

March 22, 1987

Father Posey,

I am writing you this letter, despite the fact that my lawyer discouraged me to do so. I am not sure why, I guess I thought it would be better hearing from me first as apposed to being summoned, which will eventually occur.

I am writing you now to inform you that I am exposing the events that occurred early May [REDACTED] I don't think it is necessary to go into detail, I am sure you are aware of what I am speaking of. I do think however that you should know that you ruined my life with your sickness.

After four painful years of living with this, I've been advised by a ^{PSYCHIATRIST} psychiatrist who I've spent many sessions with, to expose the awful things that happened, stop being the victim and in result pray to enjoy the rest of my life.

You cannot imagine the guilt I've lived with. Every time I enter a church I long to feel the love of God I used to. I, with great reason fear that since that night God has abandoned me.

I have struggled for [REDACTED] years to earn a degree, always failing. I always feel separate, not accepted. As I said you cannot imagine the pain I have suffered. Well the unending suffering is about to end for me. Now I imagine it is your turn to carry it.

I can strongly say that I am not a homosexual, and when I came to you for help, or rather you pulled it out of me, that was what I thought you would give me, help. By the way who do you think you are to tell me I was too quiet, that's why you thought I needed help. A lot of people are quiet, and I did not have many problems until you screwed up my life.

Was it that I was [REDACTED] that you singled me out? From what I remember there were a lot more messed up kids there than me.

Instead of my allowing you to come into my life to help, you came in and ruined it. You constantly called me, followed me and to be blunt ^{embarrassed} me, both at school and around my family. My sister once asked me , What does he want from you?

Well I found out that night shortly before graduation, when you got me drunk with Airlines scotch and molested me. I was only [REDACTED] so that is what it was, you may call it what you may, but that is what it was, and it was wrong. It should not have happened. You are a teacher, a teacher of religion, and a priest, basically a person who said he vowed to help kids not do what you did, not to me, I was adding something to that messed up school, I did not deserve what happened. I am so damn mad just thinking about it.

I know now that there is no excuse for what happened. NONE. You and your sickness to molest boys has ruined my life, you have caused me so many problems, you have stained my life with God, and now after revealing this to my family, that too is ruined.

After extensive discussions with my doctor, and his leading me to see a lawyer I realize that you should not be in a teaching position much less the priesthood. You have no right to call yourself a priest, I sincerely pray that you have not in the past four years scarred any other young mens lives.

What hurt most is that after it happened I went to another priest at [REDACTED] for help and to confess and he wrote me a long letter explaining that these things happen, and basically I would get over it. BULL SHIT on that. Luckily I still have the letter which mentions your name twice.

The fact remains that [REDACTED] was a horrible experience for me, and they are at fault for having teachers like you who molest [REDACTED] students, and then in turn cover it up for one another.

The fact remains that you have caused me so much pain, which has always seemed to flow into my heterosexual relationships.

The fact remains that you were WRONG, not me I was the VICTIM, now it is finally clear to me that this is not the way it should have turned out [REDACTED] years ago.

At the risk of losing my remaining friends, self respect, dignity, love, all the things we live for, I am going to expose you, and what you did to me. I pray that God will help me through this, and also that you never be allowed to teach or say mass again, or ruin any ones life again.

I can only guess Father Posey that you thought this dark secret would die with me, well I have not Died yet, but when this is all over you will have wished other wise.

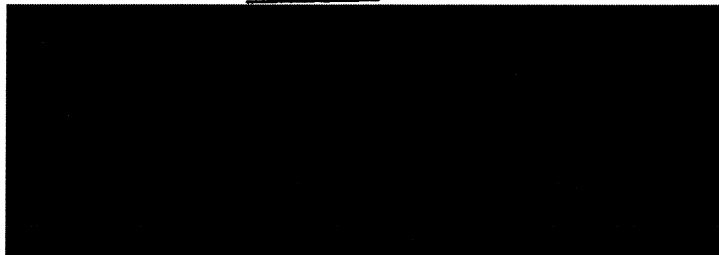
In conclusion know this, I don't want your money, I don't want anything from you. I have come to realize that after [REDACTED] agonizing years I was not the one who was wrong, you were, you did this to me, you did this to yourself. I pray that my doctor is right, and this will finally be lifted from me.

The following page consists of people who I am writing to, and eventually my lawyer will contact.

It's funny Father Posey I feel better already, I guess the cold hard facts of reality have a way of helping you see things the way they really are.

I look forward to seeing you in court, and I hope that this will arise soon enough so that you can feel the embarrassment from your students that I will surely get from the people in my life.

Looking forward to liking myself again.



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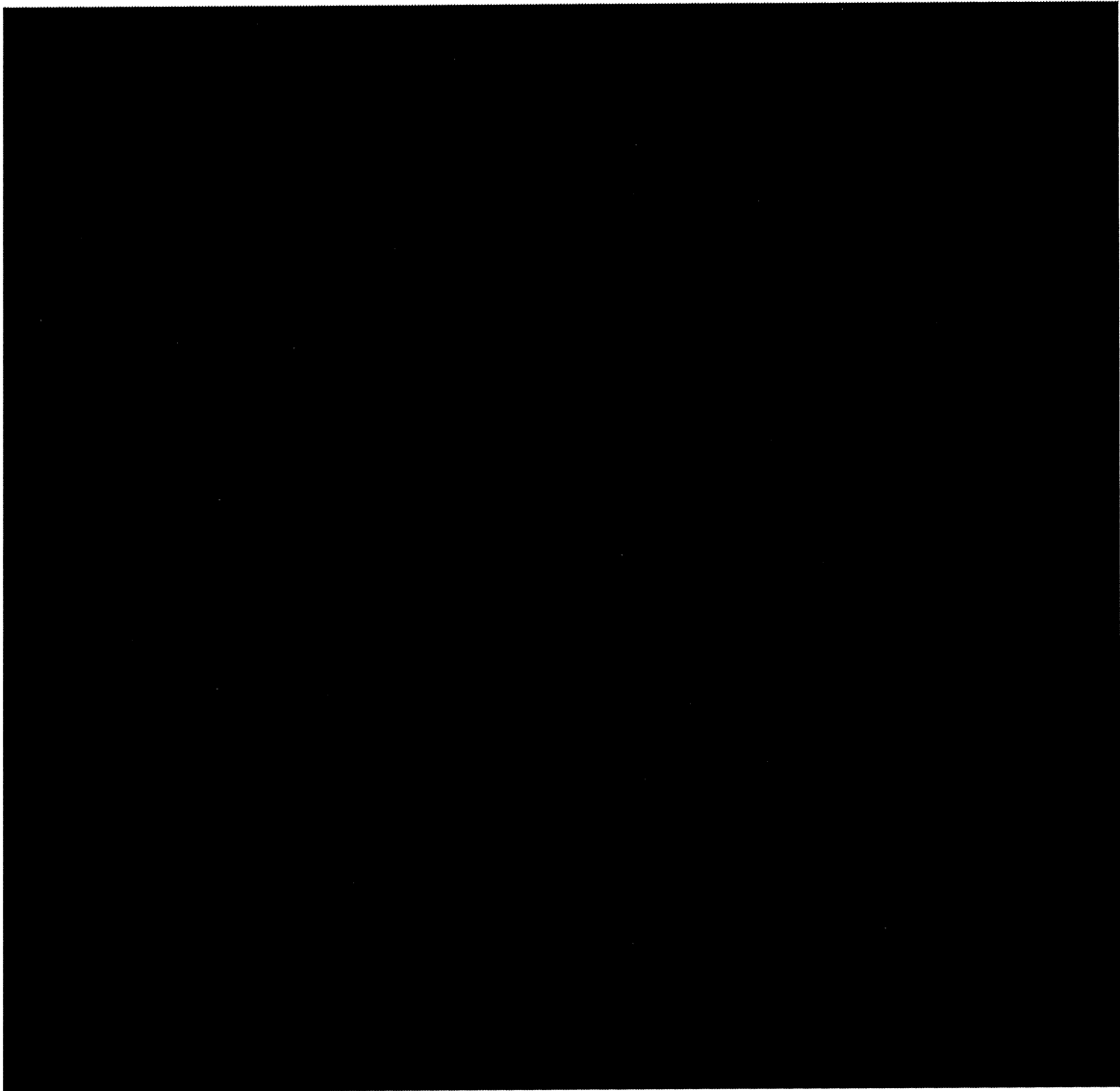
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Looking forward to liking myself again.

[REDACTED]



from the desk of William S. Fallon

Posey, Thaddeus, 1992-2003

MARTIN B. BOOTH, M. D.
Child Psychiatry and Psychiatry
5115 South Dakota Ave., N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20017

January 28, 1992

Father Charles Polifka
The Capuchin Franciscans
1060 St. Francis Way
Denver, Colorado 80204-7763

Re: Father Thaddeus Posey

Dear Father Polifka:

I have reviewed the materials from Father Posey's evaluation, and have seen him in therapy where he has developed an enhanced capacity to deal with depression. In my opinion, there are no findings which would render him unsuitable to work with minor children, and no psychiatric reason for withholding any ministerial assignment.

Father Posey continues to receive therapy as deemed necessary. I have agreed to be available to him at any time. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Martin B. Booth, M.D.

INTEROFFICE MEMO from
ARCHBISHOP JOHN R. ROACH

TO:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bp. Carlson | <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Rauenhorst |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bp. Charron | <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Rockers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bp. Welsh | <input type="checkbox"/> Bro. Champine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Msgr. Boxleitner | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Bernet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Bossi | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Gries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Bowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Hesse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Christensen | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Klima |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Dease | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Krocheski |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Fleming | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Reymann |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Froehle | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Willerscheidt |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr. Jaroszeski | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Baker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. McDonough | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Berquist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. A. Kennedy | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Burke |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. P. Kennedy | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Carr |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Kenney | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Carrera |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Notebaart | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Cherek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. O'Rourke | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Errigo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Schnitzius | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Fallon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Ward | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Granger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon Baskfield | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Heaney |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon D'Heilly | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Hennen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon Umphress | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Krietemeyer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Brennan | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Lassonde |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Heinen | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Mullin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Howell | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Weinand |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Lucid | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Willis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Meyer | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Murray | |

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> action | <input type="checkbox"/> recommendation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> see me | <input type="checkbox"/> prepare draft |
| <input type="checkbox"/> call me | <input type="checkbox"/> note & return |
| <input type="checkbox"/> prepare reply | <input type="checkbox"/> read & file |
| <input type="checkbox"/> your signature | <input type="checkbox"/> information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> my signature | <input type="checkbox"/> as requested |
| <input type="checkbox"/> comment | <input type="checkbox"/> per conversation |

REMARKS:

DATE:

5/24

What do we know about this?

CONFIDENTIAL-Filed Under Seal_ARCH-043682

MARTIN B. BOOTH, M. D.
Child Psychiatry and Psychiatry
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Sincerely,

Martin B. Booth

Martin B. Booth, M.D.

REFLECTIONS AND SOLUTIONS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF Martin Luther King Junior

Submitted by [REDACTED]

I've has a dream of racial equality all of my life but until I was ten I didn't know that it was a dream and not an actuality. I was riding along on the Grand Avenue streetcar as I heard someone say that Pope's cafeteria would now serve the black community. Hadn't they always? I was raised in a family catering business where races always ate together, infact racism was not an option much less tolerated. Wouldn't things change?

I was eighteen when I flew for the first time and I saw the segregated rest rooms in the Atlanta airport. Shocked in my naivete, I returned home livid at my experience. Surely this would change?

I was thirty-five when my parish asked families to share their homes with less fortunate children from the City during the summer vacation. When our visitors came we took to the street as usual on Sunday for a walk to Famous Barr and then to Walgreens for a super hot dog counter only to have our guests shouted at as we crossed the large parking lot with chants to "N-----" Go Home. Was nothing ever going to change?

I watched as cities were abandoned, counties expanded and racism continued despite wonderful Afro-American achievements. Now I'm Fifty-five, selling subscriptions and fund raising for my favorite past time, The Saint Louis Symphony and still I have to sell hard describing the University development, the security, the lighting and anything that will convince the suburbanites in flight that our area is safe. What more can I do to change?

Now I know that a PARADIGM CHANGE is necessary, with facts, contacts and strong backs willing to have the courage to put down predictability, to have the strength to say we were wrong and to have the curiosity to move beyond what we think we already know.

Will you join me, I've been waiting for you.

pen stand on race and down race

pen

We noticed that Father Prez did not attend the anniversary of

MARTIN B. BOOTH, M. D.
Child Psychiatry and Psychiatry
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Sincerely,

Martin B. Booth

Martin B. Booth, M.D.



October 23, 1992

Dr. Don Briel
University of St. Thomas
Mail # 5022
2115 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 5505

3634 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108-3395
314/658-2878

**The Department of
Theological Studies**

Dear Doctor Briel,

Thaddeus J. Posey, a doctoral student in Historical Theology in this department, has asked me to write a letter of recommendation for him. I believe he is applying for a position in your department.

I have known Father Posey for most of the years he did studies with us. He was a student in a graduate course I taught, I was on his comprehensive exam board, and I was chair of the department during part of the time that he taught undergraduate courses for us.

Father Posey is a very sympathetic and responsible teacher. He taught several types of course in Afro-American religious traditions which were well received by the students. He is especially competent in this area, and constructed courses that were both challenging and interesting for students.

Father Posey has been a very tenacious graduate student. Because of his multiple responsibilities as a military chaplain and as a teacher of summer courses in Afro-American religious traditions in New Orleans each year, it has been hard for him to finish his program quickly. Nevertheless, he has worked tirelessly, not only at non-academic projects, but also at finishing his course work and doing the extensive study necessary for comprehensive exams and for his dissertation. It is a credit to his ability to stick to a task that he is approaching the end of his program.

Father Posey is knowledgeable in the whole history of Christian thought and is capable of teaching a wide variety of undergraduate courses in which he has many years of proven success. In the areas of his special expertise he is also capable of teaching graduate courses and of doing serious research and publication.

Father Posey is, finally, a very pleasant and cooperative colleague. He is very sensitive to the various needs of students, and is able to interact positively with fellow faculty and administration. He will continue to be a very competent and reliable college teacher.

Sincerely,

Francis W. Nichols
Associate Professor



THE CAPUCHINS ANNUNCIATION FRIARY

3621 HUMBOLDT STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80206
(303) 297-9436 - (303) 296-1026

(new) file for Fr Posey,
please

3 NOV 92

Dr. Don Briel
Chair, Department of Theology
Mail # 5022
University of St. Thomas
St. Paul, MN 55105

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages ▶
To <u>MARILYN WAGNER</u>	From <u>Rev. DENNIS DEANE</u>	
Co.	Co. <u>UST</u>	
Dept.	Phone # <u>962-6500</u>	
Fax # <u>290-1629</u>	Fax # <u>962-6930</u>	

Dear Dr. Briel,

Permit me to introduce myself. I am Fr. Thaddeus J. Posey, OFM Cap, a Capuchin Franciscan Friar of the Province of Mid-America. Currently I am completing my dissertation for a Ph.D. in Historical Theology at St. Louis University. In response to your listings in the AAR/SBL Openings, I am making application for the position in Historical Theology.

My studies at St. Louis University and my experience as the founder and director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies have given me a broad background in Roman Catholic Studies from an historical perspective. As a young Black theology student in Washington during the late sixties, the questions of culture, ethnicity and religion always seemed to be glaring at me. The tensions that moved discussions to arguments, while revealing that more than facts were behind the opinions, challenged the very Christian arena which occasioned them. While working with those who pioneered the Black ethnic challenge in the American Catholic church, I began studying Anthropology at Catholic University. Reassigned before finishing, my presence in a multi-ethnic community only enhanced my interest. Having proposed, organized and edited the papers of the first Black Catholic Theological Symposium, I felt the information needed to be shared with the whole Catholic community. Thus I proposed the Institute for Black Catholic Studies to share these reflections in an undergraduate and graduate academic setting.

All of these efforts led me to the academic world to seek answers to my basic question, 'why do American Catholics/Christians think the way they do'. My studies in Historical Theology at St. Louis University centered on the American period. The historical role religion played in the 'e pluribus unum' concept of American democracy I found vital to understanding and living American life. The current debate over the significance of Christopher Columbus and his place in history is a prime example of the complexity that American pluralism poses to American Catholics in daily life.

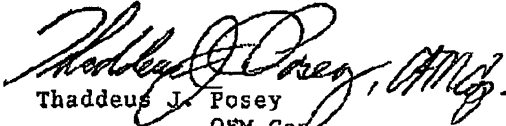
In reading your catalogue, I noted that the theology program of the University of St. Thomas, seeks to guide students in exploring the rich plurality of ways in which the religious dimension of human experience has been and continues to be perceived and expressed. The courses not only expose them to what might be different in their eyes, but provides them with the tools to confidently interact with an understanding spirit. The department's effort to stimulate

mature, critical reflection about some of the fundamental human questions, given a solid Catholic foundation, provides the students with the tools for discussion and a common ground to explore anyone's awareness of God's presence in history. Such understanding is the key to better living in a pluralistic society. It is the philosophy I have tried to live as an educator.

The interdisciplinary experience in Religious Education is one of the credentials I offer to the University of St. Thomas in applying for the position Historical Theology. My background in Theology, Anthropology and Black Studies mesh well to allow me to address a broad range of concerns within Catholicism. As an historical theologian I address topics of the Catholic tradition, placing them within the contexts of their development. The principles of dialogue and cooperative learning are, I believe, a 'sine qua non' to the study of any of the pluralistic dynamics of life, especially religion in America. The reformation experience and its Catholic response is pivotal to the understanding of the development of American Christianity. The diverse ethnic/religious ethos of European immigrants provided the issues and critical emphases that shaped American Religious experience. My experience as a military chaplain has led me to offer inquirers the evolutionary steps which have brought Catholics to hold certain positions. In light of the breath of my Catholic studies and experience in instructing Catholics as well as those not as familiar with Catholic teachings, I submit my application for the position in Historical Theology.

Enclosed with this letter of application, please find my complete dossier. Letters of recommendation will be forwarded at your request. I look forward to hearing from you. Hopefully the Annual Meeting of the AAR/SBL will give us an opportunity to meet. Thank you for considering my application.

Respectfully,


Thaddeus J. Posey
OFM Cap.



December 1, 1992

3634 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108-3395
314/658-2878

The Department of
Theological Studies

Dr. Don Briel
Chair
Department of Theology
Mail #5022
University of St. Thomas
2115 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

Dear Dr. Briel:

I am pleased to be able to recommend Fr. Thaddeus Posey for a teaching position in a department of religious studies or theology, bringing (as he does) an expertise in American religious traditions.

I have known Thaddeus for six or seven years, having had him in a number of classes through the years and having spent a good deal of time outside of classes talking together.

He is a competent scholar and engaging person who brings a wide background of experience to the task of teaching. I've been impressed by his openness to traditions different from his own (he has a genuine appreciation for the Protestant American tradition) and by his enthusiasm for learning.

During his years of course work here he was very active in duties relating to his positions as priest and military chaplain. This kept him very busy, but also provided a way of concretely relating all that he studied to the world about him. This is one of his gifts — being able to connect theological issues to life experience.

I have not been on his dissertation committee, but know that he is capable of sound research. I would expect him to do very well in a college or university teaching position. He is a highly compassionate, fair-minded, and literate scholar who is able to inspire excellence in his students. I recommend him with confidence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belden C. Lane".

Belden C. Lane
Professor of Theological Studies
and American Studies



3634 Lindell Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63108-3395
314/658-2878

**The Department of
Theological Studies**

January 20, 1993

Dr. Don Briel
Chair
Department of Theology, Mail #5022
University of St. Thomas
2115 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

Dear Dr. Briel:

I would be happy to recommend Thaddeus Posey for a position in any faculty dedicated to the study of theology and religious tradition. I have known him for seven years in the context of the graduate program in our Department of Theological Studies.

Thaddeus is gifted with a sparkling personality, and he brings a warm presence. He is a man of many and broad interests. He blends the breadth of his experience with good communication skills. Thus, he has already proven himself as a fine teacher during his time here at Saint Louis University.

Thaddeus has a keen interest in the varieties of Christian experience in North America, particularly as developed among minorities and indigenous peoples. At the same time, he is well versed in the whole scope of the historical roots of Christianity. I know from first hand experience he has acquired both research skills and extensive knowledge of the Medieval period. He could develop his teaching and research in several historical areas.

Thaddeus would be an asset to any faculty which seeks one who has broad experiences pastorally and academically. Yet, he has the skills to focus in particular ways. Above all, he is an outstanding human person, committed in his Christian life and values.

Sincerely,

Wayne Hellmann, OFM Conv.
J. A. Wayne Hellmann, OFM Conv.
Associate Professor of Theological Studies

RESUME

(Curriculum Vitae)

THADDEUS J. POSEY, O.F.M. CAP.

RESIDENCE:

Annunciation Friary
3621 Humboldt St.
Denver, CO 80205
(303) 297-9436

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
FR. THADDEUS JOHN W. POSEY, O.F.M. CAP

BORN: 10 MAY 1944
Washington, D.C.

PROFESSION: 14 JULY 1964
14 JULY 1967

ORDINATION: 1 MAY 1971

EDUCATION:

CIVILIAN

Morgan Elementary School, Wash., D.C.: 1-6

St. Gabriel's School, Wash. D.C.: 7-8

St. Fidelis High School, Herman, PA.: 9-10

Archbishop Carroll High School, Wash., D.C.: 11-12

B.A.

St. Fidelis College, Herman Pa. - 1966

M.A.R.E.

Capuchin College, Washington, D.C. - 1970

(37) HRS (Anthropology)

Catholic University of America, Wash. D.C.

(9) HRS Business MBA Program

Rockhurst College, Kansas City, MO

Ph.D Candidate: Historical Theology

St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO.

MILITARY

Chaplain's Basic Course US ARMY (G-20) - 1978

Introduction to Hospital Ministry : Chaplain's
CPE - 1981

Chaplain's Advanced Course US ARMY (C-23): 1986

Command and General Staff Course: (Phase III) Current

EMPLOYMENT:

CIVILIAN

Guidance Counselor: Archbishop John Carroll High School, Washington, D.C.: 1970-1973

Assistant Chaplain: Department of Human Resource Social Service Administration, Washington, D.C. 1971-1973

Resource Person: Annunciation School,
Assistant Parish Priest: Denver CO.: 1973-1974

Soft Management (People Services): Clara Gardens Inc., Denver, CO.: 1974-1976

Teacher (Social Studies/Theology) Machebeuf High School, Denver CO.: 1974-1977

Chaplain: Department of Youth Corrections,
Denver CO.: 1974-1977

Provincial Secretary/Treasurer, Capuchin Province of Mid-America, Kansas City, MO: 1977-1980

Member of College Formation Team (Academic Director) Capuchin Province of Mid-America, Kansas City, MO: 1977-1980

Director & Founder of Institute For Black Catholic Studies (Summers) Xavier University, New Orleans, LA: 1980-1982
Associate Director (Summers & Extension): 1983-1984
Director (Summers & Extension): 1985-1990

Director St. Charles Lwanga Center, 1980-1981

Teacher (English/Social Studies/Theology)
Counselor/College Placement: Cardinal Ritter College Prep: 1981-1985

Instructor of Theology, St. Louis University 1982-1990.

Member of Post-Novitiate Formation Team,
Capuchin Province of Mid-America, St. Louis, MO: 1984-1986

Guardian: St. Patrick Friary, St. Louis, MO. 1986-1990.

On Site Director: Institute for Black Catholic Studies Xavier University, New Orleans, LA. 1990-1991.
(Currently on Sabbatical)

MILITARY

Chaplain, 243rd S&S BN, Parsons KS. 1977-1978

Assistant Staff Chaplain 326th ASGP, Kansas City
KS.: 1978-1981

Staff Chaplain, 326th ASGP, Kansas City, KS:
1981-1990

Training Chaplain, 377th TAACOM, New Orleans, LA:
1990-present.

SPECIAL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT:

Office of Urban Affairs, Washington D.C.
(Msgr. Geno Baroni): 1967-1970

Urban Rehabilitation Corporation, Washington,
D.C. (Summer): 1970

Special Assistant: Urban Task Force, USOC
(Fr. Charles Burns): 1969-1970

Special Assistant: Catholic Youth Services,
Archdiocese of Denver, Denver CO. (Fr. Ken
Leone): 1974-1977

Special Assistant: National Office For Black
Catholics, Washington, D.C. (Br. Joseph M.
Davis): 1974-1978

Moderator for National Black Catholic
Seminarians Association (NBCSA): 1977-1981

Chairperson, National Black Catholic Theological
Symposium, Black Catholic Clergy Caucus (NBCCC):
1978/1980

Member of Archdiocesan Vocation Commission,
Archdiocese of St. Louis (Fr. Don Brinkman), St.
Louis, MO.: 1982-1985

Member of Archdiocesan Human Rights Office
Advisory Board, Archdiocese of St. Louis, St.
Louis, MO.: 1985-1989

Member of Archdiocesan Committee on the
Permanent Diaconate, Archdiocese of St. Louis,
St. Louis, MO.: 1989-1990.

Member of the Admissions Committee, Nursing
Anesthesiology Program, Charity Hospital, New
Orleans, LA: 1990-1991.

Member of the Advisory Board, Nursing Anesthesiology
Program, Charity Hospital, New Orleans, LA: 1990-1991

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL BLACK CATHOLIC CLERGY CAUCUS: 1968-1992

Secretary: 1969-1973

Board Member: 1977-1979

Vice-President: 1979-1981

Board Member: 1981-1983

RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION (ROA)-1977

PARENTING FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE NETWORK: 1986

Thera Alpha Kappa - 1986

National Honor Society for Religious Studies/Theology

Southern Conference on Afro-American Studies, Inc. - 1990

American Academy of Religion - 1991

The National Council For Black Studies, Inc. - 1991

PUBLICATIONS

BLACK PERSPECTIVES ON EVANGELIZATION OF THE MODERN WORLD,
NOBC, Washington, D.C., 1974 : Contributing Writer.

THEOLOGY: A PORTRAIT IN BLACK, ed. Thaddeus J.
Posey, Capuchin Press, Pgh., PA., 1980

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME: The African American Catholic
Hymnal. Chicago: G.I.A. Publications, Inc., 1987.: Resource
Person.

ACADEMIC INTEREST

MAJOR FIELD: Religion in America (esp. African-American Religions)

MINOR FIELD: Religion and Culture (Pluralism) and Franciscanism

DISSERTATION TOPIC AND DIRECTOR:

"Spirituality of the Early Oblate Sisters of Providence",
under Fr. Wayne Hellman, OFM Conv.

AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCY:

American Catholicism

History and Development of Religion in America.

Black Religious Experience

Major Themes in Black Religious Thought

Cults in Black Religion

History of the Christian Tradition

World Religions

Caribbean Religious Experience, Christian and ATR.

Monasticism & Religious Life.

Introduction Course to Religious Experience

19th Century American Catholic Thought

20th Century American Catholicism

DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 1993
MEMO TO: FR. DENNIS DEASE
FROM: FR. KEVIN MCDONOUGH
SUBJECT: FR. THADDEUS J. POSEY

Thank you for sending me the information about Fr. Posey. He certainly looks like a real "catch" for the University.

* You called with concerns about the backgrounding required by the Archdiocese. To this point, I do not believe that any problems have been created by the procedure you have pursued. You have hired him to serve as a professor at the University, not as a provider of a direct pastoral ministry. Before he can receive the faculties of the Archdiocese to engage in any pastoral ministry here, however, we will have to do those background checks. I presume that Fr. Posey will want to be able to celebrate Mass and hear confessions here in the Archdiocese. We certainly would want him to do so if he is willing to. If that is so, then we will pursue the normal procedure that happens whenever a religious order priest comes into the Archdiocese. He would write to the Archbishop and request faculties, mentioning in the letter that he has been hired by the University. If possible, with that original letter he would include a letter of recommendation from his Superior. If we need further information beside that provided in the letter of recommendation, then a Chancery official will contact Fr. Posey and/or his religious community.

✓ Could I ask you to forward a copy of this memorandum to him if you see no difficulties in it? Once again, I do not believe that there is any difficulty in the procedure that has been pursued so far. Over the next several months, however, we will want to take the other steps necessary so that he may also enjoy the general faculties of the Archdiocese during his time here.

On a personal note, let me try to get in a good word for St. Peter Claver Parish. I would like to be able to let the people here know of his presence in the Archdiocese when that is appropriate. Maybe he and I can discuss that personally when he arrives.

cc: Sr. Dominica Brennan
Mr. Fallon

Mail #5006
2115 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota
55105-1096

Office of the President
612-647-5212

Fr's (new)
file, please

UNIVERSITY OF
St. Thomas

February 22, 1993

Reverend Thaddeus J. Posey, OFM
Annunciation Friary
3621 Humboldt Street
Denver, CO 80205

Dear Thaddeus,

I am delighted that you and your religious superior have decided that you will be able to accept our offer of a teaching position here at the University of St. Thomas in the Department of Theology.

Last week I contacted Father Kevin McDonough at our Chancery Office to alert him that you would probably be getting in touch with the Archdiocese about receiving faculties. (The Archdiocese is currently implementing a new background check policy and I wanted to be sure I had complied with those new procedures.) Father McDonough asked me to send you a copy of his reply to me. Please find a copy enclosed.

Father McDonough is pastor at St. Peter Claver Parish here. A parish that has traditionally served the black Catholic community. He is quite excited about your coming to the Archdiocese and hopes that he will be able to introduce you at some point to his parishioners.

You may want to contact Father McDonough, our Vicar General, about receiving the faculties of the Archdiocese. I would also suggest that you contact Father James Whalen, who is in charge of the priest's faculty residence here at the University of St. Thomas. We will reserve an apartment for you and it would be helpful to him in his planning to have an approximate date for your arrival.

Again, I am delighted that you have decided to join us! I look forward to welcoming you to this campus!

Sincerely,



Reverend Dennis Dease

cc: ~~Fr.~~ McDonough
Fr. Whalen
Dr. Keffer
Dr. Pearson
Dr. Briel

May 20, 1993

MEMO TO: Archbishop Roach

FROM: Carol

Brother Lorenzo, OFM, Cap. called to thank you for allowing another "person of color", Father Thaddeus J. Posey, OFM, Cap. to come into the Archdiocese. He was at a meeting of the Commission of Black Catholics last night and Sharon Howell told him that Father Posey would be coming here sometime in June and would be teaching here. Where, he didn't know.

DATE: June 1, 1993
MEMO TO: Archbishop Roach
FROM: Sister Dominica Brennan
SUBJECT: Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap

Archbishop, this is the background material re Father Posey. In summary:

-- He has been hired as a teacher at the University, following their normal procedures.

-- He has been informed that if he wishes to exercise priestly ministry within the Archdiocese he will also need to apply for faculties and follow our normal procedures. Apparently, he has not yet taken that step.

DATE: June 10, 1993

MEMO TO: Mert

FROM: Dominica

SUBJECT: Letter from Father Charles Polifka, OFM Cap

Mert, at the Archbishop's direction, I have asked Father Charles Polifka to send the Archbishop a letter about Father Thaddeus Posey. That letter should arrive sometime next week.

The Archbishop said that he did plan to grant faculties to Father Posey, once he had this letter. Therefore, I have prepared the attached letter for the A's signature.

I believe that what I have attached here is sufficient background. If you happen to need Posey's entire file, however, Marilyn has it in her office.

After the letter is signed, would you please return it to Kathy, so that she can do all the "regular stuff" that needs to be done. She will then give everything to Marilyn for the file.

Thanks much.

DATE: June 10, 1993
MEMO TO: Marilyn
FROM: Sister Dominica Brennan
SUBJECT: Father Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap

Marilyn, this is just a reminder that Father Dennis Dease should be sent a copy of Father Polifka's letter when it arrives. I anticipate that that will be about the middle of next week. Kindly mark the envelope: Personal and Confidential.

I have informed Mert that you have this entire file.

Thanks much.

DATE: June 10, 1993
MEMO TO: Marilyn
FROM: Sister Dominica Brennan
SUBJECT: Father Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap

Marilyn, this is just a reminder that Father Dennis Dease should be sent a copy of Father Polifka's letter when it arrives. I anticipate that that will be about the middle of next week. Kindly mark the envelope: Personal and Confidential.

I have informed Mert that you have this entire file.

Thanks much.

DATE: June 10, 1993
MEMO TO: Kathy G.
FROM: Dominica
SUBJECT: Correspondence re Father Thaddeus Posey

Kathy, I have asked Mert to give you the Archbishop's letter to Father Polifka, after he has signed it. Will you then please do the "regular stuff" (marriage registration, etc.) as for any other such letter.

One exception to the normal procedure, please: Instead of sending copies of the Archbishop's letter to Father Polifka to all those folks on your list, please send them copies of the letter to Father Posey.

After you have done what you need to do, please give everything that needs filing to Marilyn, who has Father Posey's file.

*Council call-up,
please*

DATE: June 10, 1993
MEMO TO: Kevin McDonough
FROM: Dominica Brennan
SUBJECT: Father Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap

Kevin, there were some developments re Father Posey, which I want to summarize for you:

-- Some time around June 1, the Archbishop received a message, thanking him for "allowing another person of color" to minister within the Archdiocese. In response, he wrote a memo to Father Paul, saying he had never heard of the man (Posey), and asking Paul what he knew about him. Paul said he knew nothing about him.

-- I mentioned that I remembered that you had written a memo about Father Posey, some weeks before. The Archbishop asked me to check into it.

-- I gave the Archbishop the attached memo, dated June 1, along with the pertinent background. After he had read it, however, he told me that he did want us to do a background check, even if Father Posey never requested faculties. His rationale was: "He's a priest. And if anything went wrong, the press would not make a distinction about whether he was functioning as a teacher or as a priest."

-- About the same time, we received the attached material from Father Polifka, Posey's provincial, which Marilyn gave me, since I was working on the situation. The final page raised a red flag, of course, so I telephoned Father Polifka, who told me about an allegation made in 1989 (see memo, dated June 7).

-- After reviewing this, the Archbishop said he was open to giving Father Posey faculties, but that he first wanted something in writing from Father Polifka, summarizing the facts. On June 9, I requested such a letter, which should arrive sometime next week. In anticipation of its reception, I have prepared for the Archbishop's signature a letter in which he grants faculties (attached here).

-- I had called Father Dease, before we received the letter from Father Polifka, since I wanted him to know that we would be doing a background check. After the other developments, the Archbishop asked me to inform Father Dease about them. I did that in a telephone call this morning; Father requested a copy of Father Polifka's letter when it arrives. I have asked Marilyn to take care of that. In the future, Father Dease plans to ask us to do a background check as part of the process when they are interviewing priests who are potential faculty members.

DATE: June 10, 1993

MEMO TO: Kevin McDonough

FROM: Dominica Brennan

SUBJECT: Father Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap

Kevin, there were some developments re Father Posey, which I want to summarize for you:

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*Council call-up,
please*

DATE: June 10, 1993
MEMO TO: Kevin McDonough
FROM: Dominica Brennan
SUBJECT: Father Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap

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-- I mentioned that I remembered that you had written a memo about Father Posey, some weeks before. The Archbishop asked me to check into it.

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DATE: June 11, 1993
MEMO TO: Archbishop Roach
FROM: Sister Dominica Brennan
RE: Father Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap

Archbishop, when I spoke with you a couple of days ago, you indicated that you wanted to have something in writing from Father Posey's provincial, regarding the allegation which had been made against him, the action taken regarding it, and the provincial's recommendation. You also indicated that, when you had that correspondence, you would be willing to grant faculties to Father Posey.

Since I will be out of the office for the next few weeks, due to my Community's General Chapter in Illinois, I prepared the attached letter for your signature, assuming that the letter would be acceptable when it arrives.

For your information, I have also included here my own letter to Father Posey, which would only be sent if you actually grant faculties.

June 16, 1993

Rev. Charles J. Polifka, OFM Cap
Provincial Minister
Capuchin Province of Mid-America
3553 Wyandot Street
Denver, Colorado 80211-2948

Dear Father Polifka,

Thank you for your letter of May 24, 1993, in which you informed me that, with your approval, Father Thaddeus Posey had accepted a position on the teaching faculty of the University of St. Thomas. On Thaddeus' behalf, you also requested that he receive the faculties of the Archdiocese for the time that he is in residence here.

Thank you, too, for your response to my subsequent request for a written statement about the allegation made against Father in 1989. I appreciate your understanding of our need to have such information. As we both know, it is of the utmost importance for all concerned that we safeguard the integrity of the ministry offered by priests within this Archdiocese.

Based on the professional opinions you have received, and upon your own recommendation of Father Thaddeus Posey, I do grant Father the ordinary faculties of this Archdiocese, effective during the time he is resident here, and assigned to the University of St. Thomas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John R. Roach, D.D.
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

June 16, 1993

Father Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap
Theology Department
University of St. Thomas
2115 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105-1096

Dear Father Posey,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis!

Father Charles J. Polifka, your provincial, has informed us that, with his permission and encouragement, you have accepted a position on the teaching faculty of the University of St. Thomas. He also requested that you be granted the faculties of this Archdiocese, effective during the time you are in residence here.

With this letter, therefore, I wish to inform you that Archbishop Roach has granted you the ordinary faculties of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Since you will be living in the Eastern Vicariate, I ask that you notify Bishop Robert Carlson that you are a resident within his vicariate. A telephone call to Bishop Carlson's office at the Chancery will be sufficient.

Although you may never assist at marriages within the Archdiocese, we will nevertheless have you registered in Hennepin County. In this way you will be eligible to act as a civil official for marriages within this state should you be called upon to do so. It is important that you know the county in which you are registered, since you will be asked to provide this information on the form that is returned to the Clerk of Courts after each marriage.

Best wishes to you as you begin this new assignment, Father Posey. May your time here be richly blessed!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister M. Dominica Brennan, O.P.
Vice-Chancellor

June 21, 1993

Rev. Charles J. Polifka, OFM Cap
Provincial Minister
Capuchin Province of Mid-America
3553 Wyandot Street
Denver, Colorado 80211-2948

Dear Father Polifka,

Thank you for your letter of May 24, 1993, in which you informed me that, with your approval, Father Thaddeus Posey had accepted a position on the teaching faculty of the University of St. Thomas. On Thaddeus' behalf, you also requested that he receive the faculties of the Archdiocese for the time that he is in residence here.

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Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

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Capuchin Province of Mid-America
3553 Wyandot Street
Denver, Colorado 80211-2948

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Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John R. Roach, D.D.
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

226 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102-2197

The Chancery

Fr. Kevin

June 21, 1993

Father Thaddeus Posey, OFM Cap
Theology Department
University of St. Thomas
2115 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105-1096

Dear Father Posey,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis!

Father Charles J. Polifka, your provincial, has informed us that, with his permission and encouragement, you have accepted a position on the teaching faculty of the University of St. Thomas. He also requested that you be granted the faculties of this Archdiocese, effective during the time you are in residence here.

With this letter, therefore, I wish to inform you that Archbishop Roach has granted you the ordinary faculties of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Since you will be living in the Eastern Vicariate, I ask that you notify Bishop Robert Carlson that you are a resident within his vicariate. A telephone call to Bishop Carlson's office at the Chancery will be sufficient.

Although you may never assist at marriages within the Archdiocese, we will nevertheless have you registered in Hennepin County. In this way you will be eligible to act as a civil official for marriages within this state should you be called upon to do so. It is important that you know the county in which you are registered, since you will be asked to provide this information on the form that is returned to the Clerk of Courts after each marriage.

Best wishes to you as you begin this new assignment, Father Posey. May your time here be richly blessed!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister M. Dominica Brennan, O.P.
Sister M. Dominica Brennan, O.P.
Vice-Chancellor

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

226 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102-2197

The Chancery

Fr. Kevin

June 21, 1993

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Theology Department
University of St. Thomas
2115 Summit Avenue
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Sincerely yours in Christ,

Sister M. Dominica Brennan, O.P.
Sister M. Dominica Brennan, O.P.
Vice-Chancellor



Province of Mid-America
3553 Wyandot Street
Denver, Colorado 80211-2948
Telephone: (303) 477-5436
Fax: (303) 477-6925

Dear Archbishop Roach,

1. Thaddeus called me in September 1989 stating that he had received an Express Mail letter from the mother of a student he taught at [REDACTED] in the 1980's. The student had written, but not sent, a letter to Thaddeus. His mother found the letter. The letter speaks of abuse by Thaddeus which occurred in [REDACTED] when the young man was a [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED] put Thaddeus in touch with him, removed Thaddeus from ministry, and made the situation known to Archbishop May.

3. [REDACTED] I had Thaddeus undergo a complete evaluation at St. Michael's Retreat in St. Louis. I received the results of that evaluation and placed Thaddeus in counselling. Because of issues that Thaddeus felt would be best handled by an Afro-American counsellor, I had Thaddeus take up residence at our Capuchin College in Washington, D.C., while seeing this counsellor. A copy of the final evaluation statement from Dr. Martin Booth is included here.

4. Once Thaddeus returned from Washington, D.C., I placed him under a supervision contract. He was not allowed to perform any public ministry except through the military chaplaincy programs he was involved in. He used the time to complete his work on his doctoral thesis.

No

LIVE THE DREAM . . . MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

other allegation, nor any rumor of any inappropriate behavior, has surfaced. I have spoken to the victim several times, but he has not made any demands or claims. I have offered assistance, but he declined. [REDACTED] He contacted the superintendent of St. Louis Schools last year to talk about the incident. I was contacted and spoke to the young man at that time, too.

Thaddeus has completed all his doctoral work. He requested permission to interview for a teaching position. [REDACTED]

Thaddeus interviewed at the University of St. Thomas and was offered a position. The University made no contact with me, but Sister Dominica mentioned that she would confidentially make the issue known to Father Deis.

Archbishop Stafford and the appropriate officials in the Archdiocese of Denver are aware of the situation. Thaddeus did no public ministry while in residence here. He was under my supervision. Thaddeus was also approached last year by a school in the Virgin Islands to teach. I was uncomfortable with that situation and spoke with Bishop Sean O'Malley. We both agreed that this would not be a good position for Thaddeus.

Bishop Charles Chaput, in your province, knows Thaddeus, since he was the provincial of our province prior to me. I believe I consulted with Bishop Chaput when the allegations were first made known to me to find out some background. If you would like to consult with Bishop Chaput, please feel free to do so.

However, all my consultations regarding Thaddeus and an assignment to teach in a college/university setting have been positive. I also am of the opinion that he can minister publicly without difficulty.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to have any further information.

May the Lord give you His peace.

Sincerely in Francis and Clare,
Dr. Charles Polifka, OFM Cap.
Charles J. Polifka, O.F.M. Cap.
Provincial Minister
Capuchin Province of Mid-America

encl.

THE CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS

June 23, 1993

Province of Mid-America
3553 Wyandot Street
Denver, Colorado 80211-2948
Telephone: (303) 477-5436
Fax: (303) 477-6925

Most Rev. John R. Roach, D.D.
Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis
226 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Archbishop Roach,

I am writing this in response to a request from Sr. Dominica Brennan regarding faculties for Father Thaddeus Posey, O.F.M. Cap., a solemnly professed and ordained member of the Capuchin Province of Mid-America. I sent the appropriate request materials to the chancery and asked for a personal, confidential, call so that I could explain a situation regarding an allegation made against Father Thaddeus in 1989. The following information is presented so that you will know how the allegation was handled.

1. Thaddeus called me in September 1989 stating that he had received an Express Mail letter from the mother of a student he taught [REDACTED] in the 1980's. The student had written, but not sent, a letter to Thaddeus. His mother found the letter. The letter speaks of abuse by Thaddeus which occurred in [REDACTED] when the young man was a [REDACTED] student.

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4. Once Thaddeus returned from Washington, D.C., I placed him under a supervision contract. He was not allowed to perform any public ministry except through the military chaplaincy programs he was involved in. He used the time to complete his work on his doctoral thesis.

[REDACTED]
No

LIVE THE DREAM . . . MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

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Thaddeus has completed all his doctoral work. He requested permission to interview for a teaching position. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thaddeus interviewed at the University of St. Thomas and was offered a position. The University made no contact with me, but Sister Dominica mentioned that she would confidentially make the issue known to Father Deis.

Archbishop Stafford and the appropriate officials in the Archdiocese of Denver are aware of the situation. Thaddeus did no public ministry while in residence here. He was under my supervision. Thaddeus was also approached last year by a school in the Virgin Islands to teach. I was uncomfortable with that situation and spoke with Bishop Sean O'Malley. We both agreed that this would not be a good position for Thaddeus.

Bishop Charles Chaput, in your province, knows Thaddeus, since he was the provincial of our province prior to me. I believe I consulted with Bishop Chaput when the allegations were first made known to me to find out some background. If you would like to consult with Bishop Chaput, please feel free to do so.

However, all my consultations regarding Thaddeus and an assignment to teach in a college/university setting have been positive. I also am of the opinion that he can minister publicly without difficulty.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to have any further information.

May the Lord give you His peace.

Sincerely in Francis and Clare,

Dr. Charles Polifka, Jr. (p.)
Charles J. Polifka, O.F.M. Cap.
Provincial Minister
Capuchin Province of Mid-America

encl.

Why the delay since
April?

What are they doing
going to do? Response

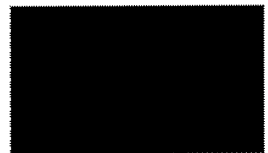
Need to talk to P
to her letter?

Mike Scully:

Send documentation

10 p. angry letter

Someone talked to



To _____

Date _____ Time _____

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M _____

of _____

Phone _____
Area Code Number Extension

TELEPHONED	PLEASE CALL	
CALLED TO SEE YOU	WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTS TO SEE YOU	URGENT	

RETURNED YOUR CALL	
--------------------	--

Message _____

Operator

Bill F

I am in meetings all afternoon,
but would like to call in
from the road tomorrow to
discuss:

1. The attached letter from
[redacted] concerning
(wacky!);

2. The attached correspondence
from/through that Posey's
superior (attached also to
Posey's file).

I have taken copies with me
and will call on Thurs AM.

K

303349
- 13898 -



THE CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS

June 23, 1993

Province of Mid-America
3553 Wyandot Street
Denver, Colorado 80211-2948
Telephone: (303) 477-5436
Fax: (303) 477-6925

Most Rev. John R. Roach, D.D.
Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis
226 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Archbishop Roach,

I am writing this in response to a request from Sr. Dominica Brennan regarding faculties for Father Thaddeus Posey, O.F.M. Cap., a solemnly professed and ordained member of the Capuchin Province of Mid-America. I sent the appropriate request materials to the chancery and asked for a personal, confidential, call so that I could explain a situation regarding an allegation made against Father Thaddeus in 1989. The following information is presented so that you will know how the allegation was handled.

1. Thaddeus called me in September 1989 stating that he had received an Express Mail letter from the mother of a student he taught at [REDACTED] in the 1980's. The student had written, but not sent, a letter to Thaddeus. His mother found the letter. The letter speaks of abuse by Thaddeus which occurred in [REDACTED] when the young man was a [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED] put Thaddeus in touch with him, removed Thaddeus from ministry, and made the situation known to Archbishop May.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
No

LIVE THE DREAM . . . MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

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Thaddeus has completed all his doctoral work. He requested permission to interview for a teaching position. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thaddeus interviewed at the University of St. Thomas and was offered a position. The University made no contact with me, but Sister Dominica mentioned that she would confidentially make the issue known to Father Deis.

Archbishop Stafford and the appropriate officials in the Archdiocese of Denver are aware of the situation. Thaddeus did no public ministry while in residence here. He was under my supervision. Thaddeus was also approached last year by a school in the Virgin Islands to teach. I was uncomfortable with that situation and spoke with Bishop Sean O'Malley. We both agreed that this would not be a good position for Thaddeus.

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However, all my consultations regarding Thaddeus and an assignment to teach in a college/university setting have been positive. I also am of the opinion that he can minister publicly without difficulty.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to have any further information.

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Charles J. Polifka, O.F.M. Cap.
Provincial Minister
Capuchin Province of Mid-America

encl.



THE CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS

June 23, 1993

Province of Mid-America
3553 Wyandot Street
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LIVE THE DREAM . . . MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

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Sincerely in Francis and Clare,

Dr. Charles Polifka, Jr. Cyp.
Charles J. Polifka, O.F.M. Cap.
Provincial Minister
Capuchin Province of Mid-America

encl.

July 12, 1993

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend Charles J. Polifka, OFM Cap.
Capuchin Franciscans
3553 Wyandot St.
Denver, CO 80211-2948

Dear Fr. Polifka,

At the request of Archbishop Roach, I am writing to you to follow up on your June 23 letter to him. As you recall, you and I have spoken on the phone in the meantime. I am writing to you to make certain that what I have heard from you and Mr. Sullivan, your Community attorney, in the last ten days or so has been correct.

As I mentioned to you on the phone, I called you because your June 23 letter had occasioned some very serious rethinking on the part of the Archbishop. Apparently your earlier phone conversation with Sr. Dominica Brennan, our Vice-Chancellor, had communicated a solid sense of reassurance to her, which she in turn passed on to Fr. Dennis Dease at the University of St. Thomas. Your letter of June 23 implies that the allegations against Fr. Thaddeus were substantiated. Archbishop Roach was very concerned about that, since the best predictor of future behavior still seems to be past history, at least in this area of abuse. In spite of the counselor's reassurances, which you passed on to us, Archbishop Roach has wanted to insist that no potentially abusive priest would be in a ministerial position with potentially vulnerable persons.

The conversations that I have had since we received your letter have given a somewhat different picture. It is this that I want to confirm with you. Archbishop Roach has told me that if this picture is substantially accurate, he would remove his objection to Fr. Thaddeus' work at the University of St. Thomas. The key points that I heard are the following:

- 1) That you and your Community have tried carefully to obtain more detail and to confirm the rather vague accusations that were made against Fr. Thaddeus. You have never been able to confirm them, given the confused state of the complainant.
- 2) No similar complaint has ever been lodged against Fr. Thaddeus. A St. Louis Archdiocesan official with whom I spoke told me that there has been a great deal attention to these problems in their area in recent years, which makes him confident that if there had been other victims, they would have come forward.
- 3) Fr. Thaddeus himself has never admitted to the allegations, at least in any non-privileged forum. As you can see, this is a qualified statement, since I understand that it has been your practice not to require a member of your Community to incriminate himself.



[REDACTED]

5) Fr. Thaddeus has been extremely cooperative with all of the steps imposed on him. His life and activities have been closely monitored for the last several years, and those who know him testify to the healthiness and safety of his behavior.

All of this suggests that the single and rather old allegation against Fr. Thaddeus remains unconfirmed and unclear. Those who know him well consider him to be capable of exercising a full ministry without endangering vulnerable people, rather minors or adults. Would you say that this is an adequate summary of the situation?

Fr. Charles, I am grateful to you for your assistance in this process. Please understand that Archbishop Roach is very strongly committed to guaranteeing the safety of people who receive ministry from clergy active in this Archdiocese. Our experience has taught us that even the assurances of reputable psychologists cannot provide such a guarantee since the knowledge possessed by psychologists in this area is still evolving. For that reason, Archbishop Roach would be most reluctant to permit a priest to come into this Archdiocese and work if there is a confirmed case of sexual misconduct with a minor in the man's history. At some point, I believe that Archbishop Roach will also ask me to sit down with Fr. Thaddeus and ask him directly whether he abused this young man. We understand that Fr. Thaddeus may simply choose not to respond, and we would want to do as you have done in avoiding any pressure for self-incrimination. Please know that we regret the aura of suspicion that immediately surrounds anyone who has been accused, even with a vague and unconfirmed accusation, but our concern for safety as well as the atmosphere in which we currently work demands a good deal of caution on our part.

Once again, thank you for helping to clarify this situation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Kevin M. McDonough
Vicar General
Moderator of the Curia

KMM:jd

July 12, 1993

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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Capuchin Franciscans
3553 Wyandot St.
Denver, CO 80211-2948

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Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Kevin M. McDonough
Vicar General
Moderator of the Curia

KMM:jd



THE CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS

Theo Posny

July 31, 1993

Province of Mid-America
3553 Wyandot Street
Denver, Colorado 80211-2948
Telephone: (303) 477-5436
Fax: (303) 477-6925

Rev. Kevin M. McDonough
Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis
226 Summit Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55102-2197

Dear Father McDonough,

I am finally responding to your July 12, 1993, letter. I asked your secretary to read it to me on the telephone because you had left town and I was in the process of leaving.

I have thought long and hard about my response and want to be totally honest. I do not believe there is any reason to prevent Father Thaddeus from ministering. My consultations, supervision reports, and personal experience of Thaddeus all confirmed that the accusations were given a thorough and proper response. Thaddeus is and will be no danger to anyone, as far as I can humanly know.

I want to respond to your "key points":

- (1) I made every effort to get the complainant to contact Mr. Sullivan, our attorney, or to contact an attorney of his own who would contact Mr. Sullivan. I made offers of assistance to the complainant, but he was always very confused as to what kind of assistance could be given.
- (2) The statement as you have it is correct.
- (3) The statement as you have it is correct.
- (4) The statement as you have it is correct.
- (5) Your statement is correct. Thaddeus was "cooperative" from the beginning, even though working with his "independent spirit" made it troublesome at times to set parameters. The supervision provided was the best possible supervision given the fact of his independent nature and his need to finish doctoral studies.

I was rather surprised that no recommendation was requested of me or, as far as I know, anyone else in our community or any previous employees or anyone at St. Louis University before a contract was

LIVE THE DREAM . . . MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

offered. I do not believe that Thaddeus' difficulties, if there would be any, will come from this area of his behavior. I hope that I can somehow keep in touch with his supervisors/employers to assist in making the transition and the employment a fruitful and successful one.

Please do not hesitate to keep in touch. May the Lord give you His peace.

Sincerely in Francis and Clare,

Fr. Charles Polifka, O.F.M. Cap.

Charles J. Polifka, O.F.M. Cap.
Provincial Minister
Capuchin Province of Mid-America



THE CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS

Province of Mid-America
3553 Wyandot Street
Denver, Colorado 80211-2948
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Charles J. Polifka, O.F.M. Cap.
Provincial Minister
Capuchin Province of Mid-America

† †

1. TO:

2. TO:

3. TO:

4. TO:

5. TO:

- REMARKS:

REMARKS:
Here is the follow-up letter from his superior about Father Thaddeus Posey. As you recall, Posey is under contract with Univ. of St Thomas. I think it backs us up in having him teach here. Are you OK with letting this go for a year, or do you want further action.

FROM:

M: Kamug

DATE _____

8/5/93

PHONE

August 6, 1993

Reverend Charles J. Polifka, OFM Cap.
Capuchin Franciscans
3553 Wyandot St.
Denver, CO 80211-2948

Dear Fr. Polifka,

Thank you for your letter of July 31. That is very helpful, and it resolves the questions that Archbishop Roach has had.

I've just had a chance to talk with him. He is now ready to welcome Fr. Posey here to begin his teaching ministry. He has asked that I sit down with Fr. Posey in the next month or so to discuss all of this. I intend to do so.

I apologize for the procedural difficulties in this assignment. I can understand your "surprise" that your recommendation was not requested earlier in this whole process. I think this has been a good lesson for all of us.

By copy of this letter, I am letting Fr. Dennis Dease at the University of Saint Thomas know that Archbishop Roach has removed his objections to the presence of Fr. Posey. We look forward to his contribution to the life of this local Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Kevin M. McDonough
Vicar General
Moderator of the Curia

KMM:jd

cc: Fr. Dease

April 28. 2002

Father Superior
Capuchin Order

Dear Father Superior,

I am writing at long last and sending a letter that I received in 1989 and also sending a letter to the Archbishop of Saint Louis, Justin Rigalli. This letter is about my son's experience with Father Thaddeus Posey while he was at [REDACTED]. He was the [REDACTED] from the school and his letters tell a tale of sadness that stayed with him and with the family until he died and ofcourse long after especially in the aftermath of the numerous molestations and abuse presently reported. This sadness has affected the whole family many times in the negative as they turn away from the Faith. My husband had a strong enough Faith not to give up on life time choices and ways of living but the children had not set these patterns of living at the time of this tragedy and many of them turned off the good part of our faith living very good lives but without the comfort of the life style that the church offers especially in such difficult times. They have been denied this comfort and the blessings of the sacraments because of their mistrust of the clergy that so deeply hurt the family through my son who has been dead for [REDACTED] and who died a very hard death both physically and emotionally starting with the counseling of one of your priest and the subsequent rape of this young man who was looking for advice and not a life shattering experience.

The hard part about this situation in addition to our loss in the way that I was treated by a previous Superior when I brought the situation to him. He twisted my words and my grief and turned me away feeling a lot of shame that was not mine. Later I believe through our good friend and advisor [REDACTED] he paid for a retreat or two suggesting that is was we who had a problem. Today it seems ludicrous and I felt that I had to tell you and also try once more to contact Father Posey to confront him with this sorrow and let him make some kind of reparation for this grievous offense, as the HOLY Father calls it.

[REDACTED]

to affirm its quality and also to contribute to the decline of racial bigotry.

I love God and follow Him closely but the changes in my family because of this abuse were horendus. I was working to hold things together and the family and my work plus caring for my husband were all consuming not out of neglect but out of the needs of the family. It didn't seem the time for someone to shatter the efforts that raising a family takes and adding a tradgedy that no one would acknowledge or know what to do leaving the family feeling abandoned and shamed wondering why this had happened. Before this terrible crime [REDACTED] had been an excellent student and the most helpful child in his class rooms. My husband used to go to each and tell them that they were in control and that we were behing the teacher 100%. Interesting isn't that.

I must ask for your consideration to address the matter and to also address the matter to Father Posey. We must have some cintact this time and to assure this we will be including a copy of this letter to our Archbishop until it is honored in some way, not with the approach that I received earlier.

I know this sounds angry and I did not know that I was angry until I started this letter again. I receive much comfort from my Faith and do not want to interfere with that life at all but my children do not have the same feelings because of this transgretion so they are suffering from the loss of their brother and their Faith.

Our home is at [REDACTED] and our phone number is [REDACTED]. We are senior citizens and all of our children are still in Saint Louis except [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has a wife and three children and is a writer. All of the family are in agreement with this letter and are exspecting some response.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

be happy to be able to trust the people who are in charge of them when they leave home.

April 28. 2002

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Capuchin Order

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The hard part about this situation in addition to our loss in the way that I was treated by a previous Superior when I brought the situation to him. He twisted my words and my grief and turned me away feeling a lot of shame that was not mine. Later I believe through our good friend and advisor [REDACTED] he paid for a retreat or two suggesting that is was we who had a problem. Today it seems ludicrous and I felt that I had to tell you and also try once more to contact Father Posey to confront him with this sorrow and let him make some kind of reparation for this grievous offense, as the HOLY Father calls it.

We were raising [REDACTED] children at the time and my husband had [REDACTED] and we moved to the city to have the children attend [REDACTED] to live in the neighborhood and to attend [REDACTED] to affirm its quality and also to contribute to the decline of racial bigotry.

I love God and follow Him closely but the changes in my family because of this abuse were horendus. I was working to hold things together and the family and my work plus caring for my husband were all consuming not out of neglect but out of the needs of the family. It didn't seem the time for someone to shatter the efforts that raising a family takes and adding a tradgedy that no one would acknowledge or know what to do leaving the family feeling abandoned and shamed wondering why this had happened. Before this terrible crime [REDACTED] had been an excellent student and the most helpful child in his class rooms. My husband used to go to each and tell them that they were in control and that we were behing the teacher 100%. Interesting isn't that.

I must ask for your consideration to address the matter and to also address the matter to Father Posey. We must have some cintact this time and to assure this we will be including a copy of this letter to our Archbishop until it is honored in some way, not with the approach that I received earlier.

I know this sounds angry and I did not know that I was angry until I started this letter again. I receive much comfort from my Faith and do not want to interfere with that life at all but my children do not have the same feelings because of this transgretion so they are suffering from the loss of their brother and their Faith.

Our home is at [REDACTED] and our phone number is [REDACTED]. We are senior citizens and all of our children are still in Saint Louis except [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has a wife and three children and is a writer. All of the family are in agreement with this letter and are exspecting some response.

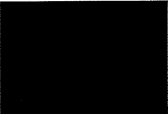
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

be happy to be able to trust the people who are in charge of them when they leave home.

received 8/19/02

Father Scully

 my husband has told me of your conversion. This has been a difficult time since trying to reconstruct years of trials beyond anything that we were prepared to face without large family. This is far beyond circumstances that face raising and supporting a family in the Faith so important to us as parents.

I have been in constant prayer since my letter spending much time before the Blessed Sacrament in Eucharist so encouraged by our Archbishop, trying to decide what is fair as nothing about the abuse was fair.

The lawyer Jeffrey Reinhardt has suggested a huge amount. He was recommended by our oldest son. We are uncomfortable with this and understand that the legal profession deal with large fees handling such a case.

So with this in our hearts and uneasy
feelings about a reversal of money from
our church which through the years even
hard years has been directed toward not
away from the Church and many other
religious associations that we support.
So we set about assessing the terrible
costs rightfully created by the family
resulting from our children's abuses.

The first funds were used to sustain
medical expenses & total care finally resulting
from the scourge of [REDACTED] directly connected
to Father Posey counseling and abuse leading

to what we deemed a correct life
style by Father Posey starting with Father's
initial abuse Medical bills, housing, etc
caused us to use \$8,000 that was left
to [REDACTED] after the five year caregiver
to his aunt prior to her death. This
amount was quickly dissipated by this
[REDACTED] mental torments.

[REDACTED] after hearing of Father's
transfer these leaving us with Semesters
bills losing \$8,000 and a second loss
as [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] was unable to cope
again with his terrors signing [REDACTED]
hope to finish college. This time left

This left unpaid bills owed to [REDACTED] close to 15,000 as after six, months he was becoming helplessly unmanageable in his emotions.

During this time when [REDACTED] returned home

[REDACTED]

This job afforded 15,000.00 and a place to live but 2,000 was sacrificed for the ^{three} years we lived there [REDACTED] Education was halted as he was [REDACTED] years younger & still in high school. His losses and expenses total 63,000. The other children one by one found jobs & lives much below their talents but we were unable to provide more and the hardest part was that the scourge of [REDACTED] was great and kept quiet from many in the extended family and the neighborhood, a very sad and sorrowful time for us handled only with emotion prayer.

The headache was really the hardest because [redacted] was the family glue with assistance and by adding to the family before this sorrow struck us. It is hard to imagine Father Porey continuing a life of a priest with much added education and approval. Reimbursement must be asked for and especially written acknowledgement from Father not in person, we are not up to that. I dealt with his effusive in friendliness and over presence for a long while, when he attempted to contact [redacted] through me when I didn't know what had happened and wondered at the constant visits & inquiries finally stopped by our daughters concern at his visits and insistence on contact with [redacted] which we unknowing prevented just because it didn't feel normal.

The family has suffered and are still suffering emotionally & spiritually from this abuse. Several do not attend Mass or the Sacraments & are not raising their children Catholic, a great sadness.

for us everyday.

Psychological help has been quoted for all of them suggesting two years at the least each child [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This help has been figured at \$2,000 each year totaling

I am [REDACTED] my husband is [REDACTED] He manages very strenuous apartment & I work 45 hours a week because [REDACTED] also took

[REDACTED]
which costs 10,000 a year for three years during [REDACTED], It is frightening to add up these expenses & losses to the family and not only [REDACTED] was abused by a parish assistant and a Brother [REDACTED] during his [REDACTED] award which he never got to finish. We are dealing with that with the Archbishop

Daily reminders and anniversaries are the hardest, caused by Father Posey and others

We called our daughter this week to tell a grandson to Max and she refused but understood that this is a beautiful person but wounded

[REDACTED] is struggling and still unable to think of his abuses after many years

I am sorry to say that no one has stepped forward to help us through the embarrassment & sadness of years of pain and finally losses. You know my reception from a previous Superior in your Order. Unconscionable words you say.

Money will not heal but begin the process that may never end. It looks like you (Father Posey) cost us \$300,000 and our son's life which is priceless. He died reconciled to the Church but unhappy to be dying fighting until the last hour.

[REDACTED]

COPY

August 23, 2002

Dear Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED]

I have received your letter concerning the costs and the pain you and your family have endured associated with matters involving Father Thaddeus Posey. I appreciate your taking the time to place a monetary amount on the different situations that have affected you and your family.

You have been through a very difficult period. As you know, the Church is now going through a very difficult period also. However, what I want to make clear is that we are sensitive to your needs, both spiritually and monetarily, and wish to help you in the most appropriate and meaningful way. What that may be, however, should probably rest with the decision of others.

Pursuant to the recent meeting of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the Province of Mid-America is in the process of setting up a Provincial Conduct Review Board, and I would like to refer this case to that Board. I do not know an exact time I can give you for future action because all of the variables are not in place. I will contact you as soon as we set this up. If we do not have it set up by the end of October, I will call you and discuss further action.

The purpose of a review board is primarily to address the manner in which the Order deals with a brother or priest that has been accused of misconduct. This may be challenging in this case because of the lengthy time that has expired since [REDACTED] death. While the review board would not normally be the forum to consider determining monetary compensation for your costs, I would not be opposed to asking such a board for recommendations in that regard. As you have noted, we are the stewards of contributions made by the faithful, and we should be guided by their considerations in the use of their funds.

I have been in contact with the Province lawyer and he and I are both working in consultation about your letter and about the review board. Please do not hesitate to contact me by letter or telephone at any time.

Peace,

Fr. Michael Scully, OFM Cap.
Provincial Minister

8/26/02

Fr. McDonough:

Here are the two copies I was talking about.
One is the first letter after the original Complaint.
The other is the letter from [REDACTED] that was never
sent.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks!

Peace

8/26/02

Fr. McDonough:

Here are the two copies I was talking about.
One is the first letter after the original complaint.
The other is the letter from [REDACTED] that was never
sent.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Thanks!

Peace

Kevin:

This is my own documentation beginning with my involvement only.

Posey documentation

early June, 2002

[REDACTED] after receiving a letter marked to the "Provincial of the Mid-America Capuchins," Mark Schenk and Mike Scully called the [REDACTED] No answer. I left a message to call me at the Denver office.

June 27, 2002

The husband [REDACTED] called Mark Schenk in Denver. Mark listened to him for a while, and finally told him that it would be better to talk to Mike Scully who was in Hays. Mark called Mike and gave him the information.

June 27, 2002

Mike Scully called the husband who answered the phone. He was still very upset about the reply that had been written to him from the Provincial office a number of years ago. He said that there had been repercussions in the family as a result of the letter. He said that now he wasn't sure how to proceed. He had wanted an apologetic response, and got none. On the subject of restitution, he said that he hadn't talked about that yet, but implied that some restitution should be made. Mike Scully listened to him, and asked whether the husband wanted Mike to come and visit him. He said that he didn't know whether that would be the next thing to do. He said that he had had no conversation with a lawyer or the police department. He was angry at the Church, and especially the Pope. He implied that the Church knew nothing about sexuality. He said that he was "guarding" his speech. Mike did not understand what that meant except perhaps that he didn't want to say anything too incriminating. Mike gave him his address and phone number, and suggested that he call him whenever he had made any decisions. Mike's own observation is that he sounded like he was drinking, and was somewhat under the influence of alcohol, although Mike, of course, did not know that.

August 20, 2002

Mike Scully received a letter from Mrs. [REDACTED] (on file in Provincial office). [REDACTED]

August 22, 2002

August 26, 2002

Mike Scully called Thaddeus and told him what was going on. (Mike had wanted to go to St. Paul, MN to inform him personally, but could not because of circumstances.) Thaddeus was very disturbed by the phone call, but agreed that Mike had to call the diocese. Thaddeus told Mike that the Vicar General was a friend of his, and gave Mike his personal phone number as well as the phone number of the Chancery.

August 27, 2002

Mike Scully called Kevin McDonough, Vicar General of the St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocese. Kevin agreed that Mike should have called him; in fact, he was waiting for Mike to call, he said. He asked Mike to send further documentation to him—[REDACTED] letter that he did not send to Thad, but which his mother found, and the April letter that was the first contact with the [REDACTED] Mike did send them. Kevin wanted to study what to do.

Wint Winter Jr.

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: additional information

[REDACTED]
Thank you. We will add you to the mailing list.

Wint Winter, Jr.
President & CEO
Peoples Bank
4831 W. 6th St.
Box 1795
Lawrence, Kansas 66049
785-842-4004
785-842-5842(fax)
wwinter@epeoples.com

*"The pessimist complains about the wind,
The optimist expects it to change,
The realist adjusts the sails."
William Arthur Ward*

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2002 11:35 AM
To: Wint Winter Jr.
Subject: additional information

Dear Mr. Winter,

My mother asked me to give you my information as well. My mailing address is the same as hers [REDACTED] My telephone number is [REDACTED] and my e-mail address is [REDACTED] My uncles and I use our computers more regularly than she does, so it may be beneficial to send copies of any e-mail correspondence to all of us.

Thank you again for helping our family,

[REDACTED]

Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Mail Plus - Powerful. Affordable. Sign up now

12/16/02

EXHIBIT "A"

STEVENS & BRAND, L.L.P.
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FAX (785) 843-0341
stevens@sunflower.com

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DIANE W. SIMPSON
EVAN H. ICE
SHERRI E. LOVELAND
MOLLY M. WOOD
CHRISTOPHER F. BURGER
BRADLEY R. FINKELDEI
MATTHEW H. HOY
LESLIE M. MILLER
JEFFERSON D. DILLON

RICHARD B. STEVENS
1899-1991

JOHN W. BRAND
1907-1971

January 15, 2003

WINT. WINTER, JR.
4831 W. 8TH ST.
P.O. BOX 1795
LAWRENCE, KS 66049
PHONE: 785-842-4004
FAX: 785-842-5842

Re: Capuchin Provincial Review Board, December 2, 2002

Dear Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED]

Thank you and your family for taking the time to meet with the Board on December 2. As we indicated to you at the time, it is important that you understand that you and/or other members of the [REDACTED] may have certain rights as a result of the civil and/or criminal laws of Missouri, the United States and/or other jurisdictions. The Board reminds you and other members of the family that the work of the Board is not a substitute for the civil and/or criminal proceedings and you should be certain that you are protecting your rights, if any, during the work of the Board.

The Board has determined that it desires to gather more facts in order to make the best recommendation possible to the Province. To that end, we respectfully request that you provide us the following information in writing on or before February 3, 2003:

1. The name of all health care providers for [REDACTED] commencing in 1980 through the date of his death and written permission from you, as necessary, for release of those records. The purpose of this information is to determine whether [REDACTED] provided information to any health care providers regarding the alleged abuse. If you prefer, we would be pleased to have the records evaluated confidentially by a third party expert (perhaps another health care provider) who could evaluate the records and let us know of the existence of any relevant information.
2. Names and last known addresses for friends and acquaintances of [REDACTED] during high school and after who may have knowledge of any statements made to [REDACTED] regarding the alleged abuse and of the relationship between [REDACTED] and Fr. Thaddeus Posey.

EXHIBIT "B"

January 15, 2003

Page Two

3. The exact amount of monetary consideration you believe is appropriate to be paid to you by the Province as a result of the alleged abuse. (At the meeting on December 2, members of your family mentioned payment of funds to the family from the Province but did not indicate what amount was believed to be appropriate. It is important to know the exact amount of payment you believe is appropriate.)

If you believe you need additional time beyond February 3, 2003 to provide this information, please let me know when you will have the information to me. The purpose of the information is to allow us to gain further insight into the allegations.

Following receipt of the information from you, we will contact you regarding the next steps. That might include an invitation to you and other family members to meet again to gain further information, if that is determined necessary and relevant.

Thank you again for your time and attention.

Very truly yours,


STEVENS & BRAND, L.L.P.



Winton A. Winter, Jr.

WAW:ss

cc: Michelle Fairbank
Kathleen Lenover
Anthony Pianalto
Tom Runge
Bob Sullivan
Fr. Mike Scully



Sharon Stallings

From: Wint Winter Jr.
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2003 11:12 AM
To: Sharon Stallings
Subject: [REDACTED]

Friends:

[REDACTED] called me and I returned the call. These are notes I made during the phone call with him on Friday, Jan. 17, 2003. I want you all to be up to date regarding communications in this matter.

My notes are as follows:

-He tried to get the records of [REDACTED]
He talked with [REDACTED] a Father (or other title) Henderson, and he also asked if he remembered [REDACTED] He (Henderson) said that he had [REDACTED] in homeroom and recalled nothing unusual about [REDACTED]

-Henderson said he could not disclose the records without the permission of the Archdiocese. So, he followed up with the Archdiocese.

-So [REDACTED] called the Archdiocese and talked to a Monsignor. (Can't recall the man's name now. He looked in his notes and found he talked to a Monsignor. Stika.) Initially, his father talked to Stika and he followed up with Mons. Stika. Stika told [REDACTED] that he "would follow up" after he found out what the procedure was for getting the info. That call was in "mid-December". Has heard nothing and that is why he is feeling put off.

-"I am insulted that I have not even recieved a call back from the Archdiocese about this. I realize there is a circling of the wagons here. I feel we are being stonewalled here".

-"I am told there is not Yearbook for [REDACTED]

-"They (the Church) "... seem to act concerned about sexual abuse and being open but they sure don't act like it in this case".

EXHIBIT "C"

He had not yet recieved my letter, I told him about the contents of the letter and asked for his help to get us the info requested. I assured him that we too wanted to review the school records and that I was confident we could get them, at least so long as the family too wanted them. He assured me we had the families permission to get the school records so long as they also had access to copies. (I see no problem with that of course.)

I told him we were still on a "search for truth" and thanked him for his time and that of his family. I indicated I was available if he/they had questions after getting the letter. I thanked him for his time.

Wint Winter, Jr.
President & CEO
Peoples Bank
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785-842-5842(fax)
wwinter@epeoples.com

*"The pessimist complains about the wind.
The optimist expects it to change.
The realist adjusts the sails "*
William Arthur Ward

Sharon Stallings

From: Wint Winter Jr
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2003 11:51 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Sharon Stallings
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Thank you. Will look forward to hearing back from you in a couple of weeks.

Thanks again.

Wint Winter, Jr.
President & CEO
Peoples Bank
4831 W. 6th St.
Box 1795
Lawrence, Kansas 66049
785-842-4004
785-842-5842(fax)
wwinter@epeoples.com

*"The pessimist complains about the wind.
The optimist expects it to change
The realist adjusts the sails"*
William Arthur Ward

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 03, 2003 11:46 AM
To: Wint Winter Jr.
Subject: RE: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Winter,

My family and I need a few days to a week to collect all of our information. Thank you again for your patience and consideration.

Respectfully,
[REDACTED]

Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Mail Plus - Powerful. Affordable. Sign up now

2/4/03

EXHIBIT "D"

February 28, 2003

Winton A. Winter

Stevens & Brand, L.L.P.

900 Massachusetts, Suite 500

P.O. Box 189

Lawrence, KS 66044-0189

Dear Mr. Winter:

Thank you for your letter of January 15, 2003. It sent a strong signal to our family that you and the other members of the Capuchin Provincial Review Board are committed to finding the truth concerning [REDACTED]

We have provided much of the information you requested. You will find that the bulk of our work centers on [REDACTED] medical records, which are most enlightening. In addition, we address your request regarding monetary consideration. Other information on [REDACTED] friends and acquaintances was harder to come by, which we discuss in more detail later in this letter.

First, however, we would like to make our own request. We have come to this inquiry in a spirit of openness and mutual respect, and the board has operated in the same way. In that spirit, we have made available many pages of private medical information, much of it very personal. Now, it seems logical and appropriate that the information begin to flow two ways.

We respectfully ask that the board provide us with the following: (1.) Copies of all correspondence regarding [REDACTED] and Father Posey sent to the order by our family prior to 2002. This was discussed at the Dec. 2 meeting and the board promised to provide the copies. Frankly, we had expected to receive them by now. (2.) All documents generated in the 1980s and/or 1990s as part of the order's investigation into our family's initial complaints regarding Father Posey. (3.) All available information on any other instances of abuse by Father Posey, either alleged or supported. (4.) Your input on whether the Archdiocese of St. Louis should be involved in this process, since the abuse occurred within the orbit of a diocesan school.

As for the information you requested, we offer the following:

(1.) Dozens of medical records, some containing statements by health care workers who reported being told by [REDACTED] that he was sexually abused by a priest. We have taken the liberty of having these records examined by a highly qualified professional. A letter outlining his findings is enclosed.

(2.) We continue to work on locating administrators, teachers and friends who knew [REDACTED] when he attended [REDACTED]. Our efforts were impeded by the school's

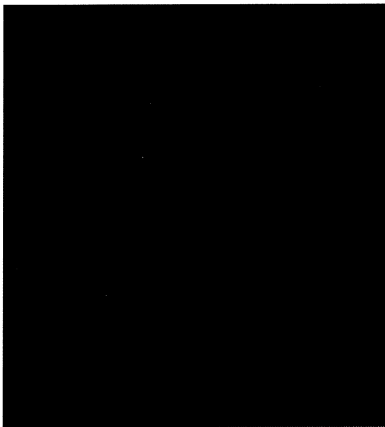
EXHIBIT "E"

initial refusal to let us examine so much as a yearbook. They have since relented and even agreed to grant our request for [REDACTED] school records. However we are concerned and more than a little suspicious that their only records for [REDACTED] entire time at [REDACTED] consist of a single sheet of grades. We had hoped the file might include notations about any efforts to counsel [REDACTED]. Perhaps the board would be willing to press the school and/or the diocese for the full file. We should add that we have had conversations with a handful of people formerly associated with the school, but none of them provided any useful information.

(3.) Perhaps the most difficult task you assigned us was setting an appropriate compensation amount for the abuse. We considered the startling new information in the medical records, which has third-party professionals corroborating key elements of [REDACTED] letter and his statements to family. We considered the nature of the abuse, which tormented [REDACTED] for years and diminished our lives as we saw him slip away. We noted what appears to be a failure to aggressively investigate this problem years ago, while [REDACTED] was still alive. We educated ourselves about the devastating effects of clergy sexual abuse and we thought about the words of Cardinal William H. Keeler, head of the Baltimore diocese, who recently called sexual abuse of children by clergy "the spiritual equivalent of murder." We also studied judgments and settlements in similar cases across the country. We have come to the conclusion, first, that any outcome must include an iron-clad assurance that Father Posey receives the help he needs and that meaningful steps are taken to ensure he harms no one else. As for an exact compensation amount, we lack enough information to give you one, hence our request for more facts and documents from the order.

Regarding that request or any other matters raised in this letter, we respectfully ask that you respond in writing or by phone by March 17, 2003. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

WINT WINTER, JR.
737 INDIANA
LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
(785) 842-4004 (work)
(785) 842-5842 (fax)
wwinter@epeoples.com

March 5, 2003

Re: Capuchin Province of Mid-America Provincial Review Board

Dear Board Members:

I received the enclosed letter along with a box containing other envelopes and other documents. I am dictating this to you on Tuesday, March 4 in the evening just before leaving town for a couple of days. I have not had time to look through any of the other envelopes or records in the box.

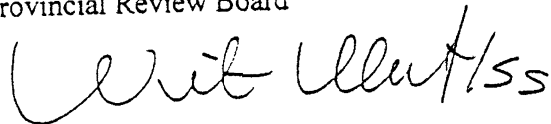
I am sending this to you just to keep you up-to-date and to solicit your opinions about the response which we should make to this.

Please email me your thoughts about this. We might want to consider scheduling a conference call among us so that we are sure to respond in the way that is appropriate for the entire Board.

I look forward to hearing back from you. I will be back in the office on Friday, March 7.

Very truly yours,

Capuchin Province of Mid-America
Provincial Review Board



By: Wint Winter, Jr., Chairman

WW:ss
Encl.

cc: Fr. Mike Scully
Bob Sullivan

P.S. to Fr. Mike:

Please let me know whether you have access to the documents which they have requested in this letter.

EXHIBIT "F"

STEVENS & BRAND, L.L.P.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
US BANK TOWER
900 MASSACHUSETTS, SUITE 500
POST OFFICE BOX 189
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stevens@sunflower.com

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SHERRI E. LOVELAND
MOLLY M. WOOD
CHRISTOPHER F. BURGER
BRADLEY R. FINKELDEI
MATTHEW H. HOY
LESLIE M. MILLER
JEFFERSON D. DILLON

RICHARD B. STEVENS
(899-1991)

JOHN W. BRAND
(907-1971)

March 11, 2003

WINT WINTER, JR.
4831 W. 8TH ST
P.O. BOX 1795
LAWRENCE, KS 66049
PHONE: 785-842-4004
FAX: 785-842-5842

Thank you for your letter of February 28. It arrived, along with the other documents, in my office on March 4, 2003. Immediately thereafter, I left the state on business for two days and I am leaving with my family for Spring Break and will be out of the office from Friday, March 14 through Thursday, March 20. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to the other members of the Review Board.

Due to the need to review the documents you have provided, the need to coordinate schedules and my schedule issues, we will not be able to provide a comprehensive response to your letter by March 17. We hope to be able to do so sometime in April.

Thank you for your patience and for supplying all of the material.

Very truly yours,

STEVENS & BRAND, L.L.P.



Winton A. Winter, Jr.

WAW:ss

cc: Michelle Fairbank
Kathleen Lenover
Anthony Pianalto
Tom Runge

EXHIBIT "G"

Pojinelli | Shalton | Valte

A Professional Corporation

700 West 47th Street, Suite 1000 | Kansas City, MO 64112-1802
(816) 753-1000 | Facsimile: (816) 753-1536 | www.pswlaw.com

Robert B. Sullivan
(816) 360-4151
rsullivan@pswlaw.com

March 14, 2003

Winton A. Winter, Jr.
4831 W. 6th Street
P.O. Box 1795
Lawrence, KS 66049

Re: Provincial Review Board

Dear Winton:

Thank you for your letter dated March 11, 2003 regarding the [REDACTED]

As you are probably aware, Father Mike Scully is leaving the country today and will not return until the latter part of the week of March 24, 2003. I did visit with him briefly last night, and both of us concluded that we needed some additional time to formulate our thoughts with respect to the request made by the [REDACTED]. This matter will be at the top of the agenda for discussion with Father Scully upon his return. During his absence, I will attempt to formulate some thoughts in order to make a recommendation on how to proceed.

Thank you for providing the information to me. I look forward to hearing from you regarding your evaluation of the information contained in the box of documents provided to you by the [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Robert B. Sullivan

RBS:alg

11021 / 14759
RBSUL 995121

EXHIBIT "H"

Kansas City, Missouri | Overland Park, Kansas | St. Louis, Missouri | Topeka, Kansas

April 8, 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 2003. I think that I can understand your frustration with the process, but the Provincial Review Board must take whatever time it needs to review all of the information presented to it before making any recommendation. I have no control over how long the process is taking.

I have been in contact with Mr. Wint Winter, the chairperson of the Provincial Review Board, throughout this process. He has received the information you sent for consideration by the Review Board, and has assured me that the Review Board intends to meet in the near future. I understand that Mr. Winter is going to provide you a copy of the letters exchanged between [REDACTED] and the Capuchin Province.

Following its meeting, the Review Board will make its recommendations to me, and I will take those recommendations under advisement with my Provincial Council. I will be in contact with you shortly thereafter.

Incidentally, I was present in the building during the entire meeting that you had with the Board. I was waiting their call, but in their opinion, it was not necessary to have me at your meeting. I met with them later and they explained to me the procedure they had followed and identified the persons that had appeared before them.

I am also hoping that this matter can be brought to an early resolution.
May the Lord give you his peace.

Fr. Mike Scully, OFM Cap.
Minister Provincial

cc Mr. Robert Sullivan
Mr. Wint Winter

EXHIBIT "I"

STEVENS & BRAND, L.L.P.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
US BANK TOWER
900 MASSACHUSETTS, SUITE 500
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LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044-0189
TELEPHONE (785) 843-0811
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DIANE W. SIMPSON
EVAN H. ICE
SHERRI E. LOVELAND
MOLLY M. WOOD
CHRISTOPHER F. BURGER
BRADLEY R. FINKELDEI
MATTHEW H. HOY
LESLIE M. MILLER
JEFFERSON D. DILLON

RICHARD B. STEVENS
1899-1991

JOHN W. BRAND
1907-1971

April 15, 2003

WINT WINTER, JR.
4831 W. 6TH ST.
P.O. BOX 1795
LAWRENCE, KS 66049
PHONE: 785-842-4004
FAX: 785-842-5842

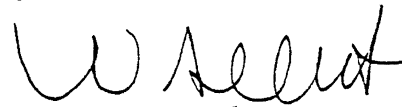
Enclosed you will find copies of (1) all correspondence from members of your family to representatives of the Capuchin Province and (2) copies of correspondence from any member of the Capuchin Province to any person in the [REDACTED]. The enclosed represents copies of all of the above described documents which have been provided to the Review Board and we have no reason to believe that there is any other correspondence as described above which is not included in the enclosed packet.

I apologize for the delay in this matter. Frankly, I have had a number of issues arrive at work which have demanded my attention. We expect to conclude our work in the near future and make our recommendation to the Capuchin Province.

Thank you for your patience. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding the work of the Review Board.

Very truly yours,

STEVENS & BRAND, L.L.P.



Winton A. Winter, Jr.

WAW:ss

Encl.

cc: Michelle Fairbank
Kathleen Lenover
Anthony Pianalto
Tom Runge
Fr. Mike Scully
Robert Sullivan

EXHIBIT "J"



THE CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS

Province of Mid-America
3553 Wyandot Street
Denver, Colorado 80211-2948
Telephone: (303) 477-5436
Fax: (303) 477-6925

April 16, 2003

Dear Provincial Review Board Members,

I have finally lined up the date to meet and it seems as though everyone can make it.

Date: April 29, 2003

Time: Arrive in the morning preferably before 10:30 a.m.
Until the evening approximately 5:00 p.m.

Place: 700 W. 47th Street, Suite 1000
Kansas City, MO 64112-1802
Fr. Mike's cell phone 303-349-3898

The plan is to review material in the morning and have a meeting beginning at 12:00 noon and finishing up in the afternoon.

Hopefully this is still workable for everybody.

Peace,

Fr. Mike Scully, OFM Cap.
Provincial Minister

MS/dkr

LIVE THE DREAM . . . MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

EXHIBIT "K"

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RICHARD B. STEVENS
1899-1991

JOHN W. BRAND
1907-1971

April 24, 2003

WINT WINTER, JR.
4831 W. 6TH ST.
P. O. BOX 1795
LAWRENCE, KS 66049
PHONE: 785-842-4004
FAX: 785-842-5842

[REDACTED]

You should have received by now my letter of April 15 along with copies of correspondence regarding [REDACTED] and Fr. Posey sent to representatives of the Capuchin Province by your family prior to 2002. This letter is intended in part to provide additional information in response to your letter of February 28, as follows:

1. We are informed that the Capuchin Province received no information in the 1980's or 1990's which supported or corroborated the allegations made by you against Fr. Posey. Specifically, we are informed that they have never been informed of any other allegations of sexual abuse by Fr. Posey against any other person whatsoever. Furthermore, we are informed that Fr. Posey has consistently and continually denied the allegations made against him by [REDACTED] and other members of the [REDACTED] from the time of [REDACTED] initial letter to the current date.
2. [REDACTED] initial letter dated September 17, 1989 to Fr. Posey was transmitted by Fr. Posey to the Capuchin Province within hours after the receipt of the same by him. The 1989 letter included the draft of a letter which was written by [REDACTED] on March 22, 1987 but, based on the evidence received to date, not mailed. [REDACTED] letter, of course, references an alleged event which occurred in early [REDACTED] sometime after [REDACTED]. We are further informed by the Capuchin Province that, upon receipt of [REDACTED] initial letter, Fr. Charles Polifka immediately wrote and requested [REDACTED] to meet with him and provide any additional information she thought might be helpful to review the allegations made in her letter. We are informed that [REDACTED] did not contact Fr. Polifka for a period of years after receipt of that letter. Instead, we are informed that the Capuchin Province, solely on the basis of the allegation itself, caused Fr. Posey to be relocated, compelled his

EXHIBIT "L"

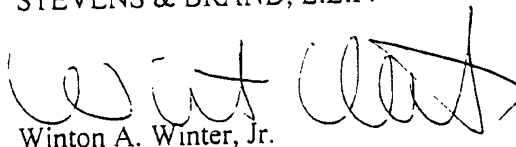
participation in mandatory psychological counseling, and thereafter placed him in a position in which his activities were closely monitored, again solely as a precaution and solely on the basis of these allegations. During the subsequent period of monitoring, except for the allegations made by the [REDACTED] no allegations of improper sexual conduct by Fr. Posey have been brought to the attention of the Capuchin Province, as we are informed.

3. The correspondence provided to you with my letter of April 15, 2003 comprises virtually all of the documents provided by the Capuchin Province which relates to the investigation of the complaints. The personal medical records and psychological records of Fr. Posey are a matter between Fr. Posey and his medical provider, are protected by federal law and other rights against the invasion of privacy that is extended to every American citizen, including priests, and that right of privacy may not be infringed upon by the Capuchin Province. The Board has received very reliable evidence, however, that a medical doctor specializing in psychiatry examined Fr. Posey shortly after the allegations against him were made by the [REDACTED] and found that "... there are no findings which would render him unsuitable to work with minor children, and no psychiatric reason for withholding any ministerial assignment". Based on Fr. Posey's right of privacy, we have not been provided any other detail or specific medical records or findings regarding Fr. Posey. The Board does, however, view as important the medical finding referred to above which was rendered after the allegations were made against Fr. Posey and after his evaluation.
4. We cannot provide any input on whether the Archdiocese of St. Louis should be involved in this process. The mission of our Board is limited to the Capuchin Province of Mid America. You are encouraged to fully consider and understand all of the rights and opportunities for redress that you may have in this matter.

Thank you for providing the many medical records and the other material. The Board will soon meet again and we will provide our final recommendations to the Capuchin Province of Mid America. Thank you again for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

STEVENS & BRAND, L.L.P.



Winton A. Winter, Jr.

WAW:ss

cc: Michelle Fairbank
Kathleen Lenover
Anthony Pianalto
Tom Runge
Fr. Mike Scully
Robert Sullivan

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LESLIE M. MILLER
JEFFERSON D. DILLON

RICHARD B. STEVENS
(800) 1991

JOHN W. BRAND
(907) 1971

April 24, 2003

WINT WINTER, JR.
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LAWRENCE, KS 66049
PHONE: 785-842-4004
FAX: 785-842-5842

Ms. Michelle Fairbank
2921 Ash Street
Hays, KS 67601

Ms. Kathleen Lenover
7500 E. Dartmouth Ave. #29
Denver, CO 80231

Mr. Anthony Pinalto
13920 Mastin Street
Overland Park, KS 66221

Mr. Tom Runge
405 West 32nd Street
Hays, KS 67601

Dear Michelle, Kathleen, Tony and Tom:

Enclosed are copies of various documents which I have received and which you should review in preparation for the upcoming meeting of the Capuchin Review Board set for April 29, 2003. Enclosed you will find the following:

1. Letter to me from Bob Sullivan of Polsinelli, Shalton & Welte in response to my letter to him of March 25.
2. Letter to me of February 28, 2003 from the [REDACTED] (This letter has previously been sent to you.)
3. My letter to the [REDACTED] of April 24, 2003 which provides additional information to the [REDACTED] in response to their letter of February 28. Much of the information contained in my letter to them comes from the information provided to me by Bob Sullivan in his letter of March 31.
4. Copies of a variety of documents – mostly medical records – sent to me by the [REDACTED] along with the letter to me from them dated February 28. This information is in four (4) groups which correspond to the contents of four (4) separate envelopes sent to me by the [REDACTED] along with the letter of February 28. I have reviewed all of that packet and have highlighted various parts of those documents.

EXHIBIT "M"

The letter of February 28 and the contents of the four packets were delivered along with a large box which also contains three other very large envelopes, the contents of which are hundreds of pages of copies of [REDACTED] medical records. I must admit to you that I have done nothing but leaf through them as it would take hours and hours to review those records. I will bring all of those records along with my entire file to the meeting on April 29. Please let me know when you would like the records to be delivered to the meeting site. I hope to have them there by 10:30 a.m.

As I indicated, I would strongly urge that each of us review the contents of this package and review our "Preliminary Report" dated December 3, 2003.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Otherwise, I will see each of you at the meeting on April 29.

Very truly yours,

STEVENS & BRAND, L.L.P.



Winton A. Winter, Jr.

WAW:ss
Encl.

cc: Fr. Mike Scully
Bob Sullivan

**CAPUCHIN PROVINCE
OF
MID-AMERICA**

**PROVINCIAL REVIEW
BOARD**

**[REDACTED] ALLEGATIONS
FINAL REPORT**

April 29, 2003

**CAPUCHIN PROVINCE
OF
MID-AMERICA**

**PROVINCIAL REVIEW
BOARD**

**[REDACTED] ALLEGATIONS
FINAL REPORT**

April 29, 2003

A. INTRODUCTION

The Capuchin Province of Mid-America Provincial Review Board ("Board") met in St. Louis, Missouri on December 2 & 3, 2002 and in Kansas City, Missouri on April 29, 2003 for the purpose of reviewing the allegations of sexual abuse made by the [REDACTED] against the Capuchin Province of Mid-America ("Province") and one of its members, Fr. Thaddeus Posey ("Posey"). All members of the Board were present in person at both meetings, along with the Secretary of the Board. The names and addresses of the members of the Board and the Secretary appear in Exhibit "A" to the Preliminary Report of the Board dated December 3, 2002 ("Preliminary Report").

This constitutes the Final Report of the Board to the Province. The Board incorporates into this Report its Preliminary Report.

Following the first meeting of the Board and the Preliminary Report, the Board sent a letter dated January 15, 2003 to the [REDACTED] requesting additional evidence and other information in order to assist the Board to answer the Questions presented by the Province to the Board. There were other communications between the Board and the [REDACTED]. (Copies of the correspondence are summarized in the Attachments to the Final Report.)

B. QUESTIONS PRESENTED

At its meeting on April 29, 2003, the Board again addressed itself to the three (3) Questions which were presented to it by the Province as follows:

1. **Can the Board determine by the facts available to it the accuracy of the allegations made by the [REDACTED] against Posey and the Province and, if so, are the allegations founded or unfounded?**

2. Should the Province make payment of any funds to or on behalf of the [REDACTED] as a result of the allegations?
3. Should the Province take any other action, including any possible disciplinary action against Posey, as a result of the allegations?

In its Preliminary Report, the Board indicated that there was "insufficient evidence presented" for the Board to reach a conclusion as to each Question.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE PRESENTED

The Board convened on April 29, 2003 in order to review the additional information received after the Preliminary Report. The Board reviewed the communications which had occurred between the [REDACTED] and the Board and other correspondence to the Board which is summarized as follows:

Email message from [REDACTED] to Wint Winter, Jr. dated December 16, 2002. Exhibit "A"

Letter from Wint Winter, Jr. to [REDACTED] dated January 15, 2003. Exhibit "B"

Email message from Wint Winter, Jr. to Provincial Review Board Members dated January 17, 2003, regarding a phone conversation with [REDACTED] Exhibit "C"

Email message between [REDACTED] and Wint Winter, Jr. dated February 3, 2003. Exhibit "D"

Letter from the [REDACTED] to Wint Winter, Jr. dated February 28, 2003. Exhibit "E"

Letter from Wint Winter, Jr. to the Provincial Review Board Members dated March 5, 2003. Exhibit "F"

Letter from Wint Winter, Jr. to the [REDACTED] dated March 11, 2003. Exhibit "G"

Letter from Robert Sullivan to Wint Winter, Jr. dated March 14, 2003. Exhibit "H"

Letter from Fr. Mike Scully to [REDACTED] dated April 8, 2003. Exhibit "I"

Letter from Wint Winter, Jr. to the [REDACTED] dated April 15, 2003. Exhibit "J"

Letter from Fr. Mike Scully to the Provincial Review Board Members dated April 16, 2003.

Exhibit "K"

Letter from Wint Winter, Jr. to the [REDACTED] dated April 24, 2003.

Exhibit "L"

Letter from Wint Winter, Jr. to the Provincial Review Board Members dated April 24, 2003.

Exhibit "M"

The Board then addressed itself to review the letter of January 28 from the [REDACTED] to the Board along with the copies of medical records of [REDACTED] which were provided by the [REDACTED] to the Board.

After review by members of the Board of medical records presented by the [REDACTED] and other evidence the Board determined the following:

1. There were several references in the medical records to comments made by [REDACTED] regarding allegations of sexual abuse by a priest which comments were (a) made at a time when [REDACTED] was also [REDACTED] and (b) contradictory and inconsistent with other allegations of [REDACTED]

2. In the [REDACTED] it is noted that "(patient) stated a 'priest raped him at [REDACTED] years old'". That comment contradicts statements that [REDACTED] was sexually abused by Posey when he was [REDACTED] years of age. (The [REDACTED] maintains [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] at the time of the alleged abuse shortly before [REDACTED] even though they say [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] parents cast doubt on his mental condition with the reference in [REDACTED] which state that [REDACTED] is a [REDACTED] year old male who is described by his parents as never functioning particularly well."

6. Never in any of the medical records did [REDACTED] state to any healthcare provider that he had been raped by Posey.

7. There was a reference in the medical records that [REDACTED] No reference of such condition was made by the [REDACTED] family during the meeting on December 2, 2002 or at any other time.

[REDACTED]

9. There is substantial evidence that [REDACTED] suffered from emotional problems which required [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Further, there is substantial evidence that [REDACTED] was the victim of abuse, whether emotional, physical and/or sexual, at the hands of one or more persons. [REDACTED] variously blamed his father, an unnamed priest, Posey and others for such abuse.

10. Other than the letter of March 22, 1987, (which was apparently not sent) there was no other written documentation from [REDACTED] or healthcare providers which indicated that Posey was the perpetrator of sexual abuse against [REDACTED]

11. There is no evidence that Posey [REDACTED] there is no evidence that Posey has been diagnosed with HIV or AIDS and evidence was presented that he has been recently tested for HIV and AIDS and that he is not infected.

12. Despite the request to the [REDACTED] in the letter dated January 15, 2003 (Exhibit "B") the [REDACTED] did not provide the names of any friends or acquaintances of [REDACTED] who may have knowledge of any statements made by [REDACTED] regarding the alleged abuse and of the relationship between [REDACTED] and Posey. Other than review of the medical records, the [REDACTED] presented no further evidence of abuse of [REDACTED] by Posey.

13. The Board reviewed the various Standards of Proof that are available in administrative, civil and criminal cases and adopted the "Preponderance of the evidence" standard which is as follows:

In civil cases, Courts generally require allegations to be proven by a "preponderance of evidence." Under this standard of proof, a claimant must introduce sufficient admissible evidence to persuade a jury that the occurrence of an alleged event is **more probable** than the *non*-occurrence of such alleged event. It should be emphasized that this standard of proof requires more than a mere mathematical or statistical likelihood – it also requires the **jury's actual belief in the truth** of the allegation, not merely the probability, based on the evidence.

14. The Board then reviewed the evidence presented to it at the time of the Preliminary Report and the additional evidence presented since the report and considered the relevance, probative value, materiality and weight of the evidence and determined as follows:

The [REDACTED] did not introduce sufficient evidence to persuade the Board that the alleged abuse of [REDACTED] by Fr. Thaddeus Posey was more probable than the non-occurrence of that alleged event.

The Board determined that, while it is clear that [REDACTED] suffered greatly during his life and was very likely the victim of some type of abuse, it cannot be said that Fr. Thaddeus Posey was the perpetrator of that abuse.

15. Notwithstanding the finding that it is not likely that Fr. Thaddeus Posey committed sexual abuse against [REDACTED] the Board finds that the conduct of Posey on the occasion of [REDACTED] was inappropriate and violated appropriate boundaries between a religious and a lay person. (That conduct is described in paragraph 13, page 10 of the Preliminary Report.)

D. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS PRESENTED.

On April 29, 2003 the Board reviewed its Preliminary Report and the findings referred to above and unanimously agreed on the following responses to the Questions Presented as follows:

1. **Can the Board determine by the facts available to it the accuracy of the allegations made by the [REDACTED] against Posey and the Province and, if so, are the allegations founded or unfounded?**

The allegations are unfounded.

2. **Should the Province make payment of any funds to or on behalf of the [REDACTED] as a result of the allegations?**

No.

3. **Should the Province take any other action, including any possible disciplinary action against Posey, as a result of the allegations?**

No, other than the actions recommended in paragraph E.2 below.

E. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS.

As a result of the hearings, meetings and discussions of the Board, the Board does make the following recommendations to the Province:

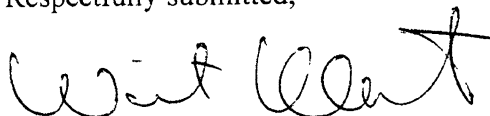
1. That the findings in paragraph 15 above be communicated to Posey and such actions as are necessary be taken with respect to Posey to insure that Posey does not engage in any such inappropriate conduct in the future.
2. That the Province undertake such training and communications to its members and those in training to insure that they (a) understand the appropriate boundaries between a religious and a lay person and (b) that they at all times maintain both the reality and the appearance of propriety and not place themselves in positions where they can be accused (whether properly or improperly) of any allegations of abuse. Members of the Province must be reminded at all times that the religious

are under scrutiny with respect to abuse and any other inappropriate relations with others – particularly children – and that it is incumbent upon them to never place themselves in a position where there is even the appearance of impropriety.

F. CONCLUSION

The Board understands that the Province will communicate as it deems appropriate to the family. The Board will not communicate directly with the [REDACTED]

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wint Winter, Jr.", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

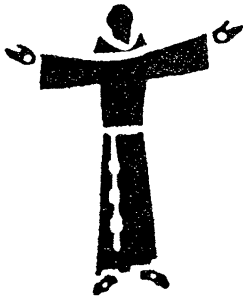
Wint Winter, Jr., Chairperson

Michelle Fairbank

Kathleen Lenover

Anthony Pianalto

Tom Runge

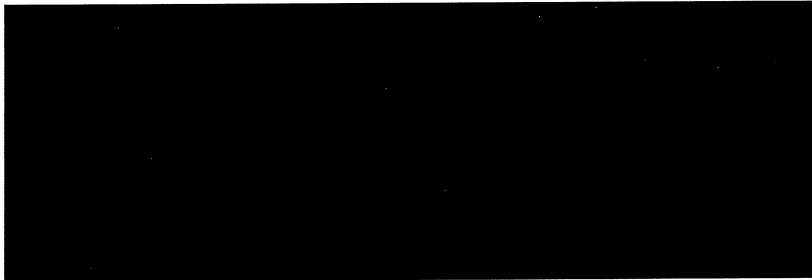


THE CAPUCHIN FRANCISCANS

Province of Mid-America
3553 Wyandot Street
Denver, Colorado 80211-2948
Telephone: (303) 477-5436
Fax: (303) 477-6925

COPY

May 23, 2003



On May 12, 2003, I received the [REDACTED] Allegations Final Report from Wint Winter, Jr., the Chairman of the Capuchin Province of Mid-America Provincial Review Board. Since that time, I have studied the findings of the Review Board, the recommendations made to me, as the Capuchin Provincial Minister, consulted with the Capuchin Provincial Council and prayed for guidance.

The recommendations and advice of the Council were presented without dissent, and represent the concurrence of each member of the Review Board and the Council. It is my decision to accept those recommendations as the final resolution and act of the Capuchin Province on the allegations you have made.

The Review Board was asked to review and hear evidence presented to it regarding three primary questions. Those questions and the Review Board's findings are as follows:

1. Can the Board determine by the facts available to it the accuracy of the allegation made by the [REDACTED] against Fr. Posey and the Capuchin Province and, if so, are the allegations founded or unfounded?

Board Finding: The allegations are unfounded.

2. Should the Province make payment of any funds to or on behalf of the [REDACTED] as a result of the allegations?

Board Finding: No.

LIVE THE DREAM . . . MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

3. Should the Province take any other action, including any possible disciplinary action against Fr. Posey, as a result of the allegations?

Board Finding: No, other than the actions recommended.

The action recommended was as follows:

"That the Province undertake such training and communications to its members and those in training to insure that they (a) understand the appropriate boundaries between a religious and lay person and (b) that they at all times maintain both the reality and the appearance of propriety and not place themselves in positions where they can be accused (whether properly or improperly) of any allegations of abuse. Members of the Province must be reminded at all times that the religious are under scrutiny with respect to abuse and any other unapproved relations with others – particularly children – and that it is incumbent upon them to never place themselves in a position where there is even the appearance of impropriety."

The Capuchins have already adopted a policy substantially similar to the above on October 9, 2002, and included the policy in its training and communications and will continue to do so.

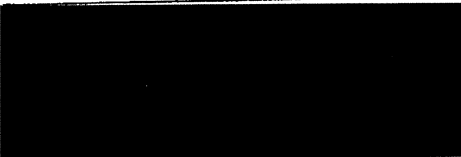
I recognize that the above findings are not consistent with your stated beliefs and opinions. However, the Review Board is the mechanism that the Conference of Major Superiors of Men instructed religious orders under their authority to use to handle allegations of sexual abuse. I believe that the independent work and findings of the Review Board, and their recommendations, deserve great weight in arriving at final resolutions of these matters. While the result is not what you desire, the process followed by the Review Board, and its Chairman, Wint Winter, Jr., was fair and thorough, and to my understanding, conducted with compassion and thoughtful consideration at all times.

My prayers are with each of you for peaceful resolution.

Peace,

Fr. Michael Scully, OFM Cap.
Provincial Minister

MS/dkr



This is the only job [redacted] has been
able to maintain w/ health issues
and this terrible experience has been hard
on his heart also



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3553 Wyandot Street
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COPY

May 23, 2003

Dear [REDACTED]

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The Review Board was asked to review and hear evidence presented to it regarding three primary questions. Those questions and the Review Board's findings are as follows:

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Board Finding: The allegations are unfounded.

2. Should the Province make payment of any funds to or on behalf of the [REDACTED] as a result of the allegations?

Board Finding: No.

LIVE THE DREAM . . . MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

3. Should the Province take any other action, including any possible disciplinary action against Fr. Posey, as a result of the allegations?

Board Finding: No, other than the actions recommended.

The action recommended was as follows:

"That the Province undertake such training and communications to its members and those in training to insure that they (a) understand the appropriate boundaries between a religious and lay person and (b) that they at all times maintain both the reality and the appearance of propriety and not place themselves in positions where they can be accused (whether properly or improperly) of any allegations of abuse. Members of the Province must be reminded at all times that the religious are under scrutiny with respect to abuse and any other unapproved relations with others – particularly children – and that it is incumbent upon them to never place themselves in a position where there is even the appearance of impropriety."

The Capuchins have already adopted a policy substantially similar to the above on October 9, 2002, and included the policy in its training and communications and will continue to do so.

I recognize that the above findings are not consistent with your stated beliefs and opinions. However, the Review Board is the mechanism that the Conference of Major Superiors of Men instructed religious orders under their authority to use to handle allegations of sexual abuse. I believe that the independent work and findings of the Review Board, and their recommendations, deserve great weight in arriving at final resolutions of these matters. While the result is not what you desire, the process followed by the Review Board, and its Chairman, Wint Winter, Jr., was fair and thorough, and to my understanding, conducted with compassion and thoughtful consideration at all times.

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Peace,

Fr. Michael Scully, OFM Cap.
Provincial Minister

MS/dkr

3 June 2003

Memo To: Archbishop Flynn and Archbishop's Council

From: Father Kevin McDonough

Re: Father Thaddeus Posey

I received from the Provincial of the Capuchin Franciscans the attached copy of a letter sent to the [REDACTED]. The letter contains the conclusion of their re-investigation of an old complaint against Father Thaddeus Posey. Father Posey had been cleared by the first investigation about ten years ago, before he came to teach at the University of Saint Thomas. In the wake of the abuse crisis last year, the Provincial resubmitted the matter to their Provincial Review Board.

The complaint had arisen years ago when [REDACTED] found a letter to Father Posey among the possessions of her son, who had recently died. The son had never mailed the letter, nor had he spoken to anyone about the incident to which vague reference is made in the unmailed letter. Based on several important pieces of information, including some eyewitness accounts apparently, Father Posey was cleared of any abuse allegations.

The attached letter was sent to the [REDACTED] to let them know the result of the reinvestigation. One would hope that this would be seen as good news by the [REDACTED]. However, Father Scully fears that – because of their continued pain at their son's loss (he [REDACTED] – the [REDACTED] may not be satisfied, and may want to attack Father Posey's trustworthiness.

I spoke today with Father Dease at Saint Thomas about this, both to inform him about the process and also to forewarn him about the possibility that the family may want to dispute the review process, attack Father Posey, and bring negative attention to Saint Thomas. [REDACTED]

Archbishop, we discussed this situation at an Archbishop's Council meeting while you were away. There was a general sense that the work done by the Capuchins should be accepted on its own merits. Nevertheless, it could also be prudent to let our Archdiocesan Clergy Review Board look at the Capuchin process, examining whether they think it trustworthy. This was not strongly pushed at the Council meeting, but was proposed as a possibility, if you have any doubt about the trustworthiness of the Capuchin process.

We received a full report, in addition to this letter. That report can be found in Father Posey's file.

Cc: Father Dennis Dease

*Sen
6/2
FA*

File
U.S.T.

Dawson, Bobbi.

From: McDonough, Kevin
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2007 12:30 PM
To: Flynn, Archbishop; Pates, Bishop; Dease, Fr. Dennis; Eisenzimmer, Andrew; Brennan, Dominica; Sawyer, Greta; McGrath, Dennis
Subject: Father Thaddeus Posey OFM Cap

Father Posey worked in our Archdiocese (particularly at the University of Saint Thomas) for about a decade — from the early 1990's through the early 2000's. Although still officially assigned here for the last several years, he was actually on active duty with the AS Army in his role as a chaplain. He recently retired from the University and is no longer here.

A recent article in Jet magazine indicated that Father Posey had been named as a defendant in a law suit alleging sexual abuse of a minor by several priests. One priest, and his diocese, settled with the plaintiff.

I contacted Father Charles Polifka, who is the provincial superior for the Capuchins. He stated in absolute terms that his Province does not believe the charges against Father Posey to be true. They had the matter investigated and submitted the results of the investigation to their Review Board. Father Posey received a "clean bill of health". He remains in good standing, according to Father Charles, although retired.

I asked Father Charles to make sure that our Archdiocese is part of the "communications loop" in regard to this matter. I would like to have us avoid bad surprises. As I receive information from the Capuchins, I will pass it on. I ask that you do the same thing for me. Feel free to forward this e-mail to your associates who ought to know this information.

I will be telling all of this to the Commission of Black Catholics at a meeting this evening. I will also tell it to the parish members at Saint Peter Claver (although in minimal detail) in some appropriate way. It was a Claver parish member who first spotted the article.

Reverend Kevin M. McDonough
Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
651-291-4434
651-646-1797 ext 103

Bob Sullivan
atty:

816-753-1000

~~St Louis~~
fr. Ted Wojcicki
314-371-4980

isolated
no publicity
took place
in 1982

INTEROFFICE MEMO from
ARCHBISHOP JOHN R. ROACH

TO:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bp. Carlson | <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Rauenhorst |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bp. Charron | <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Rockers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bp. Walsh | <input type="checkbox"/> Bro. Champine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Msgr. Boxleitner | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Bernet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Bossi | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Gries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Bowers | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Hesse |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Christensen | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Klima |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Dease | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Krocheski |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Fleming | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Nicholson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Jaroszeski | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Peine |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr. McDonough | <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. Willerscheidt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. A. Kennedy | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Baker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. P. Kennedy | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Berquist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Kenney | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Burke |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Notebaart | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Carr |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. O'Rourke | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Carrera |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Rask | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Cherek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Schnitzluis | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Errigo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Ward | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Fallon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon Baskfield | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Granger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon D'Heilly | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Heaney |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon Umphress | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Hennen |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr. Brennan | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Krietemeyer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Helnen | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Lassonde |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Meyer | <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. Willis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Murray | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> action | <input type="checkbox"/> recommendation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> see me | <input type="checkbox"/> prepare draft |
| <input type="checkbox"/> call me | <input type="checkbox"/> note & return |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> your signature | <input type="checkbox"/> information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> my signature | <input type="checkbox"/> as requested |
| <input type="checkbox"/> comment | <input type="checkbox"/> per conversation |

REMARKS:

Quickly

DATE:

6/28

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651-646-1797 ext 103

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CC: Winterer, James C.; Sirek, Patricia J.; McGrath, Dennis
Subject: Father Posey story

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We need to be in a position to respond if we get any media calls. I reviewed the matter with McGrath and we agreed that we should have a common response if either the archdiocese or St. Thomas is called - to acknowledge that Father Posey taught at St. Thomas from 1993 to 2004 and to say that we never have been aware (until now) of any allegations against him.

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By
<mailto:sylvesterbrown@post-dispatch.com> "
CLASS="storyByline">Sylvester Brown Jr.
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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He went to the high school Thursday, he told me, to speak publicly about the abuse he endured, to encourage any "past or present victims" to speak up and to urge the Archdiocese to confront the issue of pedophile priests.

He also wanted to send a special message to African-Americans like him.

After a hearty greeting, his old friend - now a teacher at Cardinal Ritter - told Spearman he'd read about his story in the May 28 edition of Jet magazine.

"What was that about?" the friend asked.

The teacher thought it unfair that Spearman had "gone public" against priests who couldn't defend themselves. The four named in the suit, Thaddeus Posey, Michael Barry, Chester Gaiter and James Thiel, are no longer active in the area. Gaiter and Thiel have retired, Barry is deceased and, according to David Clohessy, SNAP's director, Posey's whereabouts are unknown.

"Why did you wait so long?" the teacher inquired.

The questions sapped the warmth from the reunion. Spearman said he stumbled for an articulate answer but could only provide the one that motivates his actions today:

"I was a child."

Spearman's parents, Carrie Spearman and Charles Fairfax, wanted to provide the best educational opportunities for their son. They chose Catholic

schools because they offered excellent education, responsibility and Christian values.

While Spearman attended St. Paul's school in Pine Lawn from third to eighth grades, his parents encouraged his relationship with Thiel.

The priest took an interest in the boy, taking him on camping trips and care-package deliveries and allowing him to work odd jobs at the school, Spearman told me. His parents weren't concerned with the long hours he spent with Thiel. They were also unaware of what was really going on with the priest, Spearman said.

Cultural and religious taboos, he added, made it difficult to tell his parents. The African-American community still struggles with how to react to homosexuality and pedophilia, he said.

"Coming from a very testosterone-driven, African-American community, I heard negative things about homosexuals," Spearman said. "I was in limbo. I knew I should not be involved in these acts, but everybody loved Father. Father was good. Father knows best."

The abuse continued while Spearman attended Cardinal Ritter Prep, he says. He knows now that he was an easy target, a kid with low self-esteem who had problems fitting in with his peers. The priests befriended him, plied him with drugs and alcohol and played "mind games" to keep him quiet, according to Spearman.

"No one will understand," they'd say," Spearman recalled. "Keep this between us. Everybody's doing it. You'll understand when you're older."

He became an expert at living a double life, making up elaborate tales when his parents asked about his whereabouts. As an adult, he even took pride in "keeping it together," going on to earn undergraduate and master's degrees from St. Louis and Fontbonne universities, respectively.

But growing news reports about pedophile priests started to shame him.

"I read about so many abuse victims, some who committed suicide," Spearman said. "The Catholic Church is not telling the truth. It's more concerned with defending the entity, sweeping the problem under the rug."

Hopefully, Spearman said, his lawsuit, going public and speaking outside Cardinal Ritter will help spark change.

That work is already under way, according to Monsignor Vernon Gardin, vicar general with the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

"We are strongly encouraging victims to come forward," he said. "We review all cases and allegations and make them known to the proper authorities."

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Spearman's charges "date back some 20 years," Gardin said. "None of the accused priests are active today. If these were active cases, we would surely contact the school or parish, investigate and deal with it."

Spearman takes little comfort in the church's promise of action. Public confrontation, he said, is the only way to bring about change.

When we spoke Thursday night, the comments of his high school classmate were still on his mind. How dare he imply that the accused priests couldn't defend themselves when he was a defenseless child, Spearman snapped.

He regrets the entire conversation: "I should have responded as if someone had invited me to a Ku Klux Klan meeting; 'I'm not going there.'"

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Sent: Monday, June 18, 2007 11:17 AM CDT
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DOUG

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From: "Dienhart, Mark C." <MCDIENHART@stthomas.edu>
Date: Mon, 18 Jun 2007 08:59:35 -0500
To: "Hennes, Douglas E." <DEHENNES@stthomas.edu>
Cc: "Dease, Dennis J." <DJDEASE@stthomas.edu>, "Rochon, Thomas R." <TRROCHON1@stthomas.edu>
Conversation: Father Posey story
Subject: RE: Father Posey story

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Sent: Monday, June 18, 2007 11:50 AM CDT
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Subject: FW: Father Posey story

fyi

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From: Hennes, Douglas E.
Sent: Friday, June 15, 2007 3:51 PM

To: Dease, Dennis J.; Rochon, Thomas R.; Dienhart, Mark C.; Kelly, Marisa J.
Cc: Winterer, James C.; Sirek, Patricia J.; mcgrathd@archspm.org
Subject: Father Posey story

FATHER DEASE, TOM, MARK, MARISA:

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch last Sunday ran a story (see below) about a man who had filed a sexual abuse lawsuit against four Catholic priests, accusing them of molesting him in the 1970s and 1980s. One of the priests named in the lawsuit was Father Thaddeus Posey, a former St. Thomas theology faculty member.

Another story about the 2004 lawsuit appeared in a May issue of Jet magazine. The Post-Dispatch story says the lawsuit was settled in April by the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Jesuit and Redemptorist orders.

I have a concern that the story could land here. With Father Posey's name in print in at least two publications, it won't take long before people in the Twin Cities find out about the lawsuit, thanks to wide-ranging tentacles of the SNAP network, and the media could be tipped off and give us a call.

I checked with Sherrie in Tom's office and she said the files indicate Father Posey was on our Theology faculty from 1993 to 2006, although it appears the last year he taught was 2003-2004, after which he was on a leave of absence to serve as an Army chaplain at Walter Reed Hospital. He formally retired from St. Thomas in November 2006. The Post-Dispatch story says that Father Posey's whereabouts are unknown, and I couldn't find anything recent on him via Google other than the stories about the lawsuit.

I also called Dennis McGrath, the communications director at the archdiocese, to see if he had heard any rumors because he frequently has to deal with SNAP issues. He said he received a memo yesterday from Father Kevin McDonough with essentially the same information that I had plus the following: that Father McDonough had talked with the provincial superior of the Capuchins (Father Posey's order), and that the province did not believe the allegations against Father Posey to be true. The order had the matter investigated and submitted the investigation results to its review board, which gave Father Posey "a clean bill of health." He remains in good standing, the provincial superior said. Father McDonough said the Capuchins will keep him in the loop regarding any other developments.

We need to be in a position to respond if we get any media calls. I reviewed the matter with McGrath and we agreed that we should have a common response if either the archdiocese or St. Thomas is called - to acknowledge that Father Posey taught at St. Thomas from 1993 to 2004 and to say that we never have been aware (until now) of any allegations against him.

This sound OK to you?

DOUG

Man abused by priests urges blacks to speak out By mailto:sylvesterbrown@post-dispatch.com "SYLVESTER BROWN JR."
CLASS="storyByline">Sylvester Brown Jr. ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Below is the link to the story.

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/columnists.nsf/sylvesterbrownjr/story/4F34AC356916A21F862572F500103558?OpenDocument>
<<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/columnists.nsf/sylvesterbrownjr/story/4F34AC356916A21F862572F500103558?OpenDocument>>

Charles Spearman felt a sense of warmth after bumping into an old friend outside Cardinal Ritter College

Prep last week. It was an unexpected feeling because there was nothing warm about his visit.

Spearman, 38, took part in a sidewalk news conference with members of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, or SNAP. In April, the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the Jesuit and Redemptorist orders settled a lawsuit filed by Spearman in 2004. He accused four priests, three of whom taught at Cardinal Ritter, of molesting him during the 1970s and 1980s.

He went to the high school Thursday, he told me, to speak publicly about the abuse he endured, to encourage any "past or present victims" to speak up and to urge the Archdiocese to confront the issue of pedophile priests.

He also wanted to send a special message to African-Americans like him.

After a hearty greeting, his old friend - now a teacher at Cardinal Ritter - told Spearman he'd read about his story in the May 28 edition of Jet magazine.

"What was that about?" the friend asked.

The teacher thought it unfair that Spearman had "gone public" against priests who couldn't defend themselves. The four named in the suit, Thaddeus Posey, Michael Barry, Chester Gaiter and James Thiel, are no longer active in the area. Gaiter and Thiel have retired, Barry is deceased and, according to David Clohessy, SNAP's director, Posey's whereabouts are unknown.

"Why did you wait so long?" the teacher inquired.

The questions sapped the warmth from the reunion. Spearman said he stumbled for an articulate answer but could only provide the one that motivates his actions today:

"I was a child."

Spearman's parents, Carrie Spearman and Charles Fairfax, wanted to provide the best educational opportunities for their son. They chose Catholic schools because they offered excellent education, responsibility and Christian values.

While Spearman attended St. Paul's school in Pine Lawn from third to eighth grades, his parents encouraged his relationship with Thiel.

The priest took an interest in the boy, taking him on camping trips and care-package deliveries and allowing him to work odd jobs at the school, Spearman told me. His parents weren't concerned with the long hours he spent with Thiel. They were also unaware of what was really going on with the priest, Spearman said.

Cultural and religious taboos, he added, made it difficult to tell his parents. The African-American community still struggles with how to react to homosexuality and pedophilia, he said.

"Coming from a very testosterone-driven, African-American community, I heard negative things about homosexuals," Spearman said. "I was in limbo. I knew I should not be involved in these acts, but everybody loved Father. Father was good. Father knows best."

The abuse continued while Spearman attended Cardinal Ritter Prep, he says. He knows now that he was an easy target, a kid with low self-esteem who had problems fitting in with his peers. The priests befriended him, plied him with drugs and alcohol and played "mind games" to keep him quiet, according to Spearman.

"No one will understand," they'd say," Spearman recalled. "Keep this between us. Everybody's doing it.

"You'll understand when you're older."

He became an expert at living a double life, making up elaborate tales when his parents asked about his whereabouts. As an adult, he even took pride in "keeping it together," going on to earn undergraduate and master's degrees from St. Louis and Fontbonne universities, respectively.

But growing news reports about pedophile priests started to shame him.

"I read about so many abuse victims, some who committed suicide," Spearman said. "The Catholic Church is not telling the truth. It's more concerned with defending the entity, sweeping the problem under the rug."

Hopefully, Spearman said, his lawsuit, going public and speaking outside Cardinal Ritter will help spark change.

That work is already under way, according to Monsignor Vernon Gardin, vicar general with the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

"We are strongly encouraging victims to come forward," he said. "We review all cases and allegations and make them known to the proper authorities."

The institution developed the "Safe Environment Program" to teach clergy members, teachers, coaches, parents and students how to recognize and quickly act on suspicions of pedophilia, Gardin told me Friday.

Gardin also countered criticism that Catholic leaders are hiding cases of abuse and are not open about clergy abuse.

Spearman's charges "date back some 20 years," Gardin said. "None of the accused priests are active today. If these were active cases, we would surely contact the school or parish, investigate and deal with it."

Spearman takes little comfort in the church's promise of action. Public confrontation, he said, is the only way to bring about change.

When we spoke Thursday night, the comments of his high school classmate were still on his mind. How dare he imply that the accused priests couldn't defend themselves when he was a defenseless child, Spearman snapped.

He regrets the entire conversation: "I should have responded as if someone had invited me to a Ku Klux Klan meeting; 'I'm not going there.'"

Part of his motivation now is to encourage other "black people who feel it's taboo to talk about sexual abuse" to come forward if they were victimized.

His message, though, is meant for all sexual abuse victims.

"I'm reaching out to that person with a whiskey bottle in his hand, the drug addict, prostitute or the victim contemplating suicide who feels cursed by God because they were molested by a trusted priest.

"We are a fraternity, people who survived the worst. Maybe, if we stand together, speak out together, we will no longer be ignored."

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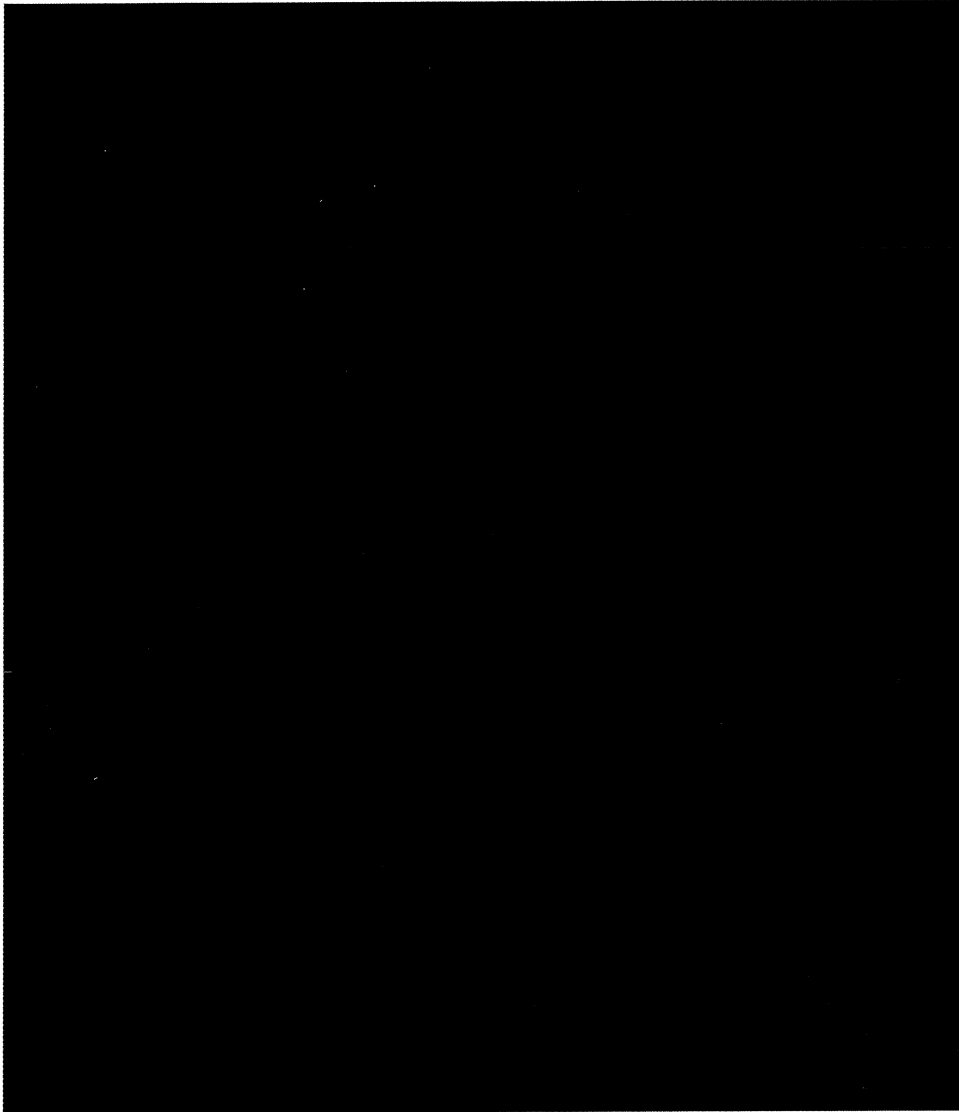
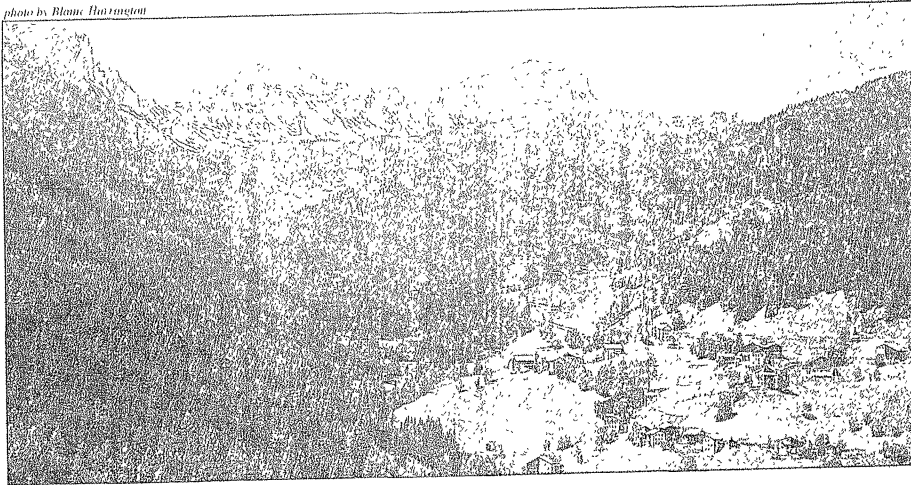


photo by Blaine Harrington



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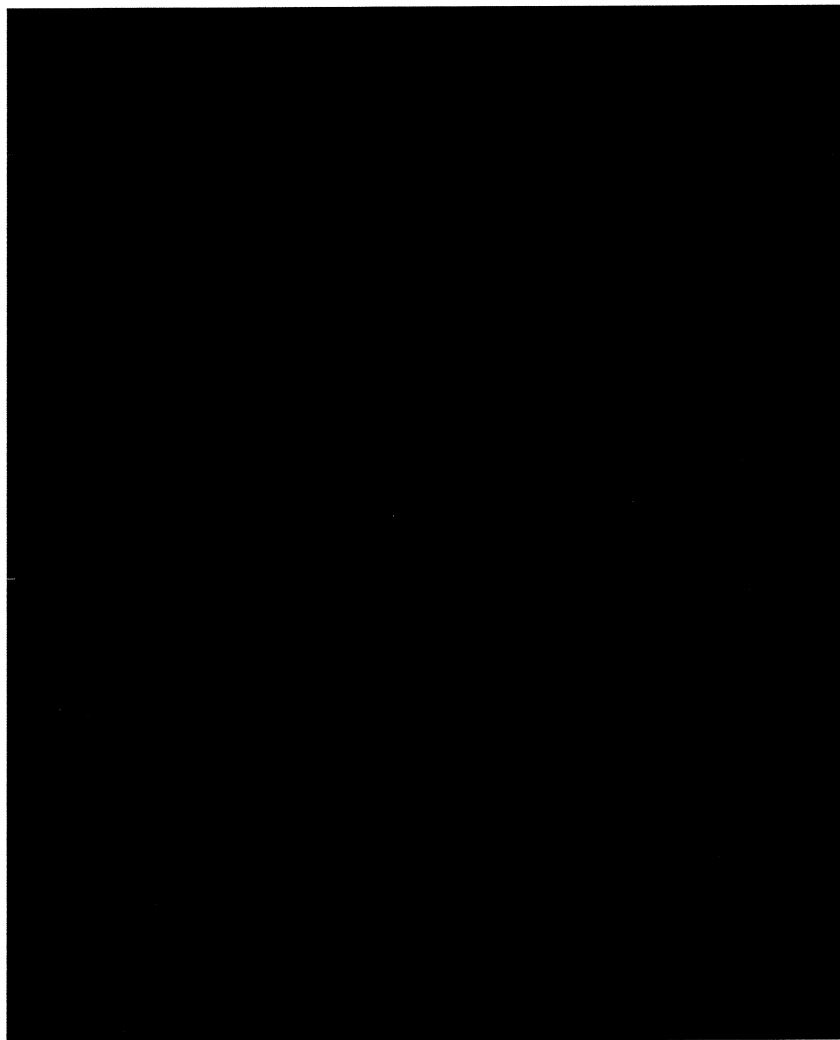
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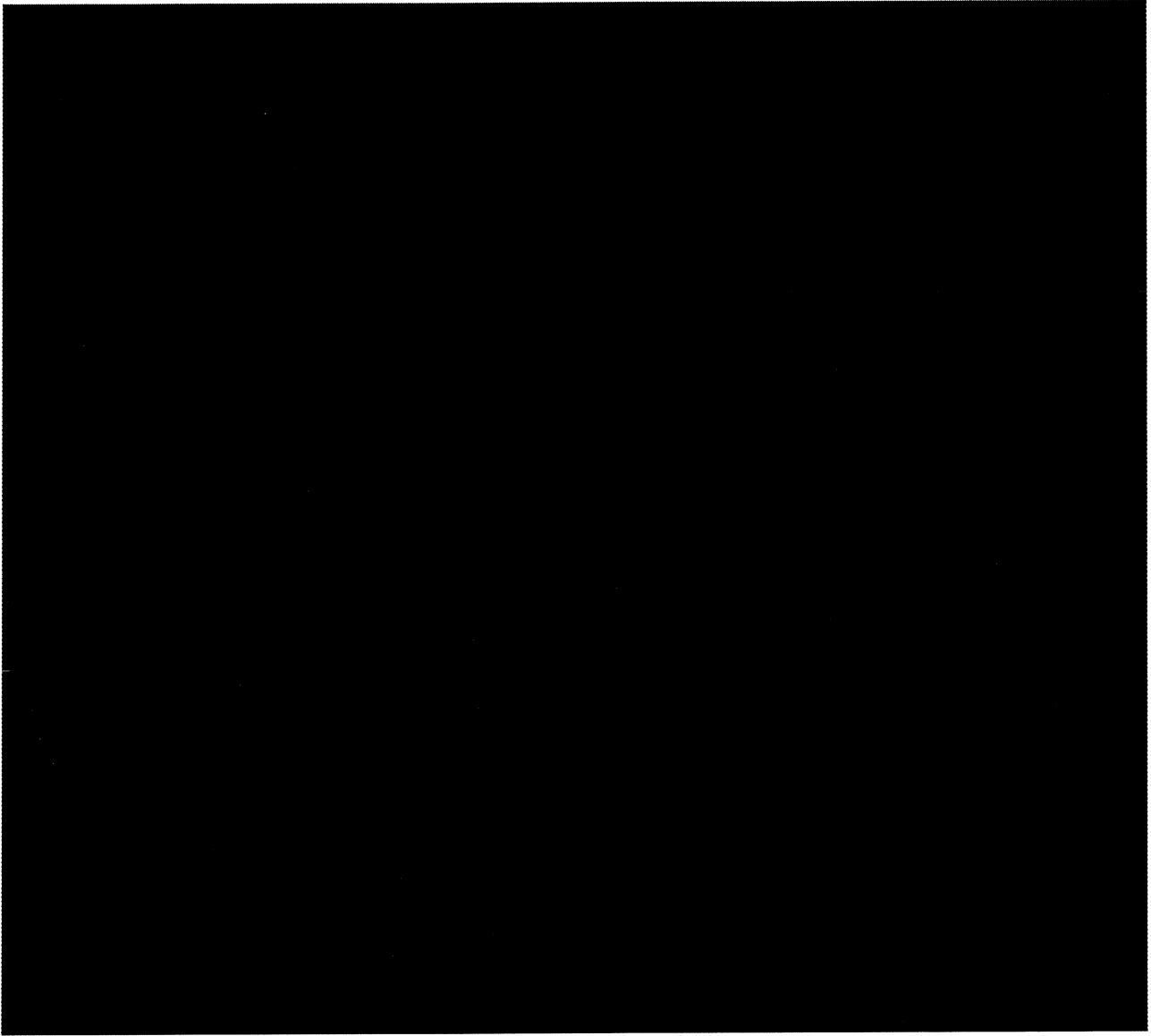
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