because they cannot pray in the atmosphere of ritualism which G displays.

D.L. Ryan

D.L. Ryan, Chancellor

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Re: Deacon Gibbs

Trans Mar 23 - 10:30

00127

February 22, 1971

Memorandum to: Father Daniel Ryan

Confidential

Father Arthur Maher informs me that Deacon Gibbs spoke to him and indicated that another assignment for him would be desirable, since communications seem to have been reduced at Saint Ambrose. Father Maher indicated that if this is so and if we are to get the opinion of another priest with reference to the suitability of this deacon, another assignment might have to be considered.

I do not know if it is true that communications between Father Cullen and Deacon Gibbs are at a low ebb. You might prudently check this matter out.

R. R. Bennett

Bishop of Joliet,

RRE/sma

Deacon Larry Gibbs

00135

March 24, 1971

MEMORANDUM:

Re: Deacon Larry Gibbs

On March 23, 1971, I saw Deacon Larry Gibbs. He indicated to me that he felt that he was having success in the various projects that had been assigned to him at St. Ambrose Parish. He seemed to think that Father Mueller at the Preaching Workshop had been satisfied with his performance.

The Rev. Mr. Gibbs said that he had seen Dr. [REDACTED], psychiatrist, on four occasions, and recently had received, or rather had taken, a battery of tests from a doctor in Aurora (a psychologist), and that shortly he would see Dr. [REDACTED] for the evaluation and report. Dr. [REDACTED] wished to come with him then to see me if it was my desire. I told him that definitely this was my desire. He also indicated that Dr. [REDACTED] had told him to find out from us why he was being sent to him. I asked him if Father Ryan had already told him. He said he had discussed it with Father Ryan, but was not sure, and so that is why he had asked to see me. I told him that I would prefer to talk in the presence of Father Ryan, and so Father Ryan came into the room.

I then explained to Deacon Gibbs that ~~because of~~ the reports from certain individuals at St. Ambrose Parish and from certain priests at the Preaching Institute and also the two priests who had conducted the institute would seem to indicate unsatisfactory work and a confusion in Deacon Gibbs, it had been suggested that this evaluation should take place. I indicated that the Seminary officials seem to have recommended him in the past, but with some hesitation. "With a prayer," as the Rector had told me.

Rev. Mr. Gibbs seems to have an answer for all these matters and seems to leave us with the impression that his present pastor likewise sided with him with reference to some of the reports that we had received. The pastor felt that we should have checked to see if these were crackpots. I told him that since reports seemed to corroborate other complaints that we had received, there had been no checking, but that before the matter came before the Seminary Board, we would have to make sure about the identity of any complainants.

R. Blanche

Bishop of Joliet

Ryan notes

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014 RE: Rev. Mr. Lawrence Gibbs

000138

RE: Rev. Mr. Lawrence Gibbs

At Chancery - 4/29/71
Father William Cullen

Tensions -

Gibbs altercation with Principal - his fault

"sick and tired of Cullen's - half-assed approach" - apologized.

- indicated mid-week not to be on hand Sat. p.m. had spent \$35.00 inauguration fee

- vacation - more than five weeks - overnight every week

- 4/23 - call from Father Cunningham - can Gibbs come? (Loyola)

- "Father Ryan thinks I should stay on another year."

- Bishop at CCW"

- Tensions possible source of scandal in parish"

- He should be sent to where there are 4 or 5 priests. -

- No common sense - or judgment -

- Lacks application of situation -

- Exaggerated importance of self - pompous - feigns scholarship

- Dream world

- Cannot or will not accept direction.

- One day took 10 min. to give three simple announcements.

SAINT AMBROSE RECTORY

1711 N. BURRY CIRCLE DRIVE
CREST HILL, ILLINOIS 60435

Gibbs
000139

PHONE 722-3748

May 19, 1971

Very Reverend Daniel L. Ryan, Chancellor
CATHOLIC CHANCERY
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Father Ryan:

I am writing to thank you very kindly for your courtesy in taking the Kielan funeral Mass here at St. Ambrose last Saturday morning. I am pleased that all went well.

I enclose the Mass offering. The parish received an offering for the funeral service, I am pleased, then, to send you the enclosed honorarium.

If I may delay a moment on the matter of our conversation yesterday regarding the manner of terminating Larry Gibbs' assignment at St. Ambrose. In view of the new development, namely, transfer to another assignment only, I can see there is no need for consideration of the manner I suggested, an immediate departure. Still, I wonder if you might be kind enough to consider an abbreviated stay here after the assignments are announced. In other words, I don't believe the usual allowance of two to three weeks which is usually granted for transfers should be applied in his case. And basically, for the reasons I indicated yesterday. His case is not just another normal transfer.

At any rate, I thought I would suggest this to you. Perhaps at your discretion the Bishop might consider its merits.

With appreciation and kind personal regards, I remain,

Fraternally in Christ,



Reverend William Cullen

000160

Rev. Mr. Larry Gibbs

October 14, 1971

Rev. Mr. Larry Gibbs
St. James Rectory
22 W 350 Buena Vista Drive
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

Dear Larry,

Following our oral conversation of October 13, 1971, I hereby tell you that my answer to your petition for Ordination to the Priesthood is in the negative. This decision is based on my own prayerful consideration of your record and based on the three-hour Seminary Board Meeting a few days ago, at which you appeared, made a presentation, answered questions, and at which other witnesses suggested by you or requested by us appeared and testified before the Seminary Board and answered questions.

The Seminary Board members voted 9 to 0 against recommendation for your Ordination to the Priesthood. There was one abstention. The latter vote or lack of vote was a request for a delay to wait for further information.

The Seminary Board later recommended that I mention three alternatives to you:

1. Laicization,
2. A leave of absence, in which you would work as a layman and then return to the extended diaconate, and
3. To continue as a deacon indefinitely.

From the pastoral standpoint, I indicated to you that I recommended a leave of absence of one year to permit you to work as a layman in a field in which you were qualified, before you made a decision that would be of a permanent nature.

You indicated that you preferred to seek another Bishop at this time before considering the other alternatives. You also indicated that if you are not successful in obtaining a Bishop, you would remain a deacon indefinitely. I then advised you about the leave of absence which would acquaint you with the life of a layman before making such a definite decision. I also told you that if I were in the place of a Bishop receiving

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

CHRIST THE KING PARISH
15365 MAIN STREET . LOMBARD, ILLINOIS
60148

00232

November 24, 1977

Rev. William Donnelly
425 Summit
Joliet, Illinois 60135

Dear Father Donnelly:

You will recall that in early September I consulted you concerning my August salary. Because I had left my position at Divine Savior in early August but did not receive my present appointment to Christ the King until September 1, I took my vacation during the month of August.

When I appealed to you I was advised that my salary should rightfully come from Divine Savior and that in the spirit of fraternal love and cooperation I should appeal to Father Rudden. I am enclosing the letter to Father Rudden. In writing Father Rudden I enclosed your letter to me. Up to the present date I have not received even a courtesy reply.

At present it seems that neither Divine Savior nor Christ the King feel responsible for my August vacation salary. I understand the position of these Pastors and I sympathize with their position, but I do have a right and a need to my salary. Therefore, I am appealing to you once again. Perhaps Divine Savior must assume the responsibility in an exceptional case such as this. However I would like this settled in my behalf for I do believe I am entitled to my vacation salary.

Wishing you God's blessings, I remain,

Sincerely,

Rev. Lawrence M. Gibbs
Rev. Lawrence M. Gibbs

00233

November 28, 1977

Reverend Lawrence Gibbs
Christ the King Parish
18365 Main Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148

Dear Larry:

Mr. Henry J. Croes, Director of Continued Education at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, sent me some material on the Doctor of Ministry program. I haven't been able to do much about investigating this or talking to Bishop Blanchette about it. I feel that Bishop Blanchette would have the final decision as to whether or not he would want you or any other priest to go into that type of program and so I would advise you to just wait till we see how things develop.

Also, I would want to ascertain whether or not the work at the parish were of such an intensity that would preclude your doing both adequately. I will be contacting and talking to Father John Ryan about this soon.

Meanwhile, under Father Ryan's supervision, you can do a great deal of good with adult education at the parish you are now in and this certainly would be a good way of maintaining your enthusiasm and using your expertise.

I hope all is well with you. You have my prayers.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

(Most Rev.) Daniel W. Kucera, O.S.B.

dwk:h

FR. GIBBS SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

June 2, 1980

Most Reverend Joseph ¹⁰⁰²⁴² Mesch
Diocese of Joliet Chancery Office
425 Summit
Joliet, Ill. - 60135

Dear Bishop Mesch:

Yesterday after Mass a fellow parishioner was told by Fr. John Ryan that, after a short rest, you have decided to re-assign Fr. Lawrence Gibbs to another parish. Fr. Ryan indicated that he feels this action is best both for Fr. Larry and for the parish in light of the fact that several families intend to file charges against Fr. Larry alleging improprieties regarding some youths in the parish.

We couldn't disagree more!
We feel that pulling Fr. Larry out of our parish over such totally ridiculous charges

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

would be a mistake. J00243
We have known Fr. Larry since he first came to Christ the King both as our parish priest and as a very dear friend. We know him to be a man sincerely dedicated to God's work. His kind of priest has been very sorely needed here and his labors of love for God and for the people of Christ the King have not been fruitless. He has accomplished much during his time with us. Should he be removed over such a ridiculous episode, the parish community will be the losers.

We have worked with and supported Fr. Larry since he first began his residency at Christ the King. We will continue to support him in any way that we can.

We want him to stay and we hope that you will see fit to reconsider your decision in this matter.

(3)
FR. GIBBS SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 255

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Sincerely, 000245



Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

July 3, 1980

000292

Dear Bishop Imesch:

We are writing to you about the resent investigation concerning Father Larry Gibbs, and the boys from Christ The King Parish.

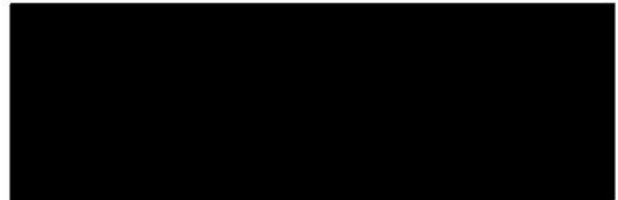
We have two sons who spent week-ends at his cabin. It is hard to believe that nothing has been done, except to remove him from our parish.

We are very concerned that he is in another parish, and will probably be working with young boys. We think he needs professional help, and should not be around young people until he gets some. We would not want other parents to go through the anguish and torment that we did. We feel that there must be some way you could prevent it. We have never warned our boys to be aware of priests. We've always taught them to have respect for a priest or nun. Now we do not know what to tell them, especially since a priest is exempt from laws like a layman.

There are rumors in our parish that Sister Theresa Feye thinks that there is nothing wrong with what Father Larry did. If that is true, then we believe she should not be teaching little children either.

If it had not been for Father John Ryan talking to our son, and releasing him from the vow Father Larry Gibbs made him take our torment would have gone on for much longer. Our son finally told us what went on at the cabin. We just hope that there is no permanent damage to any of the boys involved.

Thank you for taking time to read our letter.



Rev. Gibbs

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

000300

BISHOP'S OFFICE

July 14, 1980

Reverend Lawrence Gibbs
St. Joseph Parish
531 E. 4th Street
Lockport, Illinois 60441

Dear Father Gibbs:

In order to provide adequately for the pastoral care of the people of St. Joseph parish, Lockport, I am appointing you as associate pastor of St. Joseph (Canon 476). This appointment will take effect on July 18, and upon that date your assignment at Christ the King parish as associate will be terminated. I grant you general delegation for marriages at St. Joseph, Lockport effective July 18.

I am very grateful to you for the ministry you have exercised among the people at Christ the King these past three years. I hope that this experience has been not only fruitful for your people but also beneficial for you. I pray that your ministry among the people of St. Joseph parish will offer you and your people many blessings. I assure you of my willingness to be available to you whenever you wish.

I urge you to take part in the cluster meetings of the priests of your area. It is important that we recognize that we all have a share in the presbyterate of the Joliet Diocese. There is much that we can offer each other as well as learn from each other. I wish you well in your new assignment and assure you of my prayers for you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

cc-Reverend John Ryan
Reverend Edward Langan

July 29, 1980

Most Reverend Joseph Imesch
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Ill. 60435

Dear Bishop Imesch:

After much thought and concern I am finally writing you this letter. As a member of Christ the King Parish in your diocese, I wish to express my feelings to you and hope you will understand.

As parents of a 14 year old boy, who had been up to Fr. Lawrence Gibbs cabin last summer, my husband and I were called by the Lombard Police Department on May 29th at 6:00 PM requesting we bring our son [REDACTED] into the Police station for questioning. This in itself is a very traumatic experience. The detective requested talking to [REDACTED] alone. After questioning him for 35 minutes he talked to us and said that [REDACTED] had done nothing wrong but there were definitely inappropriate things going on at the cabin, and that [REDACTED] would talk to us about it in his own good time. When the opportunity arose for me to be alone with my son, I sat down and talked to [REDACTED] privately. It was very difficult for him to express to me what had happened and how he felt about it. His feeling were that what had happened was wrong, moreso because Fr. Gibbs was a priest, and that he was very strange in his actions. [REDACTED] never wanted to go back to the cabin or have any dealings of any kind with Fr. Gibbs.

My feelings were those of anger and disgust with Fr. Gibbs, and deep concern for the psychological effects of all this on my son. Then as more came out about the number of boys involved, my heart ached for those boys and their parents.

Being a very strong person who has experienced many crisis in my life, I handled it well. But what of the other parents, many of whom I know, I saw what kind of effect it had on them.

My concern now is how could this man be sent to a parish where they have a school? The really sad thing is that he feels he's done nothing wrong. Will he be given the opportunity to hurt other boys and their parents?

My personal opinion of him is not printable. He is however a very sick person who is in definite need of psychiatric help. I only hope and pray this will be given to him so no one will ever be hurt again.

Through this entire unfortunate situation, Fr. John Ryan, my Pastor, has been absolutely fantastic. His main concern from the beginning has been the welfare of these boys. He has never once publicly said one word against Fr. Gibbs. He is being blamed for the situation by some of Fr. Gibbs friends, yet he does not defend himself. I want you to know that I will defend him if need be. This has been a very heavy load for him to carry and somewhere he found the strength to handle it very well. I shall never forget it. No one will ever say anything to me about Fr. Ryan that is negative. I will not let my son, the other boys involved or Fr. Ryan be hurt anymore.

FR. GIBBS SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 317

Redacted February 2014
Page 2.
TMJA
Released April 2014

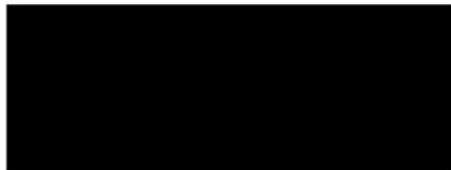
000305

Fr. Gibbs picked out the good kids of the parish whose families were very active in many things for the welfare of the parish. He was a pretty smart operator.

I sincerely hope and pray you will monitor his activities fully. This should never be allowed to happen again.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, I felt the least I could do for everyone concerned was to let you know how I feel having experienced it. You are the head of the Church in my diocese and hopefully you are concerned even for one persons feelings.

Sincerely,



CC: Fr. John Ryan

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

November 5, 1980

Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch, D.D.
Bishop of Joliet
425 Summit Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

000337

Bishop Imesch:

My name is [REDACTED], and I belong to St. Joseph Church in Lockport. Bishop Imesch, I am writing this letter because I am greatly disappointed in the new priest, Father Larry Gibbs, who has been assigned to our Church. Just this morning I watched two altar boys being humiliated because he so often changes his manner of offering mass, and they don't know how to serve properly. In fact I have been told many altar boys are refusing to serve for him, and it tells when boys aren't showing up to serve. In the months and the many masses I've attended of his there's never one the same in order or serving. During these attendances I have also watched attendance dwindle and at the same time read and listened to complaints of people not giving enough money. Bishop Imesch, when people are changing churches and are unhappy how can Father Langan expect them to give money, especially when he listens with deaf ears to their pleas of unhappiness and need for change. Attendance at 6:30 A.M. weekday mass has gone down significantly. I myself have not been attending because I must leave for work at 7:30 and find it very difficult to make it when I don't get out of mass until after 7:00 at times, and I don't appreciate at all his quickie 14 minute style either. I really don't mind singing in fact at other times I used to attend the mass designated as the guitar or musical mass, but I do find it extremely hard to sing at 6:30 in the morning specifically every part of the mass. It is very degrading to have a priest stand up in front for several days complaining about how he got a "boo-boo" playing football. It is even more disgusting when you hear grade school children talking about how he got up in classes asking them to kiss his "boo-boo". As far as being read to during the weekday mass from the Book of Saints, I'd rather read it myself, and get more out of it.

Bishop Imesch I really fell that something has to be done. I realize that some people enjoy his masses but there are many who don't. I'd like to say the priests should offer two separate masses to those who like the different styles, but we've already had to hire a lay person to take over the many jobs that Father Jaeger did that Father Gibbs had no time for, so with that additional expense, plus our already standing debt, and Father Gibbs' insistence upon using more wine for Communion I couldn't ask Father Langan to take on additional masses adding to his worries of finances and work to be done. I realize that there is a shortage of priests and it would be hard to replace him. I do strongly

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

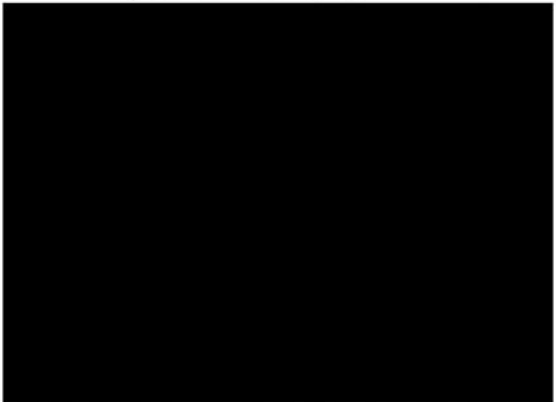
000340

November 8, 1980

Bishop Imesch:

This letter is being written in regards to our associate priest Fr. Lawrence Gibbs, St. Joseph's, Lockport, Ill. Bishop Imesch this man is out of the ordinary run of good priests. He gets more impossible each time we go to mass, mass is never celebrated in the same manner twice he has his own little ways and it is confusing, he wants his way and that is it. From the beginning he said "If you don't like me or my way of doing things find another mass and priest to go to." That was our beginning and it has not gotten any better, he repeats that this was his training and this is the way it is going to be. WHY? I was under the impression all young men that were in the seminary were trained alike. We go to church because we want to and for the salvation of our souls, but when we attend his mass, we come out very emotional ly upset as well as what did we get from his service. Sometimes I think I am in a Baptist Church with all his different ways, giving the altar boys wine, they are to young and we have enough problems without starting them out so young drinking wine. On November 2, 1980, All Souls Day at the 9A.M. mass he came out of the sacristy, announced don't look at me just pretend that I am not walking up the isle, I am not suppose to be here, half way to the back of the church he asked if anyone was interested in donating money to build a sacristy in the back of the church. Most disgusting as this was before mass was to begin. When he proceeded up the isle towards the altar he said aloud, we better get the "Show on the Road.", with this he begins mass. He must think at times he is with the Circus of Barnum & Bailey. On November 7, 1980 first Friday we attended mass and came out very upset I have never seen mass celebrated in the manner that he had that morning. He did excuse all that had to go to work to leave early. Four hymns were sung for a ordinary mass, WHY? no other priest will do this through the week. Fr. Langan, Fr. Dugal have beautiful and fulfilling week day masses why can't he. He has caused more people to stop coming to mass through the week due to his behavior, my husband being one. His attitude is beyond my means of comprehension. At times I feel that I am in a Baptist Church not a Catholic Church. We have discussed this with quite a few of our parishioners and they feel the same way that we do only afraid to voice their opinion. Some go to mass and if he is the celebrant they will leave and go to another mass elsewhere. Bishop Imesch could something be said or done to make this young man understand that he is driving away more people by his actions then he will be able to keep as good Catholics. I understand his goal is to convert new people, I wonder how he can. So many of us have been going to church longer then he is old.

Respectfully ,



Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

000360

August 26, 1982

Reverend Lawrence Gibbs
St. Joseph's Parish
531 E. 4th Street
Lockport, IL 60441

Dear Father Gibbs:

In order to provide adequately for the pastoral care of the people of St. Mary's parish, Plainfield, I am appointing you as an associate pastor (Canon 476) of this community effective September 1, 1982. I also grant you general delegation for marriages in St. Mary's, Plainfield. Your assignment at St. Joseph's Parish will terminate on that date.

I am very grateful to you for the ministry you have exercised among the people of St. Joseph's parish these past two years. I hope that this experience has been not only fruitful for your people but also beneficial for you. I pray that your ministry at St. Mary's parish will offer you and your people many blessings. I assure you of my willingness to be available to you whenever you wish.

I urge you to take part in the cluster meetings of the priests of your area. It is important that we recognize that we all have a share in the presbyterate of the Joliet Diocese. There is much that we can offer each other as well as learn from each other. I wish you well in your new assignment and assure you of my prayers for you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

cc- Reverend Edward Langan
Reverend Charles Van Duren

12-7-00
100962
Revised February 2014
Dear Father Larry --

TMJA
Released April 2014
Thank you for your great confidence in me by sharing with me your many, many hurts as well as your hopes and dreams.

Yes, I think I understand where you are coming from. I see the subpersonality of the hurt and angry child which gives rise to the rebel subpersonality in you. I see deep insecurity and lack of self-confidence. These were, and at times, still are the sub-personalities from my past -- the tensions between my strengths and weaknesses. You seem to be still resolving different conflicts and I understand that also for that is what it means to be human, to be vulnerable -- able to be hurt.

I was fully aware of the perceptions of others -- bishops, priests, people -- concerning you. It was a mixture of the positive and negative concerning your lifestyle, behavioural patterns, and the rest. However, this had no essential influence on my decision to welcome you in ministry here at St. Mary's. I did not know you and who am I to make a judgment on you or anyone else. You wanted to come here and I was simply delighted.

Since your coming here, it was, and still is, my intention and purpose to allow you time and space for the discovery of your role in ministry here at St. Mary's. Each day I ask myself: Who is Father Larry Gibbs? With each passing day and with each encounter in ministry I find different facets and pieces of the puzzle of who you are.

Allow me to simply share a few of my perceptions, and they are just that, perceptions, nothing more, nothing less, all open to change and re-evaluation.

1) You give the impression to me and others that you have a tendency to allow your negative feelings of the past to determine your behavioural patterns towards others and especially the institutional church. Many call this the "rebel" in you -- doing things differently, particularly at liturgies just to be different with the attitude that "No one is going to tell me HOW to perform." Example, I still cannot understand why you should not feel comfortable in praying at the presidential chair rather than away from it, especially since I cannot find in liturgical guidelines the free option to do precisely what you are doing. The same goes for the Prayers of the Faithful. What is WRONG with allowing the lector to have this role. The same with incensing. What is WRONG with allowing the server to incense you and the people. To me it is a question of roles.

2) You seem to allow your feelings to determine the kind of relationships you have with others, particularly those in authority, being unable (or unwilling) to fully respond to the feelings of others. To me this greatly affects your effectiveness with Sr. Patricia, the teachers at school, Sr. Mary Gleason, Bob Piercy and others. You come off to others as dogmatic and structured in your methods and ideas as you find the institutional church. Their response, usually behind your back, is "Why doesn't he grow up. He acts like a 'know-it-all'. You really can't tell him anything." You give people the impression that you're not listening at all and, that regardless what you hear, you will do it YOUR way.

3.) I have problems with your understanding of accountability and responsibility. We are responsible to the needs of our people, especially the felt needs. An important felt need here at St. Mary's is availability, which to our people means a presence. I learned in campus ministry that availability means being seen. The people here have need of the presence of a priest at all times; they have been used to this and have had it for 27 years and will not tolerate a non-presence at this time. This does not mean I have to be in my room, but simply available. Being in another city for long periods of time is for our people a non-presence. People are frustrated that they can seldom reach you by phone and you seem to often delay returning phone calls.

These are some of the more important issues that come to mine. One thing I learned in different painful ways is never to allow my negative feelings and personal problems to essentially affect my ministry to others. I want you to know I value your ministry. We need each other. You are in my daily prayers and sacrifices. God love you.

Father Charlie

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

St. Mary Immaculate Church

125 S. Division St. (Rt. 59)
Plainfield, Illinois 60544

00365

January 10, 1983

Dear Father Larry,

You have more than once asked me to alert you on anything concerning tensions in ministry here at St. Mary's. I thank you for allowing me to be honest with you. But let me get right to the "boil" that is seething within me.

I am fully aware on the restrictions that both bishops (Imesch & Ryan) placed on you concerning liturgical practices and styles and so I want you to be aware of the following. This past week your "outside-the-guidelines" practices during the morning Masses so disturbed people that the chancery was notified of what were considered infractions. (Like sitting in the pews with the servers while the readings are read and the like; your seeming inability or non-desire to follow the rubrics faithfully; the continued confusion you cause the servers for they are still complaining to their parents that they "never" know what you are going to do; the "constant" additions within the Eucharistic prayers; your failure to remain at specific liturgical places within the sanctuary) I cannot in conscience defend or protect you since I personally disagree very strongly with your over casual Byzantine style. I don't how you wish to resolve this conflict of yours with diocesan guidelines and/or prescriptions from the Ordinary. I try to allow whatever the church or diocese allows. I will not allow what the church or diocese forbids, even if it be only a purely local level. I was specifically told by both Bishops Imesch and Ryan that you were not to use incense the manner and frequency that you use it, that you are not to wear byzantine vestments, and one or the other thing I cannot esentially think of.

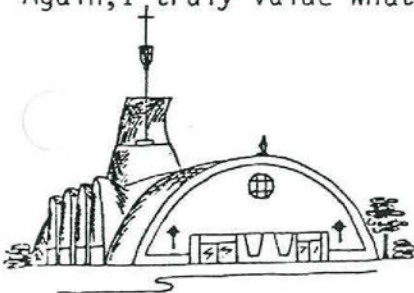
If you want my personal opinion, it is that I find you a very undisciplined presider at liturgies. You are constantly changing things and usually at the last minute. I still say, what in the world is wrong in faithfully following the usual norms the rest of the priests of the diocese follow. I find you lazy that you are often not available, especially until after 11:00 a.m. This greatly disturbs others. Fr. Larry, in many ways you are still a boy, selfish, primarily only thinking of yourself and your personal comfort. People find you the opposite of your preaching. Some people still cannot get over the fact that in your first talk you placed the parish as a third or fourth priority in your life.

I personally think you need counselling from someoutsider with whom you can trustfully dialogue to help you resolve your many conflicts. For example, if the bishop is to me the crux of my problem, then it is necessary that I seek help from someone other than the bishop to discover the resolution to the problem. Is it possible that you need time and space away (like a leave of absence) to really come to grips with all the things that seem to be "bugging" you.

You have tremendous gifts to share, but your hostilities and negative attitudes are preventing these gifts from becoming valuable assets in ministry to others. You have so much to offer, but what you have to offer will not properly offered until you have come to terms with yourself and with your priesthood. I pray for you daily. Again, I truly value what you can become. God love you.

In Christ,

(Rev.) Charles Van Duren



Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

100431

CHANCERY

June 20, 1986

Reverend Lawrence Gibbs
St. Joseph's Parish
1329 Belleview Avenue
Rockdale, IL 60436

Dear Larry,

In the absence of Bishop Joseph Imesch, I wish to confirm in writing your appointment as part-time associate pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Rockdale (Canon 545), effective June 18, 1986, of this year, and also your appointment as campus minister of Joliet Junior College (JUCO) and North Central College in Naperville. At the same time, I am relieving you of your pastoral appointment at St. Mary Immaculate Parish in Plainfield. I also grant you general delegation for marriages at St. Joseph's Parish in Rockdale.

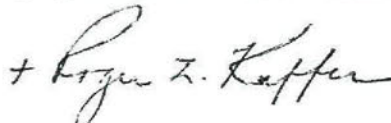
I am grateful for the ministry you have exercised among the people of St. Mary Immaculate these past three years and nine months. I pray that this experience has been fruitful for your people as well as for you. May your ministry at St. Joseph's, Rockdale, and as campus minister to Joliet Junior College in Joliet and North Central College in Naperville, offer you many blessings.

I urge you to take part in the cluster meetings of the priests of your area. Such meetings are a source of priestly and fraternal support, as well as an opportunity to share pastoral knowledge.

I wish you well in your new assignment and assure you of my prayers for you and of my willingness to be available for you should you ever wish to call on me. May the Lord bless your efforts.

With a plea and a promise of continued mutual prayer always, I remain

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart,



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

RLK:bjd

cc: Reverend Charles Van Duren
Reverend Leroy Marco

bc' 321 ←

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILE

November 3, 1986

RE: Reverend Lawrence Gibbs

I met with Larry on October 31st to discuss the summary he had written of our previous meeting on September 5th. I told him that I felt his assessment of his three previous assignments at Christ the King, St. Joseph in Lockport and St. Mary in Plainfield was unrealistic. I pointed out there was no acceptance on his part of any responsibility for any of the difficulties that had arisen there. I told him that I thought responsibility in all of those situations was probably mutual and that he should have accepted some of the blame for things not working out. It seemed to me that he persisted in his feeling that it was only his desire to carry out the programs which had been proposed by the diocese that brought him into difficulty. He mentioned specifically at Christ the King and St. Joseph the fact that there was no worship commission.

He mentioned that he spent a good deal of time at Christ the King meeting with people whom John Ryan had yelled at. He felt that he was not supported by John. I pointed out to Larry that the reason for his leaving Christ the King had nothing to do with John Ryan but rather with an incident which Larry was involved in.

We talked about his present assignment and I told him that this position had been created specifically for him to allow him to exercise some of his particular talents and abilities. He said that he never wanted the assignment, felt that he had been manipulated, and that he had no choice. It seemed to me that he said that he was willing to accept an assignment in a parish. When I asked him where he might go, he said he did not know. I told him that he should give me the name of a pastor with whom he felt he could work and I would see what I could do to have him assigned there.

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Holy Cross
Gibbs

100510

RLK

3/21/88

12:20 a.m.

3/24/88 *RLK*

Mrs. [REDACTED], a parishioner of Holy Cross called and would like to talk with you.
[REDACTED]

Talking to lady at rectory, about people feel
print. They are really upset - over it coming - get up
and leave, because they don't like the print.

His style is so much different - shock of his death.
I didn't call for this - but we just got talking -
Everything Fr. John did, I fear, will be destroyed. An
altar box quite. Very hesitant to call me, didn't know if he should.

Redacted February 2014

Released April 2014

Catholic Campus Ministry

000591

Serving the seven counties of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois

June 1, 1991

Most Reverend Roger Kaffer
425 Summit
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Bishop Kaffer,

I have three things to report on:

1. Father Carl O'Rourke
2. Father Ron Nitschke
3. Sts. Peter and Paul in Naperville

On May 29, 1991, I went with Carl O'Rourke to Governors State University. Father Ron Hart accompanied us. Ron briefed Carl on his work at the university; introduced him to several people he has worked closely with; and gave us a tour of the campus facility. Ron was an outstanding host and I think Carl has caught the fire of campus ministry. Carl asked several "right" and pointed questions and I believe he will take the program to further dimensions. However, Carl and I have some questions about his salary. Ron was working with a 30/70 split and I think ⁵⁰⁻⁵⁰ that would be appropriate for Carl since he is only working two days a week at the university. I will continue to meet with him through the summer and fall to help him become better acquainted with campus ministry.

During that same week, I spoke with Father Mark Fracaro and Father Ron Nitschke. Mark seemed very pleased that Ron will be helping out at Joliet Junior College but was concerned that perhaps just one day a week for only two hours was not enough time for the college. Both you and Bishop Imesch expressed the same concern. Mark is prepared to let Ron have more time at the college. When I spoke to Ron about this, he was open to it as well. Will there be an official diocesan appointment for Ron as chaplain to Joliet Junior College or is he to be looked upon as a volunteer?

I will meet with Ron during the summer and fall also and brief him on campus ministry, introduce him to the appropriate people at Joliet Junior College, and give him a tour of the campus.

Also, during this same week, I spoke to Father Jerry Riva and personally informed him that I have been appointed chaplain at Elmhurst College. He was delighted with the news and looks forward to working together. Bishop Imesch indicated that there may possibly be a guest room for me to live in at Immaculate Conception but apparently that is not possible. I have already mentioned to you that it would be most inappropriate for me to be a resident at St. Petronille's.

Jerry Riva
 ADDITIONAL MAN
 at Peter + Paul
 ESTBR

Redacted February 2014

MJA
Released April 2014

Catholic Campus Ministry

000592

Serving the seven counties of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois

-2-

I have also spoken with Father Burnett at Sts. Peter and Paul in Naperville and his offer is still open. Bishop Imesch indicated that he could live with that as well. I would like to propose that I be assigned there. I will be attending classes for continuing education at the University of Dayton this summer as well as taking some vacation time. Father Marco has indicated he would like to take some time for vacation as well before I leave Rockdale. It would seem that either the 1st or the 15th of August might be an appropriate time to move to Sts. Peter and Paul if this meets with your approval. Perhaps we can speak on the telephone the first week of June.

Sincerely,



Larry Gibbs

ATTORNEYS

Released April 2014

00612
September 28, 1992

Most Reverend Bishop
Joseph L. Imesch
Chancery Office
425 Summit Street
Joliet, IL 60435

RE: [REDACTED] Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
vs. The Reverend Lawrence M. Gibbs, et al.

Dear Bishop Imesch:

It is with regret that I must advise you of the allegations of abuse as contained in the enclosed complaint.

Several demands must be acceded to or the enclosed complaint will be filed to protect the rights of our client and others who may similarly be victims of Father Gibbs.

First, you must personally guarantee Reverend Gibbs' immediate removal from all contact with lay persons, children or adults.

Second, you must arrange an appointment to confer with me regarding the further handling of this matter including victim compensation on or before the close of business on October 5, 1992.

Our investigation continues and more details and information will be made available to you at our initial conference.

Very truly yours,

KMA:dkg
Enclosure

October 1, 1992 615

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bishop Joseph Imesch
FROM: Bishop Roger Kaffer
RE: Father Larry Gibbs

The legal papers concerning Larry Gibbs were hand-delivered by a private investigator for the lawyer late Monday afternoon, September 28th. I could not reach Larry by phone either at the parish or at North Central College before rushing to Plainfield for my 5 o'clock appointment there, but I left word for him to call me at home. Enroute home from Plainfield about 9:30 p.m., I was able to catch him at the rectory and to share with him the allegations. Larry told me he has been undergoing therapy with Dr. [REDACTED] for about three months, had met with the young man and the young man's AA sponsor for lunch a few weeks ago. The sponsor told Larry that the young man is not interested in vindictiveness, but the young man himself requested help in paying for his therapy. Larry agreed to do that.

I immediately suspended Larry and told him he is not to function publicly as a priest unless and until this matter is resolved. I also told him I did not want him to remain in residence at Ss. Peter & Paul, and would immediately make arrangements for a complete evaluation. I also told him he is not to contact the young man.

We then met together with Father Jim Burnett, the pastor, confidentially, to alert him of the above, and I told him to see to it that Larry has no contact with children while he is making arrangements to leave.

I also advised Larry of his legal rights as I understand them, and also told him that he should secure his own attorney.

I likewise told Larry that we would want to offer help to anyone else and would want their names and addresses so we could do that. He told me there are no others.

On, September 29th, I did contact St. Michael's in St. Louis and made arrangements, and then called Larry and told him that he is to contact Father William Perri or Joan Thorne to work out the arrangements.

Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

000618

October 9, 1992

CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend William Perri
St. Michael's Center
13270 Maple Drive
St. Louis, MO 63127

Dear Father Perri:

Thank you so much for agreeing to take Father Larry Gibbs so quickly at St. Michael's. Last week, a private detective on behalf of a law firm hand-delivered to me a letter addressed to Bishop Imesch and a document with allegations against Father Gibbs, not yet filed in court. The allegations were very serious, namely that from the time John Doe was 11 years old (he is now 22) until 1987, Father Gibbs took him several times a year to a cottage he owns, sexually abused the young man and had the young man perform similar acts on himself. According to the allegations, this behavior stopped in 1987. I immediately phoned Father Gibbs, but was unable to reach him until 9 o'clock that evening, at which time I personally met with him at Ss. Peter & Paul's rectory in Naperville, shared with him the allegations, and immediately suspended him from the public exercise of ministry as a priest unless and until this matter would be resolved.

Father Gibbs told me he had met with this young man and his AA sponsor for lunch about three weeks previously. As I recall it, I believe he said the AA sponsor had told him the young man did not wish to be vindictive, but the young man did ask if Father Gibbs would help him with his counseling bills. Father Gibbs said he would make arrangements for that. The young man also did tell Father Gibbs he had engaged an attorney.

It is my understanding that there had been some complaints from parents of inappropriate behavior in approximately 1980, and that the police and/or States Attorney had investigated and he was cleared of any unlawful conduct.

Father Gibbs did tell me that he has been undergoing therapy the last several months.

70635

December 16, 1992

CONFIDENTIAL

Father Jim Lennon told me he was finally able to meet with [REDACTED] on Saturday, December 12th. The meeting was warm and cordial. [REDACTED] is doing fine. He said he holds nothing against the Church or any priest. He said: "I hope my kids will go to a parochial school. I'm glad Father Gibbs is getting help."

Very gingerly, Father Lennon had told [REDACTED] he wanted to meet with him regarding the relationship that [REDACTED] and Father Gibbs had had some years back. [REDACTED] did not deny, nor did he admit or specify anything that happened. He simply said: "I suppose as I think back it was crazy. It was a sort of silly thing to do."

Larry Gibbs did officiate at [REDACTED] wedding. There has been no contact for the last two years or so. The last time [REDACTED] saw Larry was at his own parents' wedding anniversary.

Father Lennon indicated that if [REDACTED] felt he needed any type of assistance for whatever happened, for anything that might have affected him, that he could either contact Father Lennon or call me at the Chancery Office. Father Lennon said we're truly sorry and said: "I am apologizing to you for whatever may have caused disillusionment or hurt." He offered his prayers and support and told Steve that the diocese is more than willing to help if he needs help.

[REDACTED] thanked him, but said: "I think I'm doing fine, Father Jim."

[REDACTED] did not ask where Larry is now, nor did Father Lennon indicate that to him. [REDACTED] youngest child was born just two weeks ago. And [REDACTED] is so pleased that he is doing as well as he is.

Father Lennon asked [REDACTED] if he had any other questions, and he did not. He asked if anyone else was aware of this, and [REDACTED] said "no." He said he has never discussed this with his wife, and actually has never discussed it with anyone except Father Lennon today.

[REDACTED] goes to Mass all the time. His son is four years old and is on the waiting list for a parochial school.

R.K.
Bishop Roger Kaffer

RLK:bjd

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014



Diocese of Joliet

000639

Chancery

425 Summit St
Joliet, Illinois 60435

December 31, 1992

815-722-6606
Fax 815-722-6602

Dear Father:

This is a very difficult letter to write. There have been serious reports of sexual abuse that allegedly took place several years ago involving Father Lawrence Gibbs. I am sending you this notice to honor our agreement to notify the presbyterate of matters such as this. It is our understanding that a lawsuit will be filed on Monday, January 4th. In view of that, it would be inappropriate for anyone to make further comments on such a situation at this time. Refer any questions you may receive to Sr. Judith Davies, O.S.F., the Chancellor and spokesperson for the Diocese. Please pray for any who might be involved or affected by this situation.

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/rrh

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014



Office of Communications

Catholic Diocese of Peoria

412 NE Madison Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61603-3720

Telephone 309-671-1550
FAX 309-671-1595

Bishop K...
F.V.I.
020677

DIOCESE OF PEORIA

January 6, 1993

Sr. Judith A. Davies, OSF
Chancellor, Diocese of Joliet
The Chancery
425 Summit
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Dear Sr. Judith:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your statement to the media about the Father Gibbs case. I want to reaffirm my interest in doing whatever I can to assist you, especially in the area of media relations.

Enclosed is a copy of the "Policy Governing Sexual Abuse Involving Clerics of the Diocese of Peoria," revised in late-October. A version of this policy, adapted because a non-diocesan, religious order priest was involved in an incident (newspaper articles enclosed), was called into action last month and was well-received by the local press because it proved effective in calling for the right steps at the right times. I know that your revised diocesan policy will have the same goal, and I hope you will share it with us upon its completion.

X I want to commend you for the way the notification of parishioners was handled. I attended Mass last Sunday at one of Father Gibbs' former parishes, where a straightforward letter from your auxiliary bishop was read by the pastor. The pastor followed the letter with personal, point-by-point comments which were quite pastoral and effective.

A name to note: Father John Geaney, CSP, works with problem priests. He mentioned at a recent Unda Catholic Communicators assembly that he could always be called for advice or assistance. His telephone number in Maryland is (301) 588-0505.

I pray for a just and speedy resolution for all involved. Please call at any time.

Sincerely,

Steve Mamanella

Steve Mamanella
Administrative Assistant
for Communications

Enclosures

Gibbs

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

I HAVE COME TO THIS MASS THIS MORNING TO SHOW BY MY PRESENCE THE DEEP CONCERN OF BISHOP MESCH AND THE ENTIRE CHURCH OF JOLIET FOR ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH AND PARISHOVER, ^{SINCE THE DEVASTATING ANNOUNCEMENTS} WITH AND LIKE YOU, I AM SHOCKED, DEVASTATED, AND AM MYSELF GOING THROUGH THE WHOLE GAMUT OF EMOTIONS THAT I AM SURE YOU ARE EXPERIENCING.

I WISH TO EXPRESS OUR SORROW, APOLOGY, REGRETS AND CHAGRIN, AND TO ASSURE YOU, IN SPITE OF MEDIA SENSATIONALISM, THAT FATHER GIBBS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SENT HERE IF WE HAD KNOWN OF THE ACCUSATION OF SEXUAL ~~ABUSE~~ ABUSE THAT HAVE BEEN ALLEGED.

I BELIEVE IT IS ON TUESDAY ON Wed NIGHT, JANUARY 13th, AT 7:30 PM, WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR DOCTORS CAROL CRADDOCK AND JILL GARDNER TO BE HERE TO MEET WITH THE ADULT PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOSEPH'S. DOCTORS CRADDOCK AND GARDNER ARE AUTHORS AND EXPERTS ON PSYCHOLOGICAL INTERVENTION FOR COMMUNITIES IN TRAUMATIC SITUATIONS SUCH AS THIS.

THEY WILL SUGGEST TO PARENTS HOW TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN, AS WELL AS HOW TO COPE WITH THIS SITUATION THEMSELVES. ADULTS WHO DON'T HAVE CHILDREN AT ALSO WELCOME. COUNSELING REFERRALS AND RESOURCES WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE.

000792

CONFIDENTIAL

FEB. 2, 1993
RE: GIBBS

██████████ came to see me today. ██████████ said when he was about a sophomore in high school, Father Gibbs, at that time associate pastor at St. Joseph's in Lockport, invited him to his cottage. ██████████ was flattered and pleased at the invitation and received permission from his parents to go. At the rectory before they left, the conversation got wierd. Larry asked ██████████ to take off his pants, and ██████████ refused. Apprehensive over this, ██████████ cooked up an excuse that he had to stop at home before they left. He hoped his parents would be there, and he would somehow get them to say he couldn't go. Unfortunately, they weren't home, Fr. Gibbs was waiting in the car with the motor running, and ██████████ decided it would be okay, so they went. ██████████ at that time was very strong and in very good physical shape. Enroute, Larry stopped for liquor, asking ██████████ what he liked to drink. ██████████ said beer. At the cottage, the conversation got very bizarre. ██████████ said Larry had a trunk full of pornographic literature and videos. Larry got drunk, and asked ██████████ to engage in sexual activity with him. ██████████ refused. Her said he had never disobeyed a priest before, but he knew this couldn't be right. Larry told him it was okay, and if he was concerned, Larry could hear his confession. I explained to ██████████ that would be a sin that no priest or bishop on earth could forgive, that was reserved to the Pope. The severest ecclesiastical penalty is attached to absolving one's accomplice in sin. In any case, no sexual activity took place. Larry did not get nasty nor did he try to force ██████████. ██████████ did not tell me exactly what Larry had asked him to do, nor did I ask. ██████████ said he just figured Larry was drunk and horny. On the way home, Larry chided ██████████ telling him he was selfish for not doing what he had asked him to do. Nor did he tell him not to say anything to anyone. The subject never came up again. ██████████ did one time visit Larry when he was in Plainfield.

██████████ said it had not been a great problem to him. Then ██████████ contacted ██████████. He did give her a statement, but later told her he would not get involved in this nor press any charges. He told ██████████ she was asking him to destroy his Church, where he is comfortable, where he is at home. She told him God doesn't care about denominations. ██████████ also told me he knows who John Doe is, has spoken with him, and that John Doe was thinking about dropping his charges. ██████████ said John Doe said he wanted to talk to me -- not to Bishop Inesch. I made no comment.

██████████ also said the reason he wanted to talk to me was to verify that allegations against Larry should be taken seriously, and ██████████ knew I would believe him. He said for a short time he was angry and was going to blame all his own problems on this incident ██████████, but he realizes that would be a copout. I offered to provide psychological or psychiatric help for ██████████. He declined, but as he left I suggested another Providence aluanus, a psychiatrist, if he changes his mind.

H.R.Z.K.

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

MEMORANDUM

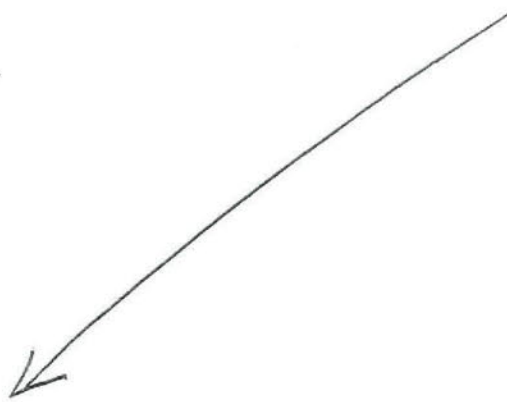
March 1, 1993

000827

TO: Bishop Imesch
Bishop Kaffer
Jim Byrne

FROM: Sister Judith

RE: Fr. Larry Gibbs



Mrs. [REDACTED] called this morning to make an official complaint against Father Larry Gibbs.

Twenty years ago when [REDACTED] was 12/13 years of age, he became an altar boy at St. James Parish in Glen Ellyn. Fr. Gibbs was a frequent visitor to the [REDACTED] home. A few times [REDACTED] went to Fr. Gibbs cottage. When his parents noticed he became sullen and distant they attempted to find out what was bothering him, but concluded his behavior was attributed to his age.

During a recent conversation, when Fr. Gibbs name was mentioned, [REDACTED] said that he had been abused by Fr. Gibbs.

Mrs. [REDACTED] wanted to know what funds were available for psychological assistance for her son and the family to help them deal with what was just learned. I told her Bishop Kaffer would be in contact with her regarding the matter.

Judith A. Davies, OSF
Sister Judith Davies, OSF

I asked Fr. Jim Lannon to respond to this at my request. He said he would.

*+RZK
3/1/93*

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

LAW OFFICES
LARAIA & HUBBARD, P.C.
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

PARK EAST
1761 S. NAPERVILLE ROAD, SUITE 203
WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60187-8146
TELEPHONE (630) 690-6800
FACSIMILE (630) 690-0196

1164

JOSEPH M. LARAIA
KENNETH D. HUBBARD

MICHAEL T. NAVIGATO
DENNIS A. HARRISON

September 27, 2002

Diocese of Joliet
Chancery Office
425 Summitt Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Re: **Our Client:** [REDACTED]
Your Pastor: Lawrence Gibbs

Dear Sirs:

Be advised that this office represents the interests of [REDACTED] From 1976 through 1981, Mr [REDACTED], then ages 12 through 17, attended Christ the King Church in Lombard, Illinois. During this time frame, Father Lawrence Gibbs was assigned to Christ the King Church.

Our client advises that on at least three separate occasions, Father Gibbs sexually assaulted, fondled and masturbated him and performed other sexual and lewd acts in his presence. Our client further reports that Father Gibbs required our client to perform oral sex on other boys and that Father Gibbs required other boys to perform oral sex upon him. These acts primarily occurred at a retreat house approximately one (1) hour from the church.

It has come to our attention that Father Gibbs was eventually transferred from Christ the King Church and that approximately five (5) years thereafter, he was convicted of criminal charges involving sexual acts and/or lewd conduct.

Immediately after Father Gibbs' departure from Christ the King, our client started to experience the effects of Father Gibbs' sexual abuse and misconduct. Our client's grades started failing and he started missing classes. Our client was arrested and found guilty of indecent exposure at age 18 in 1982, and again in 1994. In addition, our client was charged with and found guilty of forgery wherein he forged checks to the elderly to obtain funds to purchase x-rated materials.

Additionally, our client was required to undergo extensive counseling for the psychological effects that resulted from Father Gibbs' sexual abuse. Our client's counseling extends over a ten-year period, and he has been diagnosed with anxiety disorder and depression. He has been required

COPY

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Diocese of Chicago
Page 2
September 27, 2002

101165

to take Prozac for the last ten years to control his depression, and will have to continue on said medication for quite some time.


It should further be noted that Father Gibbs' sexual abuse of our client has impacted his life in so many other ways, including his ability to secure employment because of his criminal record, and his fear to speak with children, especially boys.

As of the present date, our client has incurred substantial monetary loss, including over \$16,000.00 for psychological counseling, \$10,000.00 for medications and over \$5,000.00 on attorneys fees. It is expected that our client will continue to be required to continue on medications for the rest of his life. Considering our client is currently age 37, this is quite an extensive time period. Our client has also incurred losses that cannot be measured monetarily, such as his inability to speak to children and his permanent criminal record, as well as his wife being unable to be licensed as a daycare provider.

Please allow this correspondence to place the Archdiocese on notice of our client's claim based upon Father Gibb's egregious conduct in his sexual assault and abuse of our client. Further please allow this letter to serve as our client's demand to amicably resolve his claim with the Archdiocese for the sum of \$150,000.00.

I believe that twenty-one (21) days is sufficient time to consider our client's demand and to respond accordingly. If a response is not forthcoming within said time frame, our client will pursue all legal remedies available to him.

Very truly yours,


MICHAEL T. NAVIGATO

MTN:cal

C
U
P
Y

FR. GIBBS SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 1080

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

101174

February 5, 2005

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I deeply regret the pain and embarrassment that you have experienced from the media reports these past days. Those reports concerned a six-hour deposition I gave several months ago about a number of instances of sexual abuse by priests of the Joliet Diocese. Most of what you have read or heard happened more than 20 years ago and had already been reported in the newspapers.

When the actions of these priests were reported to me, I realized that the behavior was inappropriate. Whether or not there were any police investigations, all priests who were accused of inappropriate behavior were immediately interviewed and received professional treatment or left ministry.

The actions of those priests happened before psychologists recognized that behavior of that kind was indicative of a severe problem that could not be adequately treated. I relied heavily on the judgment of professional therapists when they concluded that a priest was fit for return to ministry. Some priests were recommended for restricted ministry. Some of these carried out their responsibilities well and did so with the commendation of their supervisors.

Despite undergoing treatment and receiving approval for ministry, other priests repeated inappropriate behavior. When this was later learned, they were removed from ministry.

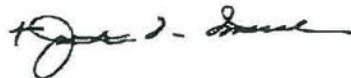
Years ago, I would never have returned a priest into ministry if I had not been assured by professional therapists that he was ready to return. Today, if any priest is accused of inappropriate conduct, the States Attorney's Office is notified and the matter is referred to the Diocesan Review Committee. The priest will be permanently removed from ministry when the allegation is found credible.

I deeply regret the harm that has been caused to victims and the pain and embarrassment that many of you have experienced. The media reports tend to portray me as someone who doesn't care about the safety of children. Nothing could be further from the truth. I became a priest because I care. All of us can look back on our lives and find things we should have done differently. At the time our action proceeded from our own best judgment, though in later years it is clear that other decisions should have been made. Any decision I made was according to my best judgment at the time.

I want to express my sincere apology to all who have suffered abuse from priests. I deeply regret any damage that was done to you and want to assist with your recovery. If others have been abused and have not as yet come forward, please contact our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Sister Mary Frances Seeley, OSF, so that healing can begin.

All of us have learned a difficult and painful lesson from this experience. For my part, I promise to do whatever I can to see that the past is not repeated.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph L. Imesch
Bishop of Joliet

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

SPESIA & AYERS

Attorneys at Law

E. Kent Ayers
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

RECEIVED

JAN 11 2012

Terrence M. Johnson, Esq

January 10, 2012

1415 Black Road
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Ph 815.726.4311
Fx 815.726.6828

www.spesia-ayers.com

Of Counsel:
Thomas M. Ewert
Kent Slater

Mr. Terrance M. Johnson, Esq. &

Mr. Patrick Bradley, Esq.

North Pier Chicago
455 East Illinois Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Douglas F. Spesia
(1940-2010)

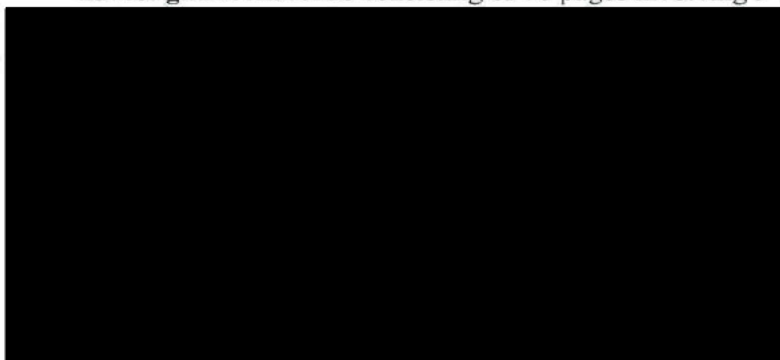
Re: [REDACTED] *s The Diocese of Joliet*

*Supplemental Records of Father Gibbs
Investigative Records*

Dear Mr. Johnson & Mr. Bradley:

I am hereby supplementing records relating to Father Gibbs, which are as follows:

Investigative Records consisting of 76 pages involving 9 different interviews as itemized below.



Seminary Board Minutes of meeting consisting of 16 pages, together with a letter to [REDACTED] dated June 9, 1995.

My Best Regards,
SPESIA & AYERS

By: *James C. Byrne*
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm
Enclosures

- cc: The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, JCD (w/o enclosures)
- Mr. Michael Bava (w/o enclosures)
- Mr. Joseph M. Laraia, Esq. (w/o enclosures)
- Mr. Stuart L. Bressler, Esq. (w/o enclosures)
- The Honorable Michael Powers (w/o enclosures)


Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

SEMINARY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting

Re: Father Lawrence Gibbs

Meeting of 10-6-71
Meeting of 11-7-72
Meeting of 12-11-72


Dated June 9, 1995

FR. GIBBS SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 1089

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

JAMES C. BYRNE & ASSOCIATES

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW
815 NORTH LARKIN AVENUE - SUITE 202
JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60435

JAMES C. BYRNE

MICHAEL J. CLEARY

TELEPHONE (815) 744-7171

FAX (815) 744-7179

June 9, 1995

Mr. Keith Aeschliman
168 N. Ottawa St.
Joliet, IL 60431

Re: [REDACTED]
Diocesan Records

Dear Mr. Aeschliman,

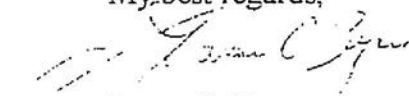
While preparing Bishop Kaffer for his deposition, I learned that the records of the Seminary Board meeting of October 6, 1971, which were previously delivered to you and contained in Fr. Gibbs' priest file, were typed and consisted of seven (7) typed pages. These are enclosed. Please note that page 6 has had matter deleted therefrom because they relate to candidates other than Fr. Gibbs and the same is true of page 7.

You will find that these pages for the October 6 meeting correspond with what has been previously delivered to you in handwritten form in Fr. Gibbs' priest file.

Also, enclosed herein are the typed minutes of the Seminary Board meeting of November 7, 1972. These consist of six (6) pages. The Seminary Board minutes from November 7, 1972, were previously delivered to you in Fr. Gibbs' file, which at that time were all handwritten. The Seminary Board handwritten minutes that were delivered to you which were in his file consisted of, I believe, one (1) page. I am hereby enclosing the typed minutes of the meeting consisting of six (6) pages. The others are the additional pages, which are self-explanatory.

In addition, enclosed herewith are minutes of the Seminary Board meeting of December 11, 1972, consisting of three (3) pages. None of these pages, either handwritten or in typed form, was in Fr. Gibbs' file and they were not previously delivered. I am now enclosing those three (3) pages, however, there are deletions from pages 2 and 3 involving issues before the Seminary Board which are in no way related to Gibbs.

My best regards,


James C. Byrne

JCB:djb
Enclosures

6/9/95

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

SEMINARY BOARD MEETING - October 6, 1971

PRESENT: Bishops Blanchette, Vonesh, Msgr. Stenger, Fathers Henehan, Holup, Kaffer, Kocher, McDonald, Michels, Stempora.

ABSENT: Mr and Mrs. [REDACTED]

I. Petition of Larry Gibbs, Deacon, for Ordination to the Priesthood.

DEACON GIBBS APPEARED IN PERSON AND GAVE THIS BACKGROUND!

1. Lawrence Gibbs ordained June 6, 1969, as Deacon. Assigned to Holy Name Cathedral, home parish, to continue on degree work. Worked at rehabilitation hospital under Father Eugene Durkin. Preached twice daily and helped with Communion. Preached only once on Sunday, Communion calls.

Back at St. Meinrad's Seminary - all white, blue-collar, Irish-German Catholic, 86 year old pastor. First assistant supervised; roles not specifically delineated. Did C.F.M. work and Catholic Schools. Instructed converts, preached once weekly at children's Mass, and three times (at all Masses) on Sundays.

Finished seminary courses. Worked one full year at St. Ambrose. Preached every Sunday. Helped with childrens' liturgies. Was vice-president of Parish Religion Education Board. Visited C.C.D. classes. Helped instruct teachers on meaning of bible vigils, baptized each month. President of Lurgy Board, blessed homes in the parish. "I'm not the kind of person who can walk down the street and say: 'I'm your parish priest.' But I can with an excuse."

At St. James now. Teen club, preaching, blessing homes, visiting C.C.D. classes. Visits hospital. Marriage cases - no counselling yet: No one has come in.

THEN THERE WAS AN EXTENSIVE QUESTION-ANSWER PERIOD PUT TO DEACON GIBBS
Q "WHY WAS THERE A MUTUALLY REQUESTED TRANSFER FROM ST. AMBROSE?" *BY BOARD MEMBERS*

I don't know. Can you help me? *Q* Wasn't there a breakdown in communications? There was friction, communications were poor. I did feel it was better for both of ^{us} and the parish.

Problem: Two different ways of doing the ministry, and misunderstandings on both our parts. Perhaps I just was not understanding enough of his ways.

Father Cullen did offer suggestions.

I really don't understand the problem all along. I did speak with Bishop Vonesh, Father Stempora, Father Daniel Ryan and Father Art Maher, the Deacon *Dean*.

Q "WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK FOR ORDINATION EARLIER?"

In October of last year, Father Daniel Ryan came to the rectory with me and Father Cullen. Areas such as altar-boy training and teen club were brought up. I felt that I was working at these things but Father Cullen was not satisfied. Father Daniel Ryan recommended, pastorally, that I not petition. I do realize I was free to so do.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

Page 2
October 6, 1971
Seminary Board Minutes

Q "WHAT WAS THE DOCTOR'S REPORT - DID HE FEEL THERE WERE AREAS OF CONCERN? AREAS WHERE HE COULD HELP?"

"Yes, and we have been working together." "I regret that I could not get an up-to-date report for today.

I could function in a fairly regular way in the ministry and be happy.

"For some reason or other, when I initially encounter or meet people, I put up a defense. We are working on my being more myself. I do think we are making progress in the area."

Q (A QUESTION WAS ASKED ABOUT WHY HE DID PETITION NO. 2.)

Two things intervened: 1) I saw the Doctor and said I was eager to petition. He said AMEN.
2) On retreat at Mundelein, in consultation with priests, I drew up the petition.

Q "WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM ABOUT DAILY MASS?"

"I was not going daily. I felt it is so very important to the life of a Christian, but along with ritual, I felt something more had to be had. On Sundays there was song and a higher form of participation."

Q "WOULD YOU BE PROMPTED TO SAY MASS IF YOU HAD NO CONGREGATION?"

"If I could draw in the whole Church in some way, yes - but if I were alone in transit, I don't know that I would."

Q "Please elaborate on the two different ways of doing ministry."

"I seem to perceive ministry as being out of the rectory more = e.g. C.F.M. working with kids, etc."

Q "HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE DIACONATE PROGRAM?"

"Good, if all have opportunities I have had; I have done everything except say Mass and hear confessions and anoint."

Q "HOW WOULD YOU REACT TO INDEFINITE ASSIGNMENT TO NON-LITURGICAL DAILY MASS?"

"I'd accept it, but I might suggest a time change. However, I would accept such assignments."

Q "DO YOU ACCEPT DEVOTIONS?"

"Yes, I preside at various devotions at St. James Parish.

Q "IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT IN PREACHING YOU BEAT AROUND THE BUSH."

I have subscribed to two homiletic services to help me.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

Page 3
October 6, 1971
Seminary Board Minutes

Q DO YOU HAVE A REGULAR PRAYER LIFE OVER AND ABOVE MASS?

Yes, Office -
Prayers to Saints
Reading (Spiritual) and reflection thereon

Q DO YOU THINK THE CHURCH HAS THE RIGHT TO OBLIGE TO OFFICE, ETC?

Yes.

Q ANY COMPLAINT ABOUT LATE RISING?

Yes. Sometimes, I rise about 8:30 or 9:00 A.M. *DEACON GIBBS THEN LEFT.*

[REDACTED] - APPEARED BEFORE BOARD

I've known Deacon Gibbs since June. I'm in charge of the teens who run the guitar Mass. I see him at least once a week. I have talked with Deacon Gibbs a few times at length, and about his feelings.

I think he is a very intense young man. He wants desperately to get himself involved and rolling in the parish. From the first day he has been visible. When the Deacon preaches, he preaches well, and people listen! Most think he is very sincere about what he is doing.

He seems to want to work in the framework he's got. He's not a rabble rouser or a change-for-the-sake-of-change person. He is not out to destroy the framework.

What's holding him back? Nothing. I suppose his recentness in the parish and the fact that he is a Deacon.

He tends to be fairly flamboyant and dramatic - which the kids sometimes think is funny. But when he talks, the kids listen.

No criticism have I heard from others.

I think he's happy but he also seems frustrated because he doesn't seem to be exactly sure why he is a deacon and fighting his way to the priesthood.

FR. WILLIAM CULLEN - FORMER PASTOR

Bishop Blanchette explained that Father Cullen is a reluctant witness and is here under obedience.

Father Cullen read his remarks and outlined them; then elaborated.

A. Preliminary Statement

1. Description of candidate
2. Pastoral work at St. Ambrose
3. Seminary Background
4. Evaluation

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

Page 4
October 6, 1971
Seminary Board Minutes

A. Preliminary statement.

1. Larry projects good image, positively, ^{negatively, he is} immature, lacking in self-discipline, a little disoriented.
2. Pastoral experience at St. Ambrose. He was given responsibility. He accepted any charge willingly and performance was average or below. He had ample freedom and few directives. Insistence was only on preaching and the liturgy - but I did insist he follow my directives on this.
3. Seminary background. ^{FOUR} Seminaries have seen fit to move him on, promoting him. He is a product of transitional seminary environment. (Quigley, Niles, St. Procopius and St. Meinrad's)
4. Evaluation. Very strong desire to be a priest. I have consulted two ~~to~~ five laymen in the parish. Both suggested certain limitations, but both think he should be advanced to the priesthood. You of the Seminary Board must take into account: (a) The good of the Church; and (b) the good of Larry himself.

I feel he is as prepared for the priesthood as he ever will be. This has been allowed to happen by the Church. If I were asked to comment on the last two questions at the beginning of his theological training I would answer differently. I feel the Church would not be as harmed by his being ordained as he would if he were not ordained.

His preaching is orthodox and authentic.

Q "DID ANY OF YOUR PARISHIONERS SPEAK TO YOU OF HIS ORDINATION?"

"Yes." "He is accepted." "No one ever talked against his ordination."

Q "What was his attitude towards correction?"

"I'd prefer to speak of suggestions or directives but he said "yes" and did nothing about it."

"He has good will, is sincere, is well-intentioned, but does not seem to know what is being driven at."

Q "WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY DISORIENTATION?"

"He either cannot or will not accept directions."

Father James Lennon - PRESENT PASTOR:

Began by insisting on confidentiality of his remarks.

An affable young man, well liked by teens and willing, to a degree, to do things I have assigned to him.

But I cannot recommend him. He lacks self-discipline. These things should have been caught in the seminary. His night hours preclude his being on the

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Page 5
October 6, 1971
Seminary Board Minutes

Job during the day when he should be.

His approach to the ministry, in spite of specialization today and differences in preparation to the priesthood, and in spite for our preference for general practitioners, there are some things a parish priest must do: hospital, parish visitations, etc.

There may be a psychological block, making it hard for him really to hear what is being said.

Two months ago, I recommended a complete leave of absence to Larry and I said I'd be willing to take him back after a year. The pressure of all his classmates being ordained is very great. After he indicated his willingness to such a leave of absence, (I think he needs a job where he'd have to punch in at 8 until 4), I told him I could not recommend him for ordination. There was no change in our warm, congenial relationship. But I don't think he "heard" or believed what we said. He seemed oblivious - for he indicated just recently that he thought he could and would be ordained if Father Parnisari and myself were to recommend him.

Father Eugene Parnisari

At this point, I would not recommend that he be ordained. I enjoy his presence in the rectory.

He has not acquired work discipline.

He lacks initiative for two reasons, I believe.

- 1) Theological - He seems not to have a clear objective. This should be worked out prior to ordination.
- 2) He lacks the skill to carry out his goal.

He shows initiative in liturgy, but not elsewhere. He doesn't seem to know what he ought to be doing.

A priest should be able to be a leader. For this, you need convictions and ability to carry them out. I doubt that he has much of this.

Perhaps we should or could have written out a list of things he should have done and then insisted he do so. I believe this would have been a very difficult experience for him.

Letter of Sister Joan Tabat, O.S.F., was read.

PHONE CONVERSATION OF Dr. [REDACTED]
THEN LETTER " " "

Thorough discussion then followed by the members of the Seminary Board. The above presentations and discussions lasted 3 hours.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

Page 6
October 6, 1971
Seminary Board Minutes

VOTE: 9 No (out of 10 voting)
 1 Wait for further information

There are three alternatives:

1. Seek laicization
2. Seek leave of absence working as a layman and return to extended diaconate.
3. Continue as a deacon indefinitely

The majority recommend that the three alternatives be presented to the deacon to make his choice. A minority of two recommend laicization.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

Page 7

October 6, 1971

Seminary Board Minutes

Respectfully submitted:



Father Roger L. Kaffer, secretary

Regacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

SEMINARY BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, November 7, 1972

Present: Bishops Blanchette, Vonesh; Msgr. Stenger; Fathers Michels, Henehan, Kocher, Stempora, Holup, McDonald, Ryan Kaffer.

Absent: Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED].*

Petition of Deacon Lawrence Gibbs for Ordination to the Priesthood.

Father Daniel Ryan reviewed the history by reading the Seminary Board meeting notes of October 6, 1971.

Bishop Blanchette then reviewed the events since that meeting; His official notification, his reaction (desire to seek another bishop, and to remain a permanent deacon, should he not succeed). He has seen Bishop Blanchette several times. He followed a program that Father Lennon drew up for him. Bishop Blanchette also encouraged him to do more on his own initiative, To be more relaxed, have more of a sense of humor in his dealings with others, be more practical and less philosophical and flowery.

Father James Lennon, pastor

When Larry Gibbs approached Father Lennon on re-applying, Father Lennon said on the basis of his performance of parish duties, of his pitching in, remaining affable and pleasant with parishioners, he agreed to his request for re-application.

Realizing that Larry came to St. James "under a cloud", Father Lennon treated him a little differently, trying to counsel him a bit more.

He has done assigned tasks; he has flair for adult education and working with teens and does these things well. He conducts prayer sessions. He is always at Mass and always there when asked to do anything.

It is for these reasons ^{that} I said I would endorse his resubmitting his petition.

My reservations, perhaps based on my own view of the priesthood and

*Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED] appeared for the meeting the following day due to a mix-up on the original date.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

Seminary Board Minutes
Tuesday, November 7, 1972
Page 2

my own training, are that he lacks good judgement. Perhaps some of his problems are due to his desire to be a priest. Example? In answering a question in the classroom; "I might answer this differently if I were a priest". This upset some parents. When called to his attention, he took this very well, and thanked me for pointing out his imprudence. There is a small but articulate and concerned percentage of parishioners who think him imprudent.

He is very orthodox in his preaching. He has improved. He is not "up in the clouds" in the pulpit, but he is at times in private conversation, though he has improved recently.

His humility in coming to ordinations of others, the humiliations he must have endured, surely are commendable.

Father Lennon did say he would accept Larry as an associate pastor, that he would give him the usual responsibilities, with confidence, now. "I would not have said so or done so a year ago. I could live with him."

I think most of the people do like him and I would hope most respect him.

He has grown in maturity, it would seem.

The fact that he is staying and is enduring all this is in his favor.

I don't question his sincerity.

In addition to his accepting responsibility, , has he assumed it? Yes: tapes, slides, prayer sessions, catechism in homes before baptisms, etc.

The priests of the Joliet diocese admire him.

Teenagers positively regard him. They are looking forward to his ordination.

Father Parnisari appeared. (He was formerly assistant at St. James, Glen Ellyn.

Essentially, I would say the same as I said before: "No". In my observation, there has been some improvement. But is there potential for growth to assume leadership? This is the fundamental distinction between a deacon and a priest. I doubt that he has this potential. But could he, in ten, twelve years, be a pastor?

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Seminary Board Minutes
Tuesday, November 7, 1972
Page 3

I would very strongly endorse him as a deacon.

Objection: How do you explain his success, then, in the area of adult education?

Response: The adult education program was already inaugurated and going. I suspect he would have difficulty initiating this.

Question: Do you think it is true that every priest ordained is aiming at being a pastor? Is the vocation to the priesthood synonymous with vocation to the pastorate?

Response: He probably would be another person unable to assume responsibility as a pastor, such as some we already have.

Most of the people probably are mystified as to why he isn't ordained. I doubt that people would think the Church had made a mistake were he to be ordained. Father Parnisari asked this: "If he were later to be denied the opportunity of being a pastor, what would it do to him psychologically?"

Unless an individual can be reasonably effective in teaching, administration, pastoral work, etc., reasonably well, I doubt that he can find happiness in the priesthood.

In my view and opinion, maturity of faith is directly proportionate to human maturity.

Sister Patricia, Principal of St. James the Apostle.

QUESTION: Do you think he should be ordained? *ANSWER:* I can't say an honest "yes". I think he functioned as a deacon in a fine manner. When Father Lennon was gone on vacation in the past month, he has manifested immaturity. He assumed too much - started coming late to meetings, holding people up...and poor answers. "If I were to answer this question, I might not be ordained." If this meeting had been held in September, I would have wondered why he was delayed: but now I question him.

Liturgically, he is earnest, and elaborate. I feel as though he was an Eastern rite priest. But this has simmered down lately.

Immaturity of character - keeping the children up late at night - (he can sleep in, they can't). The immaturity has come up again in the past month. He accepts correction with good will.

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Seminary Board Minutes
Tuesday, November 7, 1972
Page 4

Question: How does he get along with your faculty?

Answer: From October on, of last year, there ~~was~~ a change - I don't know what happened. He improved. Lately, however, he has made some statements of changes that he would make after he is a priest.

Dr. Birch - Dr. Birch has been in the parish four years, hence several years before Deacon Gibbs came to the parish.

I would have no objection to his ordination. He seems to be a spiritual, dedicated young man.

QUESTION: How closely have you been associated? *ANSWER:* He has been to my home, at my request, and I am ^{on} the religious education board. He fascinated me one evening by his knowledge of the history of the liturgy.

QUESTION: What is his rapport with the young people? *ANSWER:* From what I've heard, very good!

Are his sermons well received? I would think so, I have not heard anything to the contrary.

Q: Is he ostentatious or with affectations at Mass? *A:* No.

Mrs. [REDACTED]

Q: Do you favor Deacon Gibbs being ordained a priest? *A:* Yes. I feel he is very dedicated to the ministry, very close to Christ, and brings Christ to the people. I have worked with him in C.C.D. and Adult Education.

The Deacon came to our house and explained the rite of baptism. We have 5 children, aged 10 months to 10 years.

His homilies manifest his faith. He seems very knowledgable. He surely prays and preaches well on that.

Question: Have you heard any adverse comment about him in the parish?
ANSWER: None that I can remember.

Question: Is the work he has done in Adult Education initiated by him, or started by others? *ANSWER:* Father Parnisari started them and he took over.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

Seminary Board Minutes
Tuesday, November 7, 1972
Page 5

Deacon Gibbs appeared himself at 4:30 p.m.

Question: To start the discussion, did you start anything new in adult education or had Father Parnisari started it all?

Answer: Father Parnisari had started all the groups except the young marrieds which I have handled.

Question: In what areas do you feel you are better prepared to be a priest now than a year ago?

Answer: Certainly among adult education, teen club, a rap session with high school students, a prayer meeting, also tape and slide prayer evenings for teenagers.

Question: Did you answer a question: "I won't answer that now lest I not be ordained?"

Answer: Yes. After a class on prayer. The kids brought up the name of a teacher who taught, perfectly orthodoxly about purgatory, heaven and hell.

I had just been reading a Catholic theologian: Rahner, who conceives of purgatory in a bit of a different way.

I can see the imprudence of my remark.

QUESTION: Are you trying to be "coy" - the impression given to the kids?

Answer: "No - I'm trying to play it cool, but not coy."

Question: You were aware of the reasons for your petition being declined. Have those reasons disappeared?

Answer: I don't think it is honest to say they have disappeared but I am honestly working towards them and am making progress.

Question: What is your goal?

Answer: Proximately, the priesthood -

Question: What then, in 10 years?

Answer: First, I think I must continue to study, pray, make monthly day of recollection, to stay current with what is going on.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

Seminary Board Minutes
Tuesday, November 7, 1972
Page 6

Question: Would you be satisfied if you were not a pastor?

Answer: I know there are many skills needed for the pastoral office.
If I had the skills, I'd like to be a pastor.

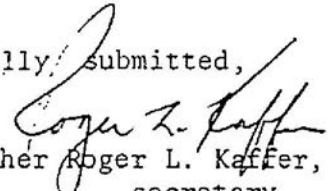
Question: How about late hours, even after having been told?

Answer: The deacon answered he had improved though ^{has been} not perfect. He explained that he sometimes stayed later because of questions people might ask or because he couldn't come until late, due to prior meetings.

Bishop Blanchette had to leave, as did Father Kocher and Henehan. There was a serious, lengthy and animated discussion both about the candidate and his readiness for the priesthood; about the unfairness of interruptions and rushing him; the value of such meetings was questioned and some felt we should devote a board meeting to that, re-evaluating the seminary board, it's structure and procedures.

Since several felt unready and unwilling to vote now, the board voted to postpone a vote. Those members who wished more clarification should see Deacon Gibbs privately. The urgency of doing so soon was stressed.

Respectfully submitted,


Father Roger L. Kaffer,
secretary

SEMINARY BOARD MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1972

Present: Bishop Blanchette, Msgr: Stenger, Father Henehan, Stempora, Holup, Kocher, McDonald, Michels, Ryan, Kaffer, and Mr. and Mrs. Boetto.

Absent: Bishop Vonesh.

- I. Father McDonald and Father Stempora said they had met with Deacon Gibbs and are now satisfied and ready to vote.

Father Ryan also took Deacon Gibbs to lunch, more to express his human concern about the lack of courtesy extended to him, unintentionally at the last seminary board meeting, by interruptions, etc.

Monsignor Stenger seized an opportunity to invite in Deacon Gibbs when he was visiting at the C.C.D. office. He, likewise, discounted some of Sister Patricia's criticisms of Deacon Gibbs, explaining them by saying that Deacon Gibbs had more responsibilities when the pastor, Father Lennon, was gone, and was late sometimes due to other duties. It was pointed out that this last explanation indeed given by Deacon Gibbs, had been given in response to leading questions by Father Holup and Father Kaffer.

It was the impression of one board member that Father Lennon would not want Deacon Gibbs assigned to St. James. The other board members did not agree.

It was also pointed out that this seemed the first time in the history of the board that so many reservations were expressed about a deacon as a candidate for the priesthood.

It is also pointed out that perhaps the younger clergy would be disappointed if his petition for ordination to the priesthood is now turned down.

It was further stated that he has limited ability and perhaps this accounts for his lack of good judgement.

The following question was addressed to Monsignor Stenger:

"Why are you not so impressed with Father Parnisari's negative report on the possibility of Deacon Gibbs ever being a pastor?"

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

Page 2
Seminary Board Minutes
December 11, 1972

Monsignor Stenger thinks Deacon Gibbs has improved so much in the past year that there is good hope of sufficient additional growth in the next decade, to be a pastor. "Moreover, Father Parnisari would have to give more specific instances to satisfy me."

The Board continued the discussion, pro and con, reviewing his character reports all the way back to 1964.

Vote = 8 Yes: 1 No: 2 abstentions of 11 present.

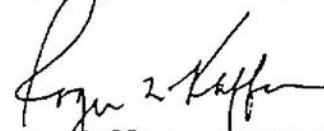
Before the vote was tabulated. Bishop Blanchette had stated that he was not binding himself to accept it; and that he intended to meditate and pray before making his decision.

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

Page 3
Seminary Board Minutes
December 11, 1972

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger L. Kaffer, secretary
12/11/72

INVESTIGATIVE RECORDS

Re: Fr. Lawrence Gibbs

- 1.) Interview of [REDACTED] (46 pages)
- 2.) Sworn Statement of [REDACTED] (8 pages)
- 3.) Affidavit of [REDACTED] (5 pages)
- 4.) Statement of [REDACTED] (6 pages)
- 5.) Memo of Interview of Mrs. [REDACTED] (1 page)
- 6.) Memo of Interview of Mrs. [REDACTED] (4 pages)
- 7.) Memo of Interview of [REDACTED] (2 pages)
- 8.) Memo of Interview of Officer [REDACTED] (1 page)
- 9.) Memo of Interview of Fr. Gaganepain (3 pages)

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

MEMORANDUM

Re: Interview Mrs. [REDACTED]

Dated: July, 8, 1994

I phoned Mrs. [REDACTED], gave her my name and told her that I represented the Diocese, although I did not indicate that I was an attorney, and told her that I had her letter of November 8, 1980, and I wanted to clarify some of her statements.

I began to read some of the comments in which she was complaining about the style of liturgy and then I asked her specifically about her statement, which was "giving the altar boys wine, they are too young and we have enough problems - -".

She clarified and stated that they only gave the altar boys wine during religious services. It was during the communion service and she had never known him to give the altar boys wine in any other context.

She remembers commenting to some of the mothers of the altar boys that they should not permit their sons to consume wine at the communion ceremony because they probably wouldn't allow it in their own homes. She said the looks she got from some of the parents was that it was something that was none of her business.

INTERVIEW

of

[REDACTED]

Re: [REDACTED] -vs- Gibbs

Dated: 1-15-93 (Friday)

Employment Background:

[REDACTED] stated that she is about to complete her tenth year as a full time secretary at Christ the King. Prior to that, she volunteered part-time as a secretary and was very involved with the parish in other volunteer activities.

[REDACTED] and she states that at that time she saw Gibbs and [REDACTED] at the hospital, where her husband was staying.

During the time Fr. Gibbs was stationed there, she was not working as a secretary in the rectory. At that time, [REDACTED] was a part-time secretary in the rectory, and the only secretary. During this period of time, Kay worked full-time elsewhere, and volunteered, and was an officer of the C.C.W., in charge of the Italianfest; in charge of linens for the sacristy; in charge of Martha's Circle; worked in the school; ran the blood drive in town for the parish, etc.

[REDACTED] states that her mother was a cook in the rectory during the period of time that Larry Gibbs resided there, however, she did not stay over night and always left at about 3:00 p.m.

1979-80 incidents:

She says the only thing she can remember as having knowledge of back then was that there were certain rituals, and candles, and readings, that took place at the cabin.

She states that she never had any complaints directly from any parents themselves, whose children may have been sexually abused. She stated that from the "rumor mill" she had only heard that he had "molested" children.

She now refers to this as "the allegations."

She believes that back at that time she heard that somehow the police were involved, but, she never read anything in the newspaper about this, and she believes she knew of the police because of her mother working in the rectory. Apparently, she is guessing she learned this from her mother.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

Larry Gibbs' lifestyle:

She said that she knew from her mother that he didn't like getting up in the morning; he had an evening Mass all the time, and she also stated that she had learned that, back then, he wanted to live in an apartment instead of the rectory, and the thought of this shocked her at that time.

She states that she doesn't recall him being any more attentive to children than any other associate; she doesn't recall his homilies standing out.

I asked whether or now she knew if any teenagers hung around the rectory; whether or not there were ever any allegations of sharing alcohol or pornography, and she states that she had no such knowledge at that time, and was not aware of any rumors to that effect.

Transfer of Gibbs:

She states that back then she was aware that he went to St. Joseph's in Lockport, and she's not certain as to how she became aware of it, but, believes she may have read it in the Explorer. She doesn't remember that his being in Lockport was a big deal; it's even possible that Gibbs may have told her.

Her reaction to the transfer was that it bothered her, because she didn't know if the allegations were true, but, it would have been better, or more prudent, if he went to a parish without a school, especially since there were so many parishes in the Diocese without schools.

Subsequent incidents:

She states that some time after Gibbs left Christ the King she recalls a conversation with a young man named [REDACTED] --?-- who she believes was a friend of Gibbs, or close to Gibbs, and who was going with a girl in the parish. It's possible that this [REDACTED] may have been from St. James' Parish.

The essence of the conversation was that [REDACTED] told her that "he (Gibbs) had gotten in trouble in Plainfield." She does not know the context of the conversation, or why it came up, but that does stick out in her mind. She doesn't specifically recall telling this to the investigator.

Father Ryan's knowledge:

She stated at that time that Fr. Ryan kept quiet. He would never talk about it. He was not one to discuss parish rumors. I asked her specifically, if she recalled any assembly, or Fr. Ryan and a [REDACTED] going to see the children at school relating to Fr. Gibbs' transfer and the gossip, and she states she had no knowledge of that.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

Fr. Schoenstedt:

She states that she recalls he was an associate at that time, but, she thought he was in Rome, and when he came back he would say Mass there on the weekends, and he frequently would stay with his mother. She also remembers him going back to Ohio to teach in the Seminary where he came from. She believes that he is a "class" individual.

Interview by detective:

█ states that she was interviewed by the detectives in her home. When they first came in, they stated they were investigators, and she thought they were the police. They asked her if there was ever any letter to the Bishop; she stated she didn't know. The investigator stated that there were a lot worse allegations than █ was aware of (it's uncertain if that meant what █ was aware of in 1979 and 1980, or aware of now).

The investigators also stated there were lots of kids from many parishes, but, they didn't give the names of the parishes, or of the kids.

She believes one of the other parents they talked with probably gave her name because she had such a high profile in the parish and volunteered a great deal. She does not believe that they talked to her any more than 35 or 40 minutes.

█ FAMILY

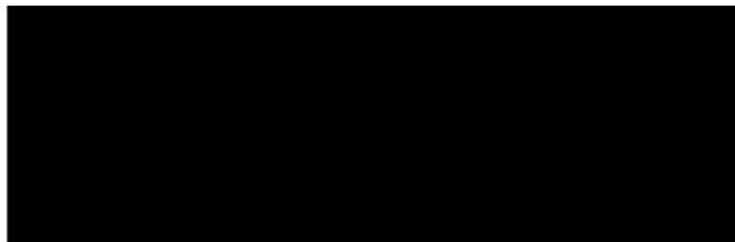
The detectives were looking for her, mentioned her name, and █ told the investigators that they had moved out of the parish a long time ago.

Parish records:

I asked whether or not there were any records of correspondence going back to 1979 and 1980, and she stated, "none whatsoever." The filing system of the secretary when she took over consisted of putting things under the blotter on the desk.

Parents:

The two parents' names that came up with the investigators was the █ family, and the █ family. The addresses are as follows:



FR. GIBBS SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 1175

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

██████ thinks that both of the above families are very nice people, and have been named "Woman of the Year."

I asked her about a family named ██████, and she also said they were nice, but she certainly wouldn't choose them as friends.

Miscellaneous:

I asked her about a ██████ whose last name I didn't know, who was in a guitar group, and she stated that she had no knowledge of this individual.

MEMORANDUM

Re: Gibbs

Dated: Tuesday, April 5, 1994

Called the [REDACTED] family residence [REDACTED] spoke with [REDACTED] I identified myself. He said that his wife had discussed this extensively with several people, and at the present time he had neither time nor patience with the subject.

He then continued on and said both of his sons went up to the cabin when it was being built. He stated his oldest son was there the most, and probably went there over a period of 2 or 3 years. At some point, it could have been weekly, and at other points the frequency would have been spaced out, but he didn't know exactly what.

He said that they found out quite a bit later about the games that were being played, which consisted of the following:

- a) Drinking by minors
- b) Strip poker
- c) Paddling on the behinds
- d) Misc. items along that line

He doesn't know the exact year, but shortly after Fr. Lennon went to SS. Peter & Paul, he states that he and his wife found out. They talked to their own of priests, and he recommended that they see the Bishop or Fr. Lennon.

They conferred with Fr. Lennon at the rectory for the better part of an evening.

They only recall that at that time Fr. Lennon stated that he would take care of the matter. [REDACTED] does not remember if he specifically stated that he would talk to the Bishop.

They had no contact with Fr. Lennon thereafter, and didn't know what transpired.

I asked him if they had ever conferred with the Bishop, and he said, no.

I asked to what extent his sons had been impacted. He stated that his oldest son's conduct after that changed dramatically. He explained that he became estranged from his religion and the Church.

He also recognizes that something might have happened anyway, and thought that the parents might have somehow been involved in complicity by allowing this to happen, and I explained to him that I did not think so.

FR. GIBBS SCAN FROM THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET NO. 1177

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

At the present time he states that his son is somewhat of a religious freak, and that he's studying religion, health, etc. The religion that he's studying is a total rejection of the Catholic theology, and he considers that he identifies the anti-Christ with the Pope.

He states that the second son was there less frequently, and is not impacted as much.

His wife will be available; best time is 6:30 or 7:00.

My follow up with her should focus on her parents' subsequent contacts once she knew that Fr. Gibbs was at North Central College.

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

MEMORANDUM

Re: Lombard Police
Officer Dillen Koffer

Spoke with Officer Koffer. He stated he's been there since October of 1980; that he conferred with the Plaintiff's attorney in his police department, and on another occasion with two female investigators. He stated that they have absolutely no records, not even a 3" by 5" card.

He also said that there is a slim possibility that Officer Al Mosley may have done some investigating, but he's now deceased. The only basis for suggesting Officer Mosley is that a present officer, Mike Kinney, stated that he thinks Al, at one time, made some reference to having talked to some child in relation to a priest at Christ the King.

JURISDICTION

He stated that at that time Christ the King Parish was not within the corporate limits of Lombard, and it would be very unusual for them to get involved in an investigation, but it should have been the DuPage County Sheriff's Department, but states that what might have happened is that they brought the children in to the Lombard Police Department and the DuPage County Police came over to the Lombard Police Department for the purpose of an interview.

I told him I had interviewed three sets of parents, who said their children were interviewed by Lombard Police, and he asked if they came in together to the Police Station, and I said, no, it was all separate. In fact, one family stated that the Police came to their home. He stated that he had heard the same thing from the female investigators.

He suggested that I call the DuPage County ^{Sheriff} Police Department, Investigative Unit, which is headed by, ₁

BRUCE WATCHEL. - 708-682-9256

He also confirms that there is no individual by the name of Wagner, Clausen, or Rotunno who ever worked for the Lombard Police.

Larry Wagner { Retired Jan 1989
 Larry Clausen { [Redacted]
 JOHN W. ROTUNNO { [Redacted]

DuPage Co State Atty
 Criminal Div - 682-9050
 Gary Stewart = His secretary
 Down will call him
 re Larry Wagner
 who returned 1989

MEMORANDUM

Re: Dittrich

Dated: 10-13-93

Phone conversation with Fr. John Gaganepain

██████████
Father John was principal of the seminary at the time Plaintiff attended, and he also was a teacher who taught difficult courses, such as biology, science, etc.

I phoned Father, told him who I was, and that I had cleared the call with the Diocesan attorney, Bernard Hugar, and asked if he recalled the Plaintiff. He said he absolutely did, and he had taught him. Father pointed out that in the entire school there were only 60 students, and they studied together, prayed together, played together, and ate together.

Description of Plaintiff

He stated that ██████████ was a very brilliant student, and an extreme under-achiever. By that he meant he scored high on SAT's, up in the 95 percentile, but he was only a "C" student in relation to the courses which he taught, which were the difficult courses.

He said there was always a question in his mind, as well as the faculty, as to what was going on, and that something was not right. It just didn't compute.

He stated that he met with the parents of all students on several occasions while they were students, and although he cannot specifically recall what Plaintiff's parents looked like, he had to talk to him, and his conversation had to be focused around the fact that ██████████ was underachieving in certain areas.

Social relationships

He said that ██████████ was on the edge between a normal student and a loner. He explains this by saying that he had friends, and people like him because they knew he was bright and that they could consult with them, and ██████████ was kind of a "helper." But, he was never a leader, and although he did play sports they were mostly intramural, and it may have been soccer.

Spiritual Director

He said that it was a rule of the school that each student would have a Spiritual Director, and they strongly urged that it would be someone on the faculty.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

He states that he specifically remembers that in [REDACTED] case, [REDACTED] did not have a Spiritual Director from the school or faculty, and he always used to say that Fr. Gibbs was his Spiritual Director.

Fr. Gibbs

Fr. John stated that he occasionally helped Fr. Schutter in Lockport, and when they would have confessions, on some few occasions, Gibbs would come to Fr. Schutter's parish to hear confessions, so he only had a passing acquaintance with Gibbs.

He also has some vague recall that Gibbs may have, on some rare occasions, shown up at the seminary.

Teaching of morality

He said that there was no particular curriculum on sex, but that the mechanics were taught in biology, which he taught, and the morality was always brought up each year in the religion courses.

As Principal, he said it was his directive that they were teaching traditional, conservative, Church morality in relation to sex.

I asked if they ever got involved in the subject of sexual abuse, vis-a-vis adults and young people, and he stated, no, he would be extremely that this would have been discussed because of the times, and that people were so unaware of what was going on, vis-a-vis pedophilia.

Religious Teachers

Father John cannot remember specifically, but he seems to believe that a Fr. Tom Ohearn might have taught [REDACTED] in his freshman year, but he's now in Kenya, teaching at a seminary there. He came up with the name of Tony Dosen, who he thinks taught religion as well as history, and he's now in Madison, Wisconsin, at the Holy Name Seminary, Phone #(609) 833-1010.

Seminary life

He said that this was a boarding school, and that the freshmen and sophomores lived dormitory style, and that the juniors and seniors had accommodations with two to a room.

He stated that some students came from a far distance, others were close, however, every weekend a student was allowed to go home, and was encouraged to do so. Obviously, they returned home during the summer, and he does not remember [REDACTED] ever remaining.

[REDACTED]

I asked him if he knew [REDACTED] since this individual was from Lockport. He stated that he had no knowledge of him.

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

Psychological tests

He said no psychological tests were given, nor were they given to seniors who were possibly going on to a major seminary. He believes that psychological tests were not too accurate, when given at that chronological age.

He also recalls that by the senior year [REDACTED] made it known that he was not going on to study for the priesthood.

Father Dieter

"DD" - pronunciation

He stated that Fr. Dieter was not effeminate, and there was absolutely no clue of any misconduct by him and any students. Father John said that when he was made Provincial, Fr. Dieter was made Principal, and at that time was also a Spiritual Director, but there was a decision made that one could not be both at the same time. Apparently, that was the method by which his misconduct was discovered, because ostensibly some student had gone to another Spiritual Director and disclosed what was going on. There are approximately seven victims; most of these cases have been settled; three of these victims were represented by one attorney in Chicago, and he believes that one of the alleged victims was a psychopathic liar, however, they did go ahead and make some sort of a settlement with all three of these individuals.

I also asked Fr. John if anything happened in the senior year, at which time several students were killed. I told him that the Plaintiff had friends killed during his senior year, but I didn't know if they were seminary students. He said, no, they were not related to the seminary, they were friends that he had in Lockport. He doesn't know the name of the friends, but he does recall this happening. He doesn't recall any particular impact on Plaintiff.

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

SPEZIA & AYERS

Attorneys at Law

1415 Black Road
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Ph 815.726.4311
Fx 815.726.6828

www.spesia-ayers.com

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

RECEIVED

AUG 28 2012

Terrance M. Johnson, Esq.

August 23, 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: [REDACTED] vs Diocese of Joliet

=====
*Father Lawrence Gibbs
Records up to January 2012*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

On September 26, 2011, I had delivered to you the priest file of Father Gibbs consisting of 1,184 pages.

I am now enclosing additional records in Father Gibbs priest file from September 26, 2011 up to January 1, 2012 consisting of pages 1,185 to 1,193.

My Best Regards,

SPEZIA & AYERS

By:

James C. Byrne
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, JCD (no enclosures)
The Honorable Michael Powers (no enclosures)
Mr. Joseph M. Laraia, Esq. (no enclosures)
Mr. Stuart L. Bressler, Esq. (no enclosures)

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

SPESIA & 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

August 23, 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: ██████████ *vs Diocese of Joliet*

=====
Father Lawrence Gibbs
Records up to January 2012

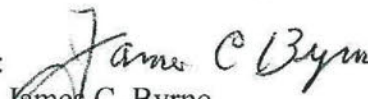
Dear Mr. Johnson:

On September 26, 2011, I had delivered to you the priest file of Father Gibbs consisting of 1,184 pages.

I am now enclosing additional records in Father Gibbs priest file from September 26, 2011 up to January 1, 2012 consisting of pages 1,185 to 1,193.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA & AYERS

By: 
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, JCD (no enclosures)
The Honorable Michael Powers (no enclosures)
Mr. Joseph M. Laraia, Esq. (no enclosures)
Mr. Stuart L. Bressler, Esq. (no enclosures)

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

SPESIA & AYERS

Attorneys at Law

001185

Kent Ayers
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

Of Counsel:
Thomas M. Ewert
Kent Slater

Douglas F. Spesia
(1940-2010)

August 12, 2011

Mr. Alex F. McGimpsey, III
Assistant State's Attorney - Criminal Division
DuPage County States Attorney
503 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Re: *Allegations of* [REDACTED] *vs*
Father Gibbs and the Diocese of Joliet

Dear Mr. McGimpsey:

This letter is pursuant to the Diocese's policy to notify the State's Attorney when it receives an allegation of child sexual abuse.

In February of this year I received a letter from an attorney who stated he represented [REDACTED] who is now an adult, but has alleged that when he was a child he was sexually abuse by Father Lawrence Gibbs.

Despite my request I have received no further information until today, August 9th. Mr. [REDACTED] is presently 39 years of age and he alleges that he was sexually abused for approximately one year sometime in 1979 and 1980 when he was 7 or 8 years old and in the second grade. The family were parishioners at Christ the King Parish in Lombard, IL and at that time he was attending CCD classes.

The sexual abuse included allegedly fondling and oral sex. Mr. [REDACTED] claims a repressed memory which has only been recently revived.

COPY

Established 1899

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014


001186

Mr. Alex F. McGimpsey, III
August 12, 2011
Page 2

As you are aware, Lawrence Gibbs has been removed from ministry for a significant number of years and our last information was that he was residing in the St. Louis area and is currently married.

If you need any further information, do not hesitate to call.

SPESIA & AYERS

By: 
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm
cc: The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, JCD

COPY

Redacted February 2014

TMJA
Released April 2014

SPESIA & AYERS

Attorneys at Law

001187

at Ayers
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

September 26, 2011

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Of Counsel: Mr. Terrance M. Johnson, Esq.
Thomas M. Ewert
Kent Slater
North Pier Chicago
455 East Illinois Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Douglas F. Spesia
(1940-2010)

Re: [REDACTED] vs Diocese of Joliet

Father Lawrence Gibbs

Dear Mr. Johnson:

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


- 1.) Priest file of Father Lawrence Gibbs consisting of 1,184 pages.
- 2.) Five Separate Privilege Logs for documents in this priest file.
- 3.) Investigator's Records – I have not been able to locate all of my office files on [REDACTED] vs-Gibbs, and therefore, this category may have to be supplemented.

Names of Accusers

The only individual who has made accusations that have been made public is that of [REDACTED]. All others have never been made public and the existing Protective Order prohibits their disclosure.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA & AYERS

By: 
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm
Enclosures

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

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

SPEZIA & AYERS

Attorneys at Law

001188

E. Kent Ayers
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

November 18, 2011

Douglas F. Spesia
(1940-2010)

Of Counsel:
Thomas M. Ewert
Kent Slater

Mr. Alex F. McGimpsey, III
Assistant State's Attorney - Criminal Division
DuPage County States Attorney
503 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Re: *Allegation of Sexual Abuse*
by ██████████ vs *Father Lawrence Gibbs*

Dear Mr. McGimpsey:

As you are aware, it is the Diocese's policy of notifying the appropriate State's Attorney when the Diocese learns of allegations of child sexual abuse against clergy and/or laypersons, except when the alleged perpetrator is deceased.

Mr. ██████████ is currently 47 years of age. He recently informed the Diocese that when he was in sixth or seventh grade in 1977 or 1978 he was attending Christ the King School in Lombard, Illinois. At that time, Father Lawrence Gibbs, who was a priest of the Diocese of Joliet, was assigned at that parish.

Mr. ██████████ alleges that at that time (1977 or 1978), Father Lawrence Gibbs took ██████████ to Father's cabin on Wonder Lake in McHenry County, at which time Mr. ██████████ states that he was "*fondled and molested*". He alleges that there were multiple overnight trips to that cabin when this conduct was repeated.

██████████ also states that when he was attending grade school at Christ the King Parish in Lombard, that Father Gibbs frequently took him out of class. Although he does not allege sexual abuse by Gibbs in Lombard, he apparently is claiming a repressed memory, and is uncertain at this time if any abuse occurred in Lombard.

COPY

Established 1899

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

001189

Mr. Alex F. McGimpsey, III
November 18, 2011
Page 2

The current information we have in relation to Mr. [REDACTED] is as follows:



At this time, Mr. [REDACTED] is very hesitant regarding furnishing any more specific details.

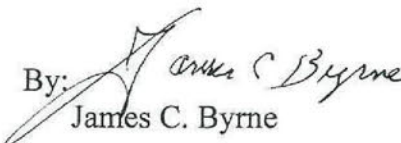
The information we have in relation to Father Lawrence Gibbs is that he was removed from ministry at the end of 1992, because of allegations at that time regarding child sexual abuse. Mr. Gibbs has never returned to ministry since that time.

Our latest information is that he is currently married and living in the St. Louis, Missouri area.

Please do not hesitate to call if you need any further information.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA & AYERS

By: 
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, JCD

COPY

Redacted February 2014
TMJA
Released April 2014

SPEZIA & AYERS

Attorneys at Law

001190

1415 Black Road
Joliet, Illinois 60435

Ph 815.726.4311
Ex 815.726.6828

www.spezia-ayers.com

ent Ayers
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

Of Counsel:
Thomas M. Ewert
Kent Slater

November 18, 2011

Douglas F. Spesia
(1940-2010)

Mr. Louis A. Bianchi
McHenry County State's Attorney
McHenry County Government Center
2200 N. Seminary Avenue, Suite 150
Woodstock, Illinois 60098

Re: *Allegation of Sexual Abuse*
by ██████████ vs *Father Lawrence Gibbs*

Dear Mr. Bianchi:

I am General Counsel for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet. In that capacity, I am carrying out its policy of notifying the appropriate State's Attorney when the Diocese learns of allegations of child sexual abuse against clergy and/or laypersons, except when the alleged perpetrator is deceased.

Mr. ██████████ is currently 47 years of age. He recently informed the Diocese that when he was in sixth or seventh grade in 1977 or 1978 he was attending Christ the King School in Lombard, Illinois. At that time, Father Lawrence Gibbs, who was a priest of the Diocese of Joliet, was assigned at that parish.

Mr. ██████████ alleges that at that time (1977 or 1978), Father Lawrence Gibbs took Mr. ██████████ to Father's cabin on Wonder Lake in McHenry County, at which time Mr. ██████████ states that he was "fondled and molested". He alleges that there were multiple overnight trips to that cabin when this conduct was repeated

The current information we have in relation to Mr. ██████████ is as follows:



COPY

Redacted February 2014

TMJA

Released April 2014

001191

Mr. Louis A. Bianchi
McHenry County State's Attorney
November 18, 2011
Page 2

At this time, Mr. [REDACTED] is very hesitant regarding furnishing any more specific details.


The information we have in relation to Father Lawrence Gibbs is that he was removed from ministry at the end of 1992, because of allegations at that time regarding child sexual abuse. Mr. Gibbs has never returned to ministry since that time.

Our latest information is that he is currently married and living in the St. Louis, Missouri area.

Please do not hesitate to call if you need any further information.

My Best Regards,

SPESIA & AYERS

By: 
James C. Byrne

JCB/skm

cc: The Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, JCD

COPY



DECREE

At this time, I have received information which appears indicative that a serious offense of Church Law has been committed by the former Reverend Lawrence Gibbs who had been removed from ministry in 1992.

Due to the seriousness of this information, and by virtue of Canon 1717 of the Code of Canon Law and number six of the Essential Norms, I hereby decree that the preliminary investigation of a penal process be opened and that a cautious investigation be undertaken concerning this allegation, and of Father Gibbs imputability to determine the necessity of taking further action in accord with the norm of law.

I hereby delegate Sister Judith Davies to oversee this preliminary investigation. However, because of the sensitivity of the individual who was abused, I am aware that the investigation may be delayed until that person exhibits a readiness to be interviewed. Once the investigation has concluded, I request a written report be provided to me as soon as possible.

Given at the Chancery this 22nd day of November in the year 2011.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R. Daniel Conlon".

Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon, JCD
Bishop of Joliet-in-Illinois