

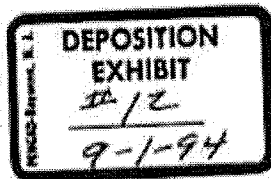
ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

226 Summit Avenue

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102-2197

The Chancery

June 17, 1987



CONFIDENTIAL

Rev. Neil Seller  
Servants of the Paraclete  
Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025

Dear Fr. Seller,

As you know, Fr. Jerome Kern of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis will be coming to Jemez Springs shortly for an evaluation.

Attached to this letter is a memo dated June 15, 1987 which summarizes the issues that compel us to ask Fr. Kern to be evaluated. (cf. blue memo)

I believe the June 15 memo is fairly self-explanatory, and I do feel free to allow you to show this memo to Fr. Kern while he is at Jemez Springs. It is substantially the same memo that he saw when he met with us here in St. Paul on June 5, 1987, except that I have added a concluding paragraph and I have added more to the first paragraph.

I would ask you not to share this cover letter with Fr. Kern. Both Bishop Carlson and I feel that he is not being completely disclosive of the exact nature of the event that happened in that summer of 1969 as reported by Mrs. Heutmaker, Mrs. Turning and their two sons. We have no reason to believe that the event did not happen exactly as they described it, that is, the complete invasion of both boys' very tight and cut-off shorts to the point of touching the genitals as was described. Bishop Carlson and I are not sure why Fr. Kern is denying this or whether in fact he has simply suppressed his memory of that event.

Bp. Carlson and I also have some reason to question whether or not he has been or continues to be an active homosexual based on the personal observation of Bp. Carlson seeing Fr. Kern enter this park area in the last five years. This particular park is infamous in the Twin City area as being a pick-up place for homosexual men and it is beyond the imagination of any reasonably intelligent person to be seen entering or around that particular park, especially in the area that Fr. Kern was observed to be and at the time of day he was observed to be there, and not believe that he was involved in some kind of homosexual solicitation.

I, Michael O'Connell, am a classmate of Fr. Kern's and I have observed him myself at the McCarthy Gymnasium at the St. Paul Seminary with young boys. I even believe my memory would recollect that I have seen him come in there with a singular young boy at some time in the past. However, I cannot swear to that.

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Knowing what we know now about pedophilia and about how it is rarely a singular act, we would have some reason to question Fr. Kern's insistence that the event of the summer of 1969 was a singular event.

We look forward to your evaluation of Fr. Kern and hopefully to his openness and cooperation with that evaluation. He claims that he is sincerely looking forward to this himself and that he would like to do some closure on the events that happened 18 years ago. Hopefully, it was a singular occurrence and we can do some closure to this.

I appreciate and thank all of you for all of the good work you have done and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Reverend Michael J. O'Connell  
Vicar General  
Moderator of the Curia

MJO:mrw  
Enclosure