

May 15, 1974

REDACTED

I, [REDACTED] graduated from St. John's School for the Deaf in May, 1970. Here is my story with Father Lawrence Murphy from 1964 to 1970.

In 1964 I went to Fr. Murphy's office with my problems with Sister and Fr. Murphy scolded me as a bad boy. Then he encouraged me to his bedroom and taught me about sex. At the first thing he spanked my ass with his belt and he started touching my penis while he explained the sex things to me. Few days later again he called me to his bedroom and asked me to take my clothes off so he touched my penis and explained the sex things to me. So he started to bother me many times for coming to his bedroom and forced me to play the immodest things with him. Few days later he came to the boys' dormitory and to my bed and he touched my penis while [REDACTED] saw us from his bed. Sometimes Fr. Lawrence Murphy came to the Boys' dormitory to bother me. One night I saw Fr. Murphy touching [REDACTED] penis in [REDACTED] bed.

About 1967 or 1968 we moved to a new St. John's School building and again Fr. Murphy came to my privacy bedroom (with no door) and touched my penis in my upper bunk bed while [REDACTED] slept in lower bunk bed. Again, Fr. Murphy touched my penis all the time until I graduated.

During my confession with Fr. Murphy few times he played with my penis in the bedroom, in the bathroom, in Fr. Murphy's office. He always asked me in confession "did you play with the other boys?" I told him yes. Then he asked for the names of the other boys and I told him the names of the boys. So he bothered the other boys.

During the summer times Fr. Murphy took some boys and me to his cottage and on the way to his cottage I was a passenger and sat near Fr. Murphy driving while he touched my penis in front of the other boys. I don't know if they saw us. He treated us like his sons: went to the movies, restaurant, museum, etc. In his cottage bedroom he touched my penis and in the other nights, he played with the other boys.

During my Senior Trip to New York City and Washington, D.C. for a week, Fr. Murphy played with me in the hotel bedroom few times.

For my six years, I had suffered bad from Fr. Murphy.

When I go to the court, I will prove my truth about Fr. Murphy and will ask Fr. Murphy to take his clothes off. Before he takes his clothes off, I say to the judge that Fr. Murphy's penis is uncircumcised.

One more thing to say, many times Fr. Murphy went to the boys' shower room and looked down at our boys' penis. At that time Mr. Barnett was our boys supervisor.

Hereby, I sign my name on this true story about Fr. Murphy.

[REDACTED]

EX 511

ARCH\_MARSHALL 00397

September 12, 1974

M E M O R A N D U M

Re: Father Lawrence Murphy ✓

From: Father Robert G. Sampon

In a phone conversation with Father Murphy on Saturday, September 7, 1974, the following details were worked out:

Father will take what will be called a "Temporary Sick Leave" beginning in mid-September. This will be the designation in the fall edition of the Catholic Herald Citizen directory and in the forthcoming Pastoral Handbook.

This leave will extend until the end of November. After that time he will be in touch with the Archbishop as to future plans.

As far as the financial arrangements for Father are concerned, note the following:

St. John's School will pay his salary through the end of September.

Father will make application to the St. Michael's Priest Fund for full salary for the months of October and November. The Chancery will verify Father's permission from the Archbishop to take a temporary sick leave.

St. John School will continue him on their Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan through the end of the year 1974, i.e. the School will keep him on the forthcoming quarter which begins October 1.

Father was asked to so inform the St. Michael's Priest Fund so that his insurance will not be transferred to its group.

Father Murphy has paid up his Priest Pension Plan assessment through the fiscal year 1975, so there is no need to deduct this from his St. Michael's Priest Fund check.

I agreed to ask the Catholic Herald to continue sending the paper to Father at the Boulder Junction address until further notice.

*new phone no @ his home  
in B.J. (1975) = 715-385-2174*

EX 512

ARCH\_MARSHALL 00102

C  
O  
P  
Y

M E M O R A N D U M

Re: Father Lawrence Murphy  
Page 2

Father's address (not to be published) for the next three months will be:

Reverend Lawrence G. Murphy  
General Delivery  
Boulder Junction, Wisconsin 54512

Telephone contact can be made through the local parish. Phone:

Reverend Irv Meyett  
Pastor, St. Ann Parish  
Boulder Junction  
1-715-385-2390

A copy of this memo will be given to St. Michael's Priest Fund, to Father Murphy, as well as to the Archbishop.

RGS/ef

C  
O  
P  
Y

# MOST WANTED



M  
O  
S  
T  
W  
A  
N  
T  
E  
D

M  
O  
S  
T  
W  
A  
N  
T  
E  
D

REV. LAWRENCE . C  
MURPHY

EX5HB

ARCH\_MARSHALL00132

DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

1201 HUGHITT AVE.  
SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN, 54880

July 9, 1980

The Reverend Joseph A. Janicki  
Vicar for Personnel - Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
P.O. Box 2018  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Dear Father Janicki:

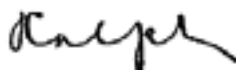
Father Lawrence Murphy from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is presently residing near Boulder Junction, Wisconsin. He lives privately with his mother. He has become a very good friend and a pastoral associate of Father Irving C. Meyett at St. Anne's Church in Boulder Junction. Father Meyett is also responsible for the missions at Presque Isle and Sayner. I am sure Father Murphy assists him in all three places.

Not long ago in a discussion with Father Murphy it became quite clear that he is interested in clarifying his status and relationship to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. He is desirous of obtaining somehow, somewhere an appointment to make use of his priesthood and his talent in the apostolate for the deaf. He is most desirous of returning to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and there minister to the adult deaf community. He is also willing to entertain other possibilities, if such were necessary.

In a recent conversation with Archbishop Weakland, I was left with the impression that it would not be advisable at this time to invite Father Murphy to return to Milwaukee to work among the deaf. I am wondering if I might impose on your kindness and your office to pursue this entire question with me. I think Father Murphy has a great deal to offer, especially in the area of the deaf apostolate. He can be reached at St. Anne's Church, P.O. Box 110, Boulder Junction, Wisconsin 54512.

Hoping you continue to cultivate your good nature and sense of humor, I remain

Very sincerely in Christ,



The Most Rev. Raphael M. Fliss  
Coadjutor Bishop of Superior

RMF:mi

EX 530

ARCH\_MARSHALL 00100

LM

①

I. Summary of Data

II. Conclusions

III. Recommendations

IV. Specific Subject Areas:

A. Victim Profile

B. Sexual Behaviors

C. Occasions/Settings

D. Typical Scenarios of  
Sexual Conduct

E. Cognitive Distortions

F. Confession

G. Morality Issues For A Priest

December 12, 1993

ARCH\_MARSHALL 00520

EX 547

Submitted By: Kathy Walter, MSW, BCD  
Clinical Member, Association for the Treatment

I.

(2)

SUMMARY (Based on self-report)

ADMISSIONS/DENIALS:

- Of the names reported, admits  
to sexual contact with

19 boys

denies sexual contact with

10 boys

- Denies sexual contact with  
anyone not named by  
outside complainants, i.e.  
admits to sexual contact  
only with those accused  
of.

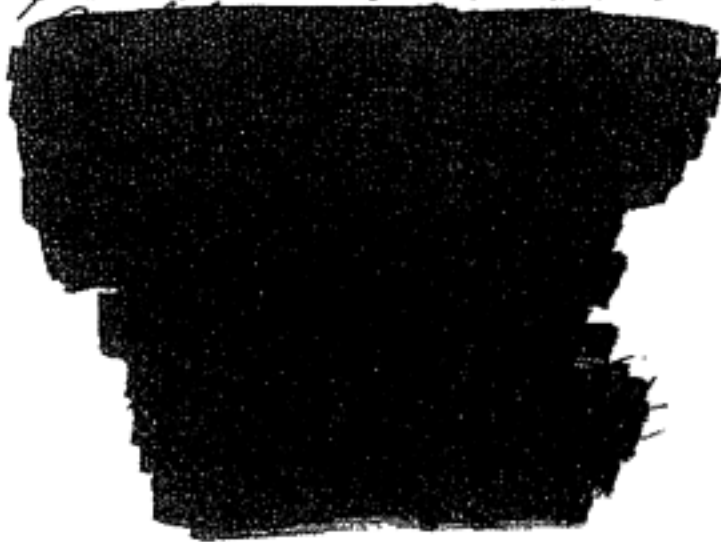
- Number of sexual contacts  
per child ranged from 1 to  
25+ (would not admit  
numbers above 25 but  
didn't deny the possibility  
of larger numbers)

- Period of time of sexual contacts with  
students from St Johns:

Between @ 1952 - 1974

- Client became sexually active in the junior ~~senior~~ (high school) and remained sexually active until @ 2 years before ordination when he and a companion agreed that it was wrong to continue sexual contact. Next sexual contact was with boys at St Johns

- There was a group of boys from which Client regularly selected someone to go to his cottage in Boulder Junction to engage in sexual behavior.





- Client denies any sexual activity with any person since leaving St Johns and moving to Boulder Junction on 09-17-74.

- Client denies any involvement with deaf people in the Superior diocese.

- Although documentary evidence is lacking, client's self-report of his meeting with Archbishop Collins in 1974 indicates that the Archbishop considered the complaint of sexual abuse against the client believable.

- Client was taken out of ministry with children

## CONCLUSIONS

- Sexually oriented to male adolescents, generally postpubertal
- describes himself as making a sexual approach to any of the boys at St John's who fit his preferred sexual object profile (see profile) while choosing not to approach others because they did not fit profile and did not seem likely to keep the "secret".
- complainants allege that client sexually abused about 200 students. This estimate is likely to be fairly accurate.
- There is strong likelihood that the boys confused the "sex education" session with confession since the <sup>similar</sup> same subject matter was discussed in the same or similar locations, the boy was reprimanded and "instructed" "pastorally".

- Suspect that the confusing of confession with sex "education" may have been more or less calculated.
- Client says there has been no sexual contact with anyone since 1974. While this appears to be true, there should be some follow up research in the diocese of Superior. Members of the deaf community should be contacted. Persons (objective) with first hand contact with the client's ministry should be contacted.

It is very difficult for any individual to abruptly terminate very active sexual activity unless a traumatic event ensues. The disclosure and public humiliation in 1974 may have accomplished this. On the other hand, the cognitive distortions

are many and deeply entrenched in an inability to cope with the shame involved. This client seems to have no sense of the extent of harm caused.

- Not sado-masochistic. Used punishment/misbehavior in order to control boys not for sexual gratification.
- It is an open question whether client has continued having sexual contact with previous victims when he visits the Milwaukee area. Client reports there has been no such contact.

### III RECOMMENDATIONS

(8)

1. Research should be done in the diocese of Superior:
  - a. The deaf community should be identified. The question of whether this client has had on going contact with any of the deaf in Superior should be answered.
  - b. The clients <sup>(parish)</sup> ~~ministry~~ should be reviewed. Objective first hand info should be obtained.
2. Client needs sex offender treatment but is not a good candidate for such treatment and is likely to be uncooperative with requirements for such treatment. Providers in Superior diocese would need to be identified.
3. Client needs pastoral/spiritual counseling that supports him as a

(9)

human being but holds him accountable for his violation of his ministry. (He selected a handicapped population and then further selected the vulnerable among them to exploit through his office.)

4. Recommendations concerning the client's continuation in priestly ministry is beyond the scope of my role.

I can point out some risks:

- 1) Client may be exposed publicly in lawsuits and on media for past behavior. The appropriateness of current ministry would be publicly questioned
- 2) If client has sexual contact with a minor or vulnerable adult subsequent to this assessment and continues in priestly ministry and

if the victim is procured  
through this ministry,  
the Duchovese or D. case  
maybe held legally liable.

## IV. A. VICTIM PROFILE

(11)

### Profile of Typical victim:

- Age 15 - 22 yrs; one 11 yr old
- Caucasians (assumed minority groups knew too much about sex.)
- 5' 8" average height
- medium build, not overweight
- black hair (occasional blond)
- in need of attention and affection
- loyal
- hero worshipping of L.M.
- respectful
- lacking in social skills.
- sexually ignorant
  
- parents unavailable or distant and unsupportive of child
- poor communication skills through signing or writing
- child who misbehaved and was due to be punished
- father of victim never a seminarian (less idolizing of priest & priesthood)



## B. SEXUAL BEHAVIORS

(12)

Type of sexual behaviors engaged in: client -

- masturbating the child manually sexually to orgasm/ejaculation.
- self-stimulation to orgasm/ejaculation either simultaneous to masturbating the child or after the sexual contact with the child (would repeat @ weekly)
- did not permit child to masturbate him
- Voyeurism. Would put himself in situations where he could watch boy interact sexually.

\* Denies allegations that hit child's penis with a belt but admits punishing kid by hitting with a belt

C. OCCASIONS / SETTINGS

(13)

- Supervisor's room on dormitory floor at St Johns
- Client's bed at his mother's home in Boulder Junction, WI
- Class trips to NYC and Washington, D.C. (hotel room)

D. TYPICAL SCENARIOS  
OF SEXUAL CONTACT

(14)

(A)

1. When boys confessed  
(in the sacrament of confession)  
that they had had sexual  
contact with another boy,  
client would ask the  
names of the other  
boys (His excuse for asking  
for names was that if  
he got a girl's name it  
would be more serious  
because of the possibility  
of pregnancy)
2. Client would zero in on  
watching the identified  
boys (during his tour  
of duty as the dormitory  
monitor. If he saw  
these boys re-engage  
in sexual contact, he  
would confront them and  
require them to  
come to the supervisor's  
room (on a later occasion)

or if kid  
confessed  
about relations  
or wet dreams

3. In the supervisor's room (usually) client would "teach sex education", i.e. he would explain the genitalia and how such worked and he would simultaneously stimulate the child. If the child's penis became erect, the client would stimulate the child to <sup>ejaculation</sup> orgasm (and on some occasions) would stimulate himself to <sup>ejaculation</sup> orgasm simultaneously (or shortly after the encounter).

If the child did not push his hand away, the client would interpret this lack of resistance as cooperation and approval and interest.

4. If the child did not resist, the client would approach the child while the child was in bed in the dorm (on approximately a weekly basis) and

manually stimulate the child to <sup>ejaculation</sup> orgasm (while the child remained in his bed). Generally, the client would manually stimulate himself simultaneously or shortly after.

This approach to the child in bed would occur an indefinite number of times, generally ceasing when the student graduated.

(The contacts usually began when the student was a minor and ended when the student was an adult.)

Would repeat approach to non-resistant child on about a weekly basis.

(B)

1. Client would invite children in need of attention and affection (boys) to his house in Boulder Junction.

(At times he took a group and usually he took one boy at a time.)

2. The boy would sleep in the client's bed with him. Shortly after going to bed the client would reach over and manually stimulate the boy. If the boy became erect, the client would stimulate the child to <sup>ejaculation</sup> orgasm and would likewise self-stimulate to <sup>ejaculation</sup> orgasm.

If the child pushed his hand off, the client would stop. Lack of resistance was interpreted as approval and desire to participate. Boy with strong need for affection.

## E. COGNITIVE DISTORTIONS (18)

Some of his typical cognitive distortions:

"It was sex education for them. They were confused about sex."

"There was rampant homosexuality among the older boys. I fixed the problem."

"I never demanded or used force."

"I was stupid. I wasn't properly trained."

"I thought if I'd play around with a kid once per week they would have their needs met and would <sup>not</sup> have sex with each other."

"I could tell if they liked it because they didn't push me away. So I knew they liked it."

\*  
"Maybe they looked at me as their teacher so didn't

Cognitive Distortions  
continued

(19)

- "Because these complainants are manipulative, bitter, and dishonest people, therefore their threats to sue should not be taken seriously."
- "I thought I was taking their sin on myself."



## F. CONFESSION

(29)

- Client used information gleaned in the confessional to identify which boys had had sexual contact with each other.
- By self-report, confessions occurred in many different locations. Some locations listed were:
  - car
  - gym
  - bathroom
  - office
  - hallway
  - down
  - classroom
  - supervisor room
  - "anyplace"
- Boys were reprimanded when client "found them" engaged in sexual activity.
- Boys would be required to participate in a "sex education session" (which may have been conducted

(21)

in the same location where  
the child went to confession.

- client denies ever conducting  
the "sex education" session  
immediately after confession
- client denies ever conducting  
"sex education" session  
during confession
- By client definition, "sex  
education sessions" involved  
manual stimulation of the  
child's genitals as a form  
of "education"

(23)

G. MORALITY ISSUES  
FOR A PRIEST

"I am a weak priest. Afterward  
I prayed and went to  
Confession."

"They've forgiven me and I've  
forgiven them!"

"I thought I was taking  
their sin on myself."

Lawrence Murphy

12-7-93 6:15 PM - 9:15 PM 3 HRS

12-8-93 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM 4

12-9-93 5:45 PM - 10:05 PM 4.5

---

12-12-93 Summary 3 PM - 7 PM 4 HRS

  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 17, 1996

His Eminence, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger  
Prefect, The Sacred Congregation for  
the Doctrine of the Faith  
00120 Vatican City State  
Europe

Your Eminence,

I am writing to inform you of two situations in which two priests of this Archdiocese have been accused of solicitation of a penitent so as to commit a sin against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue (c. 1387). The cases are completely unrelated and happened at very different points in time, but only recently have come to light. I now seek your counsel as to the procedure I should follow.

Shortly before I began my sabbatical on January 1, 1996, I directed my Vice Chancellor, the Reverend James E. Connell, J.C.D., to investigate the allegations that had been made against the two priests. Now, upon my return on July 1st, Father Connell informs me that in both cases sworn testimony has been given concerning the charges I mentioned above. Father Connell believes that the testimony has been given to the Church in good faith and must be taken seriously, and I concur.

The first case concerns the Reverend Lawrence C. Murphy, a priest whose only assignment was as Chaplain, and eventually Director, of Saint John School for the Deaf in Milwaukee from 1950 to 1974. According to the person who has given the sworn testimony concerning Father Murphy's use of the confessional to solicit sinful actions against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue, many other students were also victims of Father Murphy in this same manner, and we are now in the process of gathering additional testimony from some of these other persons. Although allegations against Father Murphy had been brought to my predecessor, allegations that resulted in a civil suit that was later dropped, this is the first that I had heard of the abuse of the confessional. I find that the deaf community tends to keep its problems and embarrassments to themselves, thus explaining the reluctance of these victims to bring forth allegations earlier.

Father Murphy was ordained a priest in May of 1950, began a leave of absence during September of 1974, and has never lived within the territory of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee during my years as Archbishop. Soon after I took office, I became aware that Father Murphy's leave of absence was due to sexual matters, but it was only less than one year ago when I learned of the possibility that solicitation in the confessional might be part of the situation. That is when I decided to have Father Connell conduct an investigation. My concern now is not simply for necessary justice, I am even more interested in a healing response from the Church to the deaf community within the Archdiocese so that their anger may be defused and their trust in ecclesiastical ministers be restored.

Ex. 1

The second case concerns the Reverend Michael T. Neuberger, a priest who has had a variety of sexual and financial allegations brought against him in recent years. Dealing with Father Neuberger included a process to remove him from the office of pastor of a parish in Milwaukee. Also, suggestions came forth that Father might have used the confessional to solicit sinful actions against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue. Thus I decided to have Father Connell investigate this matter as well. As a result of Father Connell's investigation, sworn testimony has been obtained from three highly respected and credible persons that Father Neuberger admitted this crime to them, thus establishing an "extra-judicial" confession (cc. 1536, §2 and 1537). The three witnesses are a psychologist employed by the Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and two licensed clinical social workers employed by the State of Wisconsin who specialize in the assessment and treatment of sex offenders. These witnesses proclaim under oath to Father Connell that during their discussions with Father Neuberger about the sexual allegations that had been made against him, Father in fact acknowledged a variety of crimes, including use of the confessional for the purpose of solicitation.

**REDACTED**

Let me also say that once I became aware of the possibility that both Father Murphy and had committed the crime of solicitation (c. 1387), I discussed the particulars of the cases with my canonists and requested that they research what canonical process is appropriate, given the length of time since the crimes, or if this subject matter is reserved to the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (c. 1362, §1, 1°), thus not under the norms of prescription presented in the Code of Canon Law. Now that the investigations have been conducted and the canonists have researched the issue, I have the understanding that this offense is under your jurisdiction. So I seek your counsel on how to proceed.

Finally, Your Eminence, while my comments in this letter have been very factual and legalistic in tone, please be assured that my primary concern is the spiritual well being of all the persons involved with these cases, and that includes Father Murphy and

**REDACTED**

Thank you for your assistance, and I have the honor to be, Your Eminence,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Rembert G. Weakland*

Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

**REDACTED**

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01310

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE  
METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL

No.  
MINUTE REPORTS  
NUMBER IN YOUR FILE

IN CAUSA

COPY

December 10, 1996

Rev. Lawrence Murphy  
Box 50  
Boulder Junction, WI 54512-0050

Dear Rev. Murphy:

This letter is to inform you that a formal ecclesiastical penal process has begun against you in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The enclosed documents are self-explanatory. As noted in the enclosed documents, you are to respond within 15 days to the charges made against you and you are to select an advocate from the enclosed list within the same time period.

Sincerely,

*Rev. Thomas T. Brundage*

Rev. Thomas T. Brundage, J.C.L.  
Judicial Vicar  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Copies: The Judges  
The Promoter of Justice  
Very Rev. Philip Heslin

001022

Ex. 2

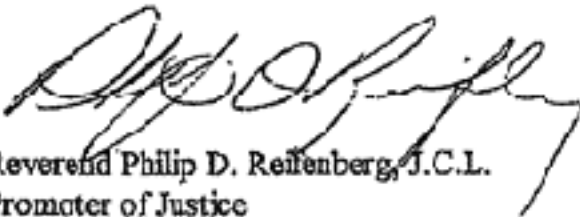
LIBELLUS

As Promoter of Justice in the matter at hand, and acting in response to evidence arising from the execution of the mandate of the Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B., Archbishop of Milwaukee, as expressed in his decree of December 21, 1995, I hereby introduce this cause to the Reverend Thomas T. Brundage, J.C.L., Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and ask that he constitute a collegiate tribunal for the purpose of conducting a canonical trial to establish with moral certitude that the Reverend Lawrence C. Murphy, a priest incardinated in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and domiciled in the Diocese of Superior, who stands accused of certain offenses cited in Canons 1387, 1388.1 and 1395.2, did in fact commit the delicts of which he is accused, namely, that over the period of several years encompassing his tenure at St. John School for the Deaf in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he did engage in a pattern of behavior which included:

- solicitation for sexual favors in the confessional
- at least indirect violation of the seal of confession by using specific names and information about sins of a sexual nature obtained in one confession in order to probe aggressively and intrusively into a subsequent penitent's behavior, putatively for his own sexual titillation and gratification, and
- the sexual assault and molestation of male students under the age of sixteen.

These delicts, along with the circumstances surrounding them, have given rise to grave scandal for the Church, and especially within the Catholic deaf community. Therefore, I ask that the duly constituted tribunal impose as the only appropriate penalty for these offenses the dismissal of Father Murphy from the clerical state.

The facts and evidence which will be adduced to prove these allegations and to confirm the appropriateness of the penalty being sought include the personal testimony and depositions of multiple victims and professional peers of the accused, along with such documentary evidence as bears directly upon this case.

  
Reverend Philip D. Reiffenberg, J.C.L.  
Promoter of Justice  
3501 South Lake Drive  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

November 22, 1996

001024



ARCHDIOCESE  OF MILWAUKEE  
METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL

NO.  
RENYETER TO THE  
METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL

Penal 9/96

IN CAUSA

Decree Constituting the Tribunal

Whereas, The Most Reverend Rembert Weakland has decreed (October 15, 1996) that the Reverend Promoter of Justice submit whatever cause(s) he considers necessary so that justice may be rendered, while constantly protecting the rights of the accused;

Whereas, a Libellus accusing the Reverend Lawrence C. Murphy of the offenses cited in cc. 1387, 1388.1, and 1395.2, has been presented to the Metropolitan Tribunal on November 22, 1996 from the Reverend Philip Reifenberg, Promoter of Justice;

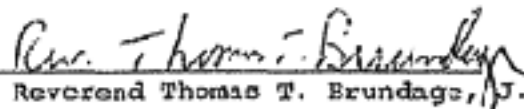
Whereas, a cause of this nature is to be tried and decided by a Collegiate Tribunal in accord with canon 1425.1,2;


Whereas, by this present Decree, the following are designated and assigned to the stated cause:

As Presiding Judge: Reverend Thomas T. Brundage, J.C.L.  
As Associate Judge: Reverend Joseph Perry, J.C.L.  
As Associate Judge: Reverend James Jarumbo, J.C.L.  
As Promoter of Justice: Reverend Philip Reifenberg, J.C.L.  
As Notary: Reverend John Aiello

The above-named have been properly assigned to their respective role in the Tribunal, given the office to act in that role, and have already been duly sworn in.

Given at the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
December 1, 1996

  
Reverend Thomas T. Brundage, J.C.L.  
Judicial Vicar

  
Notary

001025

  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

D E C R E E

Whereas I, the Most Reverend Rombert G. Weakland, O.S.B., Archbishop of Milwaukee, on December 21, 1995 issued a "Decree Initiating the Investigation of Allegations of Sexual Misconduct and Solicitation in the Confessional by the Reverend Lawrence Murphy", and

Whereas, this decreed investigation has been completed, and

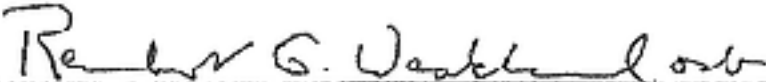
Whereas, I now judge that sufficient evidence has been collected, and

Whereas, in light of canon 1341, I now ascertain that scandal cannot sufficiently be repaired, that justice cannot sufficiently be restored and that the Reverend Lawrence Murphy cannot be sufficiently reformed by fraternal correction, rebuke and other ways of pastoral care,

I now decide, having heard from the Reverend Thomas Brudage, J.C.L., Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and the Reverend James Connell, J.C.D., a Judge in the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, that a judicial process is necessary, and

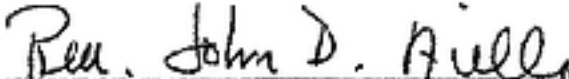
I now decree that the Reverend Phillip Reifenberg, J.C.L., as Promoter of Justice of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, is to review the material generated by the preliminary investigation and he is to submit to the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee whatever cause(s) he considers necessary so that justice may be rendered, while constantly protecting the rights of Father Murphy and any other person(s) involved.

In addition, Father Reifenberg is to gather whatever additional testimony or information he considers necessary to properly demonstrate the truth in this matter.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Most Reverend Rombert G. Weakland, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

Given on the Curia of the  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
this 15th day of October, 1996



\_\_\_\_\_  
Reverend John D. Aiello  
Notary

001023

Advocates approved by the Archdiocese

Rev. Patrick Lagges, JCD  
Promoter of Justice  
Metropolitan Tribunal, Archdiocese of Chicago  
P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, IL 60690  
Licentiate and Doctorate in Canon Law, St. Paul's, Ottawa  
Phone #: 312-751-8384 (Office)  
312-588-2620 (Home)

Rev. Michael Hack, JCD  
Judicial Vicar  
Metropolitan Tribunal, Archdiocese of Chicago  
P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, IL 60690  
Licentiate and Doctorate in Canon Law, St. Paul's, Ottawa  
Phone #: 312-751-8255 (Office)

Rev. Daniel Ward, OSB, JCL, JD  
St. John's Abbey  
Collegeville, MN 56321  
Professor of government, St. John's University  
Licentiate in Canon Law, Catholic University of America  
Civil lawyer  
Phone #: (612)363-2779 (Office)

Rev. John Renken, JCD  
Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia  
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois  
P.O. Box 3187  
Springfield, IL 62708-3187  
Doctorate in canon law, Angelicum, Rome  
Phone #: 217-698-8844 (Office)

Father Thomas Paprocki  
Chancellor, Archdiocese of Chicago  
P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, IL 60690  
Doctorate in Canon Law, Gregorian University  
Civil lawyer  
Phone #: 312-751-8220 (Office)

CC1027

  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**  
METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL

NO.  
AGENCY REFER TO THIS  
NUMBER IN YOUR PPM

INCAUSA

Penal 4/96

**Decree Accepting Libellus and Citing the Accused**

In accord with canon 1505, I, the undersigned Presiding Judge in the penal process (see attached Libellus) against the Reverend Lawrence Murphy, hereby accept the attached Libellus presented by the Reverend Promoter of Justice on November 22, 1996. In accepting this Libellus, I have ascertained that the matter is within the competence of this Tribunal and that the Promoter of Justice has legitimate standing before this Tribunal and has duly performed his office in this matter. Furthermore, there is sufficient basis in law to proceed to initiate a penal process against the Reverend Lawrence Murphy.

In accord with canon 1507, with this decree, the Reverend Lawrence Murphy is hereby cited with regards to the cause made against him. The Reverend Michael Murphy is to respond in writing to the undersigned within 15 usable days to make a response to the charges made in the Libellus.

In accord with canon 1723, the Reverend Lawrence Murphy is requested to engage an advocate in accord with the norm of canon 1481.1 within 15 usable days and to present an authentic mandate to this Tribunal within the same time period.

*Rev. Thomas T. Brundage*

Reverend Thomas T. Brundage, J.C.L.  
Presiding Judge  
Metropolitan Tribunal  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
3501 South Lake Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

*Rev. John D. Aiello*  
Notary

December 9, 1996

001026

Entry for the Chart of Father Lawrence Murphy  
By Liz Piasecki

REDACTED

February 24, 1997

Today, I met with Father Tom Brundage, Barbara Anne Cusack, and Father Jim Connell in the Chancery and Tribunal Offices regarding the canonical situation of Father Lawrence Murphy. Father Tom Brundage indicated that there is a problem regarding the statutes of limitation on the solicitation in the confessional, allegations brought forward by several deaf individuals. Pat Legus is the canonical advisor for Father Murphy. He had pointed out that there is a thirty day statute of limitations on the solicitation issue because the 1962 canonical norms apply in this case, rather than the 1983 Code of Canon Law. Father Brundage notes that in the 1983 Code the statute of limitations is five years, which also would fall short of the time span needed to proceed canonically against Father Murphy. He said that at this point, Father Murphy's case would be held in abatement, canonically, until we hear from Rome regarding a waiver of the statute of limitations. Father Brundage would be speaking with Bishop Burke, Canonist from the Diocese of La Crosse, and may proceed going to Washington to speak with the Papal Nuncio and request a waiver in this case. Father Brundage also noted to us that there is some indication from the Diocese of Superior that Father Murphy has continued his contact with deaf people by helping out with deaf retreats and Mass against the directives of Archbishop Weakland and Bishop Skiba. There may be a possibility of moving administratively in the issuance of several penalties for that disobedience. We discussed the way to contact the three individuals who have filed complaints. Cyndi Deehr and I will speak with [REDACTED], I will be in touch with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and Jim Connell will send a letter to [REDACTED].

0

LCP:saz  
3/24/97

ARCH\_MARSHALL.00391

Ex. 3

  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

March 10, 1997

**COPY**

His Eminence, Gilberto Cardinal Agustoni  
Prefect, The Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura  
00120 Vatican City State  
Europe

Your Eminence,

I am writing to request your assistance in a matter of justice for certain persons under my jurisdiction. A priest of this Archdiocese has been accused by three penitents of solicitation in the confessional so as to commit a sin against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue (c. 1367). Also, each penitent is a deaf person and the alleged offenses occurred while all of the penitents were minors. Furthermore, because these deaf persons tend to have very limited communication skills, these crimes did not come to my attention until long after canonical prescription would allow a penal action on my part. Finally, true scandal in the near future seems very possible because in November of 1996, I received a letter from an attorney suggesting the possibility of civil court action which no doubt would become well known in this community.

I approach you now requesting that a waiver of the canonical requirements concerning peremptory time periods be issued. With such a waiver we would be able to proceed with appropriate canonical processes to effect justice in this case.

I wrote to His Eminence, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, in July of 1996 when I became aware of the details of the situation. My hope was that, given the condition of the penitents, the length of time since the alleged crimes, and that the subject matter seems to be reserved to that Congregation (c. 1362, §1, 1°), perhaps His Eminence would grant special norms for a penal process in this case. So far, however, I have received no response.

Hence, I now seek your assistance. The issue concerns how the Church can provide justice when the administration of justice was impossible because all of the penitents were physically prohibited from reporting the crime at the time of the incidents, or soon thereafter, due to a lack of the vocabulary and skill necessary to acknowledge their psychological trauma.

The cause concerns the Reverend Lawrence C. Murphy, a priest whose only assignment was as a Chaplain, and eventually Director, of Saint John School for the deaf in Milwaukee from 1950 to 1974. Moreover, according to the three persons who have given sworn testimony concerning Father Murphy's use of the confessional to solicit sinful actions against the sixth commandment of the Decalogue, many other students were also victims of Father Murphy in this manner. Consequently, I believe there are in reality many additional victims needing justice and assistance.

Ex. 4

3501 South Lake Drive, P.O. Box 07912  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912 (414)769-3497

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01333

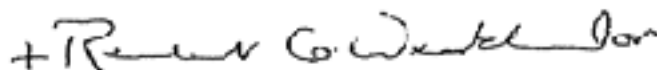
Although allegations against Father Murphy had been brought to the attention of my predecessor, allegations that resulted in a civil suit that was later dropped, I first became aware of the matter in 1995. So, shortly before I began my sabbatical on January 1, 1996, I directed the Reverend James S. Connell, my Vice Chancellor, to investigate the allegations. Then, upon my return on July 1, 1996 and after learning the results of this investigation, I instructed the Reverend Thomas T. Brundage, J.C.L., my Judicial Vicar, to research which canonical process would be appropriate. His effort convinced me to write to Cardinal Ratzinger in July of 1996.

My concern now is not only for the necessary justice, but I am also very interested in a healing response from the Church to the deaf community within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, so that their anger may be defused and their trust in ecclesiastical ministers be restored.

Finally, Your Eminence, while my comments in this letter have been very factual and legalistic in tone, please be assured that my primary concern is the spiritual well-being of all the persons involved in this case, including Father Murphy. Now I await your response.

Thank you for your assistance, and I have the honor to be, Your Eminence,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

CHANCERY

COPY

March 12, 1997

Most Reverend Agostino Cacciavillan  
Apostolic Pro-Nuncio to the United States  
Apostolic Nunciature  
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008-3687

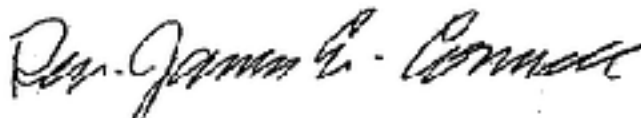
Your Excellency,

Enclosed is a letter from the Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B., Archbishop of Milwaukee, to His Eminence, Gilberto Cardinal Agustoni, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signature concerning an important matter of justice for certain persons in this Archdiocese.

Would you please forward this letter to His Eminence by means of the diplomatic pouch?

In gratitude for your cooperation in this regard, I have the honor to be Your Excellency,

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend James E. Connell  
Vice Chancellor





CONGREGATIO  
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,  
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

24 March 1997

PROT. N. 111/96 e 112/96-03971  
*(in response for merito della causa)*

Your Excellency,

In your letter of the 11 December 1965, you requested direction regarding the procedure to be followed in the cases of Revv. Lawrence C. MURPHY and Michael T. NEUBERGER, priests of your Archdiocese accused of the crime of solicitation during confession (cf. c. 1387).

In setting forth the matters in detail which you have reported, the Congregation would ask Your Excellency to instruct the respective processes in accord with the attached "*Instructio de modo procedendi in causis sollicitationis*" with particular attention to numbers 5 and 55. While the norms of this document remain in force, they must obviously be read in light of the new canonical legislation especially with respect to the citation of canons.

With every good wish, I remain,

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

*Carmino Bertone*

(enclosure)

His Excellency  
Most Rev. Rembert G. WEAHLAND, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee, USA

Ex. 6

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01338



SUPREMUM  
SIGNATURAE APOSTOLICAE  
TRIBUNAL

9 April 1997

PALAZZO DELLA CANCELLERIA  
00120 CITTÀ DEL VATICANO

Prot. N. 27769/97 VT

Your Excellency,

This Supreme Tribunal has received the letter of 10 March 1997, forwarded here by the Most Rev. Pro-Nuncio on 25 March 1997, in which you request a "waiver of the canonical requirements concerning peremptory time periods" in order that a penal process might be brought against a priest accused of having committed the delict of solicitation many years ago.

You make this request because the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has not yet responded to your letter of 17 July 1996 and in the meantime a civil action has been threatened by three persons who accuse the priest of solicitation.

This Supreme Tribunal, while acknowledging the gravity and urgency of the situation you describe, is not competent to grant your request. For this reason, it is forwarding your letter, with the attached documents, to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which remains competent to deal with this case.

Taking this occasion to express to Your Excellency my sentiments of respect and esteem, I remain

Devotedly Yours in Our Lord,



*Gilberto Card. Agustoni*  
Prefect

Gilberto Card. Agustoni  
Prefect

+ *Zeron Grucholewski*  
+ Zeron Grucholewski  
Secretary

His Excellency  
The Most Rev. Rembert A. WEAKLAND  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

cc: The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
His Excellency, Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan

EX. 9

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01339

  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**  
METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL

COPY

NO \_\_\_\_\_  
KINDLY REFER TO THIS  
NUMBER IN YOUR REPLY

IN CAUSA

May 12, 1997

**REDACTED**

Dear :

Thank you for your May 5, 1997 letter. I am the Presiding Judge in the case concerning Fr. Murphy. Fr. Connell asked that I respond to your inquiries.

We have very recently received word from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome that we have permission to prosecute this case in the Church's courts despite the fact that the time limitations have run out.

Therefore, the case will proceed to a conclusion and final decision. Please be aware that this type of process is probably the most complicated procedure that we do and that it will take some time, perhaps a year or more, to complete. Also, please be aware that we are trying to achieve justice for all the persons involved.

We will be in touch with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Rev. Thomas T. Brundage  
Judicial Vicar  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

REDACTED

3501 South Lake Drive, P.O. Box 07912  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912 • (414)769-3300

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01341

Ex. 10

  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

May 14, 1997

111/96 e 112/96-03971

His Excellency, Mons. Tarcisio Bertone  
Secretary, The Sacred Congregation for  
the Doctrine of the Faith  
00120 Vatican City State  
Europe

Your Excellency:

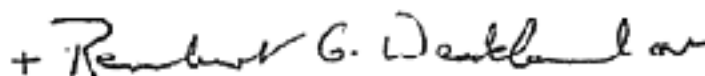
Thank you for your letter of March 24, 1997 regarding two priests of my archdiocese who have been accused of the crime of solicitation during confession.

In your letter, you advise me to instruct the cases in accord with the "Instructio de modo procedendi in causis sollicitationis" and to read this document in light of the new canonical legislation.

I will proceed in the instruction of both cases, despite the fact that in both cases the peremptory time periods have expired according to both the 1962 norms as well as the 1983 Code of Canon Law.

Thank you for your assistance, and I have the honor to be, Your Excellency,

Sincerely yours in Christ

+ 

Most reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

May 21, 1997

Reverend Thomas T. Brundage  
Judicial Vicar  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
3501 South Lake Drive  
P. O. Box 07912  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

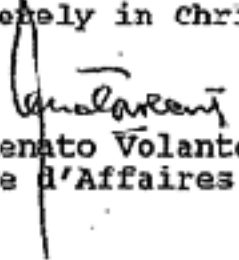
Dear Father Brundage:

In the temporary absence of His Excellency, the  
Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, I acknowledge your letter of May 16,  
1997, with enclosure.

Please be assured that the correspondence to the  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith will be duly  
forwarded.

With cordial regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Renato Volante  
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

Ex. 12

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01347

June 10, 1997

Rev. Thomas Brundage  
3501 S. Lake Drive  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Father Brundage:

I was stationed in Chicago as chaplain of the deaf from 1955 until 1963. I believe it was in the early part of that period that several deaf teenagers who lived in Chicago but attended St. John's School in Milwaukee made some remarks that indicated that Fr. Murphy was taking advantage of them. It was either at that time or on another occasion that they or other deaf boys mentioned that he would go into their dormitory at night and suggested that one of the boys should come to his room to go to confession. I did not discuss any details with them.

I drove to Milwaukee to meet with the then Archbishop Meyer. Later he informed me that Fr. Murphy had at first denied the charges but two weeks later admitted them. He was sent to some retreat house in northern Wisconsin and told to return to St. John's to undo the harm he had done. At a convention of pastoral workers with the deaf Larry told me I should have gone directly to him when the matter came to light with the Archbishop.

Dates and events are now foggy in my memory but I do recall very clearly the following: a group of young deaf boys placed circulars on the windshields of priests at a clerical meeting accusing Fr. Murphy of sexual activities with them. The deaf members of a local newspaper's printers' union insisted that a strong article be placed in one of the papers. Archbishop Cousins called a meeting of the teachers at St. John's school but Fr. Murphy was the interpreter at the meeting. I recall very vividly a deaf man stopping to see me in Chicago and using the occasion to tell me that Fr. Murphy had given him a catalogue of homo-sexual bars, etc., in various cities. I got the very strong feeling that this deaf man was feeling guilty and wanted me to take action to defend deaf persons and to put an end to Fr. Murphy's activities. I called Archbishop Cousins and in response to his very direct questions indicated that I thought Fr. Murphy was still active and was influencing deaf persons. Shortly after that Fr. Murphy was removed from the diocese. At various conventions, workshops, etc., I sometimes met deaf people who told me they had seen him in Milwaukee, etc.

On the telephone I mentioned that the reports concerning his use of the confessional to provide homosexual activities seemed serious enough to me to be reported. I sought the advice of our moral professor at Oconomowoc and followed his advice to report the matter to the Apostolic Delegate in Washington. What may have happened I do not know. This was my last involvement in the matter.

EX 560

Sincerely, *David Walsh*  
David Walsh. CSSR

001126

10-31-97

BRUNDAGE, Rev. THOMAS

INVESTIGATION RESULTS
--------------------------

- ESTIMATE THERE ARE 100 PLUS DEAF PEOPLE WHO WERE AFFECTED AS CHILDREN
- AT LEAST THREE (3) REMAIN PERSISTENT IN THEIR DESIRE FOR RETRIBUTION, COMPENSATION, ETC.
- CHILDREN WERE APPROACHED WITHIN THE CONFESSORIAL WHERE THE QUESTION OF CIRCUMCISION BEGAN THE SOLICITATION
- SEXUAL ACTS OCCURRED IN THE CONFESSORIAL AND IN THE ROOM OF FR. MURPHY
- ODDS ARE THAT THIS SITUATION MAY VERY WELL BE THE MOST HORRENDOUS, NUMBER-A-LIKE, AND ESPECIALLY BECAUSE THESE ARE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED, VULNERABLE PEOPLE.
- <sup>MEMBERS OF</sup> THE DEAF COMMUNITY DEALS WITH THIS SERIOUS ISSUE THROUGH ISOLATION FROM THE REST OF COMMUNITY
- THERE ARE DEAF PEOPLE WHO DO NOT WANT HIM TO BE RECOGNISED AS OR BE A PRIEST ANYMORE.
- ONLY ONE MONETARY REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE AND MILLANRELL SETTLED AT 70K.

00:044

Ex. 13

BRUNDAGE, REV. THOMAS

10-31-97

EVERYONE IS IN AGREEMENT THAT HE MUST BE LAICIZED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SINCE DIFFERENT FORMS OF ADMISSION, CONFESSION ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE DEPOSITIONS OF FR. MURPHY HIMSELF.

NAMES THAT WERE INCLUDED IN THIS INFORMATION BUT THAT WILL NOT BE SPelled CORRECTLY ARE:

[	FR. PAT LEGRAS (?)	CHICAGO
	RITA TESAR	BISHOP SKELBA'S SECRETARY WAS SECRETARY TO FR. MURPHY AT ST. JOHN SCHOOL

AFTER GREAT INVESTIGATION OF CANONICAL PROCEDURES AND CONTACT WITH THE VATICAN, PERMISSION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM C.D.F. TO PROCEED WITH THE PENAL PART OF THE LAW. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO FOLLOW THE 1962 SECRET NORMS (?)

[ THESE WERE DESCRIBED AS A BYEMTINE PROCESS (?)  
CONTAINS STATUTE OF LIMITATION / ONE MONTH

MILWAUKEE MAY NOT TRY THE CASE, BUT RATHER COMPETENCY RESTS WITH THE TRIBUNAL WHERE THE DEFENDANT HAS A DOMICILE. THAT MEANS DOS !!

001045



BRUNDAGE, Rev. THOMAS

10-31-97

HOWEVER, THERE IS AN ACCEPTABLE AND PLEASANT  
RESOLUTION TO A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS INCONVENIENCE  
FOR OUR PERSONNEL.

MILWAUKEE WILL DISSOLVE ITS TRIBUNAL DEALING  
WITH THIS CASE AND AT MY REQUEST (DOCUMENTS)  
WILL RECONSTITUTE IN ORDER TO OPERATE UNDER  
THE JURISDICTION OF THE BISHOP OF SUPERIOR

WILL BE RECEIVING APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS TO SIGN  
IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO ACCOMPLISH ALL OF THE ABOVE.  
OF COURSE, I AM NOT SURE WHAT THIS MEANS FOR  
ANY OF US.

+ If

P.S. THE JUDGES WILL INCLUDE: BRUNDAGE, TOM  
JANUSO, JIM  
PERRY, JOE

FR. PHIL REIFENBERG IS ALSO INVOLVED ?  
IN THIS COMPLEX MATTER

001046

DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

1201 HUGHITT AVE.  
P. O. BOX 969  
SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN 54880

DECREE

December 14, 1997

In the matter concerning Father Lawrence Murphy, a priest incardinated in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, however, having domicile in the Diocese of Superior, I hereby decree that the Inquisition process cease and that the case be admitted to the trial process outlined in the 1962 Instutio "De Modo Procendendi In Causis Sollicitationis."

+ Raphael M. Fliss

Bishop Raphael Fliss  
Bishop of Superior

Rev. John D. Aiello  
Notary

001128

Ex. 14

DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

1201 HUGHITT AVE.  
P. O. BOX 969  
SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN 54880

SI/98 Superior

Decree Citing the Accused

In accord with Chapter Two of the 1962 *Instructio De Modo Procedendi In Causis Sollicitationis* and canon 1507 of the 1983 Code of Canon Law, I, the undersigned Presiding Judge in this process against the Reverend Lawrence Murphy, hereby cites the Reverend Murphy with regards to the accusations of the crime of Solicitation in the Confessional (c. 1387) made against him. The Reverend Lawrence Murphy is to respond in writing to the undersigned within 15 usable days to make a response to the charges that he solicited penitents to sin against the Sixth Commandment during the time that he was assigned to the St. John's School for the Deaf in St. Francis, Wisconsin.

In accord with cc. 1481.1, and 1723, the Reverend Lawrence Murphy is requested to engage a procurator-advocate and within 15 usable days to present an authentic mandate to this Tribunal.

The undersigned judge will be in contact with your advocate in the near future for an interview date with the judges in this case.

Finally, your advocate has been supplied with copies of the "Inquisition Process" and the "Canonical Directives" documents. You may wish to consult with your advocate about these documents prior to the hearing.

*Rev. Thomas T. Brundage*

Reverend Thomas T. Brundage, J.C.L.  
Presiding Judge  
Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin  
3501 S. Lake Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

*Rev. John D. Aiello*

Notary

January 6, 1998

001130

Ex. 15

DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

1201 HUGHITT AVE.  
P. O. BOX 969  
SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN 54880

January 10, 1978

To: Bishop Fliess, Bishop of Superior ✓  
Father Joseph Perry, Judge  
Father Jack Hopka, Judge  
Father Phil Reifenberg, Promoter of Justice  
Father Patrick Lagges, advocate for the accused

Dear Bishop and Fathers:

Enclosed are the documents relating to the new process against Father Murphy using the 1962 Norms. We have processed the case through the citation of the respondent. After Easter, I would expect to have an interview with Murphy here in Milwaukee that would involve the judges, promoter, and advocate.

Sincerely,

*Thomas T. Brundage*

Rev. Thomas T. Brundage, JCL  
Presiding Judge

*Bishop Fliess - These documents require no action  
on your part for now. After  
inspecting, you may wish to put  
them in the secret archives.*

*Thanks!*

*Tom*

001081

Ex. 16

  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**  
METROPOLITAN TRIBUNAL

NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
KINDLY REFER TO THIS  
NUMBER IN YOUR REPLY

IN CAUSA

January 5, 1998

**REDACTED**

Dear,

As you may remember, I interviewed you last year and at the beginning of this New Year, I wanted to write to you to keep you updated in the case concerning Fr. Lawrence Murphy. Because of the special nature of the accusations against Murphy, a special procedure has been applied in this matter. As part of the procedure, by law, the case was transferred to the Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin, where Murphy has residence. Bishop Fliss of Superior has agreed to take the case under his jurisdiction, meanwhile he has appointed Fr. Thomas Brundage, J.C.L. of the Milwaukee tribunal, to be the Presiding Judge.

The procedure now being used is a much swifter process than what we originally envisioned when this case began. It is our hope to have the case completed and a sentence imposed (should he be found guilty) sometime this Spring. However, Murphy would have the opportunity to appeal the case to the Holy See in Rome should he be found guilty and he objected to the sentence, which may further delay the case.

I apologize for the great length of time that it is taking to resolve this matter. I ask for your patience and prayers as we proceed to conclude this process. If I, or anyone in the central office can assist you at this time, please do not hesitate to be in contact with us.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

*John D. Aiello*

Rev. John Aiello  
Tribunal  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

**REDACTED**

Reverend Lawrence Murphy  
P.O. Box 50  
Boulder Junction, WI 54512

COPY

12 January, 1998

His Excellency  
Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
Piazza della S. Ufficio 11  
00193 Rome  
ITALY

Dear Cardinal Ratzinger:

I am a priest of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, living in the Diocese of Superior in Wisconsin. I am writing to you about a procedure which was begun against me by the Superior Diocese at the urging of the Milwaukee Archdiocese. It is a procedure concerning my dismissal from the clerical state, using the Norms issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1962, entitled De modo procedendi in causis sollicitationis.

My case can be summarized as follows: In 1974, I resigned from the St. John School for the Deaf, St. Francis, Wisconsin, in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, because of accusations of sexual misconduct. Archbishop Cousins, then Archbishop of Milwaukee, agreed that I could reside at a summer home owned by my family in the Superior Diocese. I have lived there ever since. My ministry was never restricted, but I received no further pastoral assignments. Because of my ability to communicate in sign language, however, I was called upon to assist in this area from time to time. Also, because my ministerial priesthood had not been restricted in any way, I also assisted local parishes in the Superior Diocese when called upon. There have been no further accusations against me since I left St. John's in 1974.

Nearly five years ago, however, some former students of St. John's began contacting the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, raising allegations against me. These were not allegations of recent misconduct, but were for offenses allegedly committed between the years 1963 and 1969. Some of the allegations involved solicitation in the confessional.

Without examining these accusations according to the 1962 norms, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee began penal proceedings against me, to dismiss me from the clerical state. When my Advocate, Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, J.C.D., from the Archdiocese of Chicago, pointed out that the time limits had run out for bringing such cases to the penal process, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee attempted to begin a procedure against me based on solicitation in the confessional. My Advocate again pointed out that the proceedings could only be instituted by the diocese

Ex. 18

ARCH\_MARSHALL  
01381

COPY

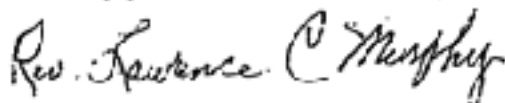
where I was living, that is, the Superior Diocese. Therefore, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee prevailed upon the Diocese of Superior to begin these proceedings according to the 1962 Norms published by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. A decree was issued on 6 January, 1993 informing me of this fact. The Diocese of Superior is using the personnel of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to prosecute the case.

I am appealing to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for the following reason: I ask that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith declare the decree of citation by the Diocese of Superior invalid. The accusations against me were for actions alleged to have taken place over twenty-five years ago. This goes against the 1962 Norms which state that an action must be brought within one month of the alleged solicitation.

I am seventy-two years of age, your Eminence, and am in poor health. I have just recently suffered another stroke which has left me in a weakened state. I have followed all the directives of both Archbishop Cousins and now Archbishop Weakland. I have repented of any of my past transgressions, and have been living peaceably in northern Wisconsin for twenty-four years. I simply want to live out the time that I have left in the dignity of my priesthood. I ask your kind assistance in this matter.

Because of my poor health and the severity of the winter weather in Wisconsin, I will be visiting my brother in Houston, Texas until after Easter. Therefore, I would ask that any of your correspondence until that time be addressed to my Advocate, Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, J.C.D., Judicial Vicar, Archdiocese of Chicago, 155 East Superior Street, Chicago, IL 60611, USA. I have enclosed a copy of the mandate I signed appointing Father Lagges my Procurator and Advocate. I will keep Father Lagges apprised of my whereabouts until I return to my home in Boulder Junction.

Sincerely yours in the Lord Jesus,



(Rev.) Lawrence Murphy

CASE NUMBER: S1/98 Superior

APPOINTMENT OF PROCURATOR AND ADVOCATE

I, the undersigned, hereby authorize and appoint to act as Procurator and Advocate before the Tribunal of the Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin in the above named process against me for the crime of solicitation in the confessional:

Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, J.C.D.

By this mandate I authorize the said Procurator and Advocate to act on my behalf before the Tribunal of the Diocese of Superior with all the rights and privileges granted to the Procurator and Advocate by ecclesiastical law, including the right of abandoning the case should it become necessary.

Rev. Lawrence C. Murphy  
Rev. Lawrence Murphy

Grace S. Helffi  
Signature of Witness

1/12/98  
Date

I, Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, J.C.D., accept the appointment as Procurator and Advocate to Rev. Lawrence Murphy. Given at Chicago, Illinois, on this 14th day of January, 1998.

Patrick R. Lagges  
Rev. Patrick R. Lagges

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01383





CONGREGATIO  
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano  
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

6 April, 1998

PROT. N. 111/96-06252  
(In risposta al vostro libro numero)

CONFIDENTIAL

Your Excellency,

I am writing in relation to the case, already known to you, of Fr Lawrence MURPHY, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee who resides at present in Boulder Junction (WI), accused of solicitation in confession against disabled minors. Fr MURPHY wrote a letter dated 12 January, 1998 to this Congregation requesting that the Decree of citation issued from your diocesan Tribunal on 6 January be declared invalid because of disconformity with the norms of the "Instructio de modo procedendi in causis sollicitationis" since "an action must be brought within one month of the alleged solicitations".

Fr Murphy also stated that he wished to live out the time that he has left in the dignity of his priesthood and added the following considerations:

- the accusations refer to actions alledged to have taken place over 25 years ago (1963-69),
- in 1974 "because of accusations of sexual misconduct" he resigned from St John's school and in agreement with the then Archbishop of Milwaukee took up residence in Superior with no further pastoral assignment,
- he has always followed the instructions given him by both the former and the present Archbishop of Milwaukee and has lived peaceably in Northern Wisconsin for 25 years,
- he is now 72 years old with delicate health and declares that he is repented of any past sins.

...

His Excellency  
Most Rev. Raphael Michael FLISS  
Bishop of SUPERIOR, U.S.A.

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01386

Ex. 19

This Congregation, after an attentive examination of the whole situation, would like to point out firstly that the finality of the period of one month fixed by the norms of the "Instructio" was to bring the penitent to comply with the obligation imposed by canon 904 of the 1917 Code (not incidentally adopted formally by the 1983 Code), and not to fix a term for penal action.

Secondly and taking into consideration what has been expressed by Fr Murphy in his letter, and before deciding upon a judicial process to establish the canonical responsibilities of the accused priest, this Congregation invites Your Excellency to give careful consideration to what canon 1341 proposes as pastoral measures destined to obtain the reparation of scandal and the restoration of justice.

I take the opportunity to wish you a blessed Easter in the joy of the risen Christ and with sincere respects, I remain,

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

*Gasparis Bertone*

DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

1201 HUGHITT AVE.  
P. O. BOX 969  
SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN 54880

April 30, 1998

Reverend Thomas T. Brundage  
Presiding Judge - Metropolitan Tribunal  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee  
3501 South Lake Drive, PO Box 07912  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

RB: Fr. Lawrence Murphy

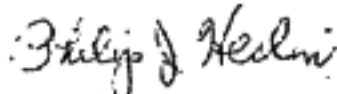
Dear Fr. Brundage:

Today Bishop Fliss received the enclosed document from the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith about the above referenced.

He asked that I forward the original of this document to you for your attention.

May God bless you with the joyful blessings of Easter.

Fraternally in Christ,



Fr. Philip J. Heslin  
Moderator of the Curia

Enclosure

cc: Most Rev. Raphael M. Fliss

001060

Ex. 20

**DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR**

1201 HUGHITT AVE.  
P. O. BOX 969  
SUPERIOR, WISCONSIN 54880

May 13, 1998

Monsignor Tarcisio Bertone  
Secretary  
The Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
00120 Vatican City State  
Europe

RE: Prot. N. 111/96-06252

Your Excellency:

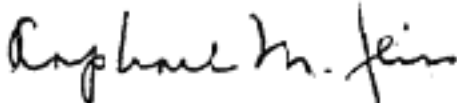
I wish to gratefully acknowledge your letter of April 6, 1998 regarding Fr. Lawrence Murphy, a priest of the Milwaukee Archdiocese who lives in the Diocese of Superior.

After having carefully considered your request that the pastoral measures expressed in Canon 1341 be employed, it is my judgment that all reasonable pastoral methods have been exhausted. I have come to the conclusion that scandal cannot be sufficiently repaired, nor justice sufficiently restored, without a judicial trial against Fr. Murphy.

The scandal and the sense of injustice that pervades the deaf Catholic community is of such a level that demands the careful administration of justice in this very tragic situation.

I have instructed the Tribunal to employ the 1962 Norms in this process, as per your request.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ 

Most Reverend Raphael M. Fliss  
Bishop of Superior

cc: Reverend Thomas T. Brundage

Ex. 21

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01388

103. Lawrence Murphy

On February 8, 1996 I received an inquiry from Paul Janette who stated that Lawrence has disconnected his phone and mail has been returned from the Boulder Junction address. Apparently a phone call to St. Ann's Rectory in Boulder Junction revealed that Lawrence generally goes to visit a brother in Texas for the winter and closes up his residence for the season.

RJS

385. Lawrence Murphy

✓ On May 30, 1998 I joined Archbishop Weakland and Bishop Flics in meeting with Archbishop Bertone and staff regarding the case. It became clear that the Congregation was not encouraging us to proceed with any formal dismissal on the basis of 24 years of apparent good conduct and the precept impeding exercise of orders currently in effect. We were also cautioned about the difficulty of the question of the Confessional, both in terms of the strict canonical definition of the crime as well as the time lapse between obtaining the information and acting thereon. Archbishop Bertone noted that disobedience of any precept forbidding contact with community members could form the basis for another canonical process.

RJS

491. Lawrence Murphy

On July 1, 1998 in the context of a meeting with Attorney M. Flynn and Archdiocesan office heads I learned that the deaf community had urgently requested that his name be registered with the State as an offender, that some money be provided to victims and that he never be buried as a priest in order to underscore the seriousness of his actions. I learned that a relationship had continued up to two years after his move to Boulder Junction.

RJS

✓522. Lawrence Murphy

On July 22, 1998 I joined Archbishop Weakland in meeting with T.Brundage, B.A. Cusack, C.Deehr-Koob, J.Mullooly, Fr.Patrick Leagges (of the Chicago Tribunal) and L.Plasecki in discussing the current status of Archdiocesan action against Fr. Lawrence Murphy. In discussion of various options and in view of the absence of any funeral directives, it was decided that the precepts would be repeated and reinforced; especially with regard to lack of contact with members of the deaf community, that his agreement would be sought for a private funeral with closed casket at St. Ann Parish in Boulder Junction upon the occasion of his death, that a letter of apology to the deaf community would be requested immediately, that the Archdiocese would investigate the extent of his personal property and prepare a statement from the Archdiocese to be given to the deaf community accompanying his own letter of apology.

RJS

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Metropolitan Tribunal

312-751-3384 FAX: 312-751-8314

P.O. Box 1979 Chicago IL 60690

155 E. Superior Chicago IL 60611

15 May, 1998

REV THOMAS T BRUNDAGE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE  
3501 SOUTHLAKE DRIVE  
MILWAUKEE WI 53207-0912

Dear Tom:

Enclosed is a draft of an outline of the procedure that is described in the document from CDF. I'm not sure that I got everything, so you might want to give this to Jack Hopka for his review. I just wanted to get something down on paper, especially with regard to the interrogation of the accused.

I am also enclosing a list of questions that I would like asked of the witnesses. As you can see, they are very detailed and specific, but that's what is called for in the CDF document.

I left you a voice mail last week that Father Murphy has agreed to come to Milwaukee on June 30th to be interviewed. I hope that day is still OK with you. As I mentioned in my voice mail message, when he said that he didn't know if he would be physically able to withstand the trip and the interview, I asked him to get a medical opinion on that. I hope that was all right with you. He did seem awfully weak on the phone, though, and his speech was slightly slurred.

I will be away from the office the weeks of May 18 and 25, and then again the week of June 8. I also have a talk to give at Notre Dame on June 16-17. Other than that, I will be in the office.

Fraternally,



(Rev.) Patrick R. Lagges  
Judicial Vicar

EX. 23

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01392

10. ACCUSATORY PERIOD: (a.) The accused is informed of the accusation according to canonical principles. (b.) The accused is urged to confess any crimes of which he might be aware. (c.) If he confesses the crime of solicitation, the promoter of justice writes this down and immediately concludes the case with a decision, having given the accused the option of acceptance the decision or going through a trial. (d.) If the accused denies the accusation, the judge must declare the deliberations open.
11. DELIBERATION PERIOD: (a) The judge can suspend the accused from all or some sacred functions or order him to go to a predetermined place. (b.) The accused is to be interrogated according to a specific formula: [1] The accused is not to be bound by an oath to tell the truth. [2] The accused is to be asked if he knows why he has been summoned, and if so, he should be invited to confess any crime, expressing the names of those whom he solicited, the words or facts or other circumstances of the alleged crimes. This can take place over a period of days if the person has difficulty remembering the events. The confession can also be made in writing. The judge will then compare the confession with the other material in the acts of the case. [3] If the accused does not know why he has been summoned, it will be explained to him, and he will be asked if he perpetrated any of the crimes. [4] If he responds affirmatively, he will be asked to make a spontaneous confession as before. [5] If he responds negatively, he is to be read the decree indicting him. [6] He will then be asked to relate the story of his own life and career, where he was born, where educated, any academic honors, where lives, what offices and duties he had been assigned, etc. He will also be asked if he has any enemies, who they are, and what the cause is of their enmity. [7] He will then be asked about the particulars of persons, places and circumstances of the times brought out in the accusations: e.g., where the confessional is, whether he received penitents in his room before or after confession; whether he put books at their disposal; whether he would speak for a long time with a penitent behind closed doors, whether it took place on a particular day, etc. [8] The judge will then state to the accused the specific denunciations completely, omitting only the names, beginning with the less serious and slowly proceeding to the more serious. [9] The judge will then bring up to the accused other crimes not pertaining to the Holy Office, and will inform him of other denunciations. [10] The judge will then ask the accused what he feels about the sixth precept of the decalogue and the sacrament of penance, whether he thinks it is licit for a confessor to act in such a way toward a penitent, whether he is familiar with the penalties for solicitation in the confessional, and if he thinks his actions were in no way sinful. [10] The judge will then ask the accused if he wants the process continued, whether he would be content with a defender assigned by the Tribunal or wishes to appoint his own, and whether he wishes to have the examination of those denouncing him repeated. If he has witnesses in his defense or wishes to have the denouncers re-examined, the session is to be suspended. [11] After all the material has been collected, it will be presented to the promoter of justice, who will declare whether there is anything more to be done in the matter. [12] At the end of each session, the testimony is to be read back to the accused, and he is asked to sign it, along with taking the oath of secrecy.

12. Decree concluding the case

**PROCESS FOR CASES INVOLVING THE CRIME OF SOLICITATION**

1. The case is heard by the ordinary of the place where the accused resides. If the accusation is made in another place, the ordinary of that place is to forward all documents to the ordinary of the place where the accused resides.
2. The case is committed to a cleric or to a collegiate tribunal, which can employ two assessors to be chosen from among the judges of the diocese.
3. The ordinary is to nominate a promoter of justice, defender of the accused, and a notary, all of whom are to be priests. The notary must be present for all the acts of the case. The promoter of justice must at least inspect all the acts of the case.
4. All must be put under the oath of secrecy of the Holy Office.
5. **RECEPTION OF THE DENUNCIATION:** a.) An oath must be administered according to a specific formula; b.) the interrogation is to be made according to a specific formula so that each and every circumstance is noted, and the responses committed to writing. The denunciation could also be done in writing before the ordinary or his delegate.
6. Presentation of the case to the promoter of justice, who must decree in writing whether the crime is present or not, and submit the case to the Holy Office.
7. **INQUISITION PERIOD:** (a.) The personnel file of the accused should be searched to see if there were any previous accusations; (b.) witness testimony should be gotten from two ecclesiastics familiar with both the denouncer and the denounced, concerning the life, morals, and public reputation of both the denouncer and the denounced; whether the denouncer is credible or capable of lying, and whether there is any evidence of hatred, grudge, or enmity between the two. If needed, two witnesses can be permitted for each party, but it would be better if the same two witnesses were used for both parties. Extrajudicial information is also sufficient; (c.) other people can be questioned who have also been solicited.
8. Presentation of all the material to the promoter of justice to ensure that all the procedures have been followed correctly.
9. Decision by the ordinary of the place: (a.) The accusation lacks foundation, and the documents should be destroyed; (b.) The accusation is too vague, and the documents are to be remanded to the archives; (c.) Insufficient proof is present, but the accused is to be admonished; (d.) There is sufficient foundation, and the accused ought to be cited according to the prescriptions of the Code of Canon Law.



13. Delegation of a judge other than the one who conducted the investigation, if possible.
14. Designation of a defender of the accused by the judge, with peremptory time periods being assigned for preparation of a defense.
15. Written report from the promoter of justice.
16. Decision of the judge, either (a) Condemnatory; (b) Acquittal; or (c) Abandonment of case if the matter is doubtful.
17. Publication of the sentence to the party, with right of appeal specified.
18. Appeal must be made within 10 days tempus utile.
19. The imposition of the penalty.

5/15/98

## QUESTIONS FOR THOSE DENOUNCING FATHER MURPHY

1. Please explain in detail to each of the denouncers that the ONLY thing we are asking about in this session is Father Murphy's behavior toward that particular person in the confessional -- either before the sacramental confession started, during the sacramental encounter itself, or after the sacramental confession, provided it was based on the advice or statements that Father Murphy made in the confessional. (They should also be given the opportunity, at the end of the session, to submit the names of others who they believe were solicited.)
2. Ask each witness to describe the confessional.
3. Ask each witness to describe how he went to confession. That is, was it face to face? Through written notes? Through a partial screen? Etc.
4. Ask each witness if he ever went to confession in any other places to Father Murphy?  
a.) If this is affirmative, ask them the above questions (numbers 2 and 3).
5. Ask each witness if Father Murphy actually abused him sexually, or touched him in a sexual manner, or engaged in any genital contact, in the confessional.
6. Ask each witness if Father Murphy talked to him about sexual matters in the confessional. If he did, ask what those conversations were about. Also ask if other priests would similarly ask about sexual matters in the confessional (to see if this is something that was a normal part of confessions for the deaf in the 60s).
7. Ask each witness if Father Murphy invited him to see him afterward to talk about these matters. If so, how often did this occur, when specifically did this occur, where he asked him to go, how he would describe the place where they went, how he would describe what happened when they went there.
8. Ask each witness what made him think that this was related to what Father Murphy talked to them about in the sacrament of penance. For example, did he ever sexually abuse you at other times? Did he abuse others at other times? Etc.
9. Ask each witness if he told anyone about this. If so, when? and What was the person's reaction?
10. Ask each witness how he reacted to the abuse that occurred in the confessional. For example, did he try to go to confession to another priest or avoiding confession altogether? Did he try to avoid Father Murphy from that point onward?

11. Ask each witness why he waited for more than thirty years to bring these matters to the Church's attention. According to previous testimony, [redacted] was abused between 1963 and 1969; [redacted] was abused between 1966 and 1968; and [redacted] was abused between 1963 and 1965.
12. Ask each witness to describe, in chronological order, any contact he may have had with Father Murphy after the witness left St. John's.
13. Ask each witness why he had contact with Father Murphy after he left St. John's.
14. Ask each witness if Father Murphy ever helped him in any way after leaving St. John's, and describe the nature of that help.
15. Ask each witness if Father Murphy ever refused to help him in any way after leaving St. John's, and describe the nature of that refusal.
16. Ask each witness if there is anything else that Father Murphy has done that has angered the witness.
17. Ask each witness if he knows and understands that Father Murphy can no longer function as a priest because the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the Diocese of Superior have forbidden him to act in that capacity.
18. Ask each witness what more the Archdiocese of Milwaukee or the Diocese of Superior could do that they have not already done to make sure that Father Murphy never functions again as a priest.
19. For [redacted] and [redacted], Ask how giving them money will do for them what the suspension of Father Murphy has not done.
20. Ask each witness if he knows and understands that theologically Father Murphy will ALWAYS be a priest, no matter what is done to him by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee or the Diocese of Superior. (This may take some explaining.)

Questions submitted 5/15/98  
Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, J.C.D.  
Procurator and Advocate for Rev. Lawrence Murphy

REDACTED

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01397

Dear Bishops:

After receiving the CDF's letter indicating that there is no statute of limitations in cases such as LMs', I met last week with the Board for the deaf ministry in the Archdiocese. I inquired if there were any pastoral measures that still could be used to resolve this matter. I received a very firm message (and I believe it is reflective of the larger community) that the only justice for the deaf community would be the removal from the clerical state for LM.

I heard phrases such as "that man should not be allowed to be buried in priestly robes," and "there are just so many victims."

I explained that even if we find him guilty here in Milwaukee, the case would probably be appealed to the Holy See and there is no guarantee that our decision would stick. Their response was that even one affirmative decision from the Tribunal in Milwaukee, would do a great deal of good for the deaf community, and that they would then feel as though they have been heard.

After the meeting, I contacted Bishop Fliss, under whose jurisdiction the case rests. Bishop Fliss indicated that he felt that all pastoral measures have been exhausted and that we should proceed with the case. Bishop Fliss then wrote a letter to the CDF acknowledging their letter and indicating that he has ordered the case to proceed according to the 1932 norms.

Bishop Fliss stated that he wanted to bring-up this matter to the CDF when he is making his ad-limina visit. I agreed to assemble some notes about the case for him in preparation for this meeting. Would either or both of you want the same notes?

I have set a June 30, 1998 deposition date for LM. I will be interviewing a couple more victims between now and then.

Before the LM interview, I will send a strong letter to LM strongly advising him to contact Jim Connel to begin the laicization process.

If either of you have any thoughts or concerns about these developments, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Tom

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01398



CONGREGATIO  
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00170 Città del Vaticano  
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

July 13, 1998

PROF. N. 111/96 - 06838  
*in risposta alla vostra lettera*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Your Excellency:

This Congregation forwards to you, as agreed, the documentation from the meeting of May 30, 1998, concerning the case of the Rev. Lawrence Murphy, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee accused of solicitation in the sacrament of Confession who is currently resident in the Diocese of Superior. At this meeting, in addition to Your Excellency, Bishop Raphael Fliss and Bishop Richard Skiba also took part.

This Dicastery has every hope that the priest in question will demonstrate a willingness to cooperate in the solution to this painful case which will favour the good of souls and avoid scandal.

With kind regards and prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Francis Pertone*

- enclosure -

---

His Excellency  
Most Reverend Rembert WEAKLAND  
Archbishop of Milwaukee, USA

Ex. 25

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01430

**Riassunto dell'incontro dei Superiori CDF con  
gli Ecc.mi Presuli interessati al caso del Rev. Lawrence C. MURPHY,  
sacerdote accusato di sollecitazione in Confessione (Prot.N. 111/96)**

L'incontro si è svolto sabato 30 maggio 1998 nella sede della CDF. Per la CDF erano presenti: S.E. Mons. Tarcisio Bertone, Segretario, il quale ha presieduto la riunione, il R.P. Gianfranco Girotti, Sotto-Segretario, Don Antonio Manna dell'Ufficio Disciplinare, Don Michael Jackels (traduttore) e P. Antonio Ramos. Erano presenti gli Ecc.mi Presuli che avevano richiesto l'incontro: S.E. Mons. Rembert Weakland, Arcivescovo di Milwaukee (USA), il suo Ausiliare, S.E. Mons. Richard Skiba e S.E. Mons. Raphael Fliess, Vescovo di Superior (USA).

1. S.E. Mons. Weakland ha esposto brevemente i precedenti del caso, facendo rilevare quanto segue: 1) risultano molte le vittime di abusi da parte del Rev. Murphy, tutte non-udenti; 2) nel 1974 vi fu un intervento nei confronti del Rev. Murphy, ma niente venne registrato negli archivi dell'arcidiocesi (sembrò trattarsi di un processo civile, conclusosi senza che fosse imposta pena alcuna all'accusato e l'intervento consistette nell'inviare detto sacerdote in un'altra diocesi, i.e. Superior); 3) la comunità dei non-udenti al presente mantiene una grande indignazione a motivo di questo caso e rifiuta ogni soluzione pastorale; 4) a causa del lungo periodo di tempo trascorso da quando avvennero i fatti, non è più possibile avviare nello stato di Wisconsin un processo civile; 5) il Rev. Murphy non ha nessun senso di rimorso e sembra non rendersi conto della gravità di quel che ha fatto. Inoltre, 6) c'è il pericolo di grande scandalo qualora il caso venisse pubblicizzato dalla stampa. Secondo le testimonianze raccolte, i misfatti del Murphy avrebbero origine nella Confessione.

2. S.E. il Segretario CDF - nel sottolineare sia il lungo periodo di tempo ormai trascorso (più di 35 anni!) da quando ebbero luogo i fatti, che costituisce il vero problema anche canonico, e il fatto che non risultano notizie di altri delitti perpetrati o di scandali suscitati dal Murphy durante questi anni a Superior - sostiene che non vi sono elementi sufficienti per istituire un processo canonico. Tuttavia - rileva - è inaccettabile che egli possa recarsi a celebrare l'Eucaristia nella comunità dei non-udenti a Milwaukee; occorrerà perciò impedirglielo, facendo ricorso anche ad alcuni rimedi penali. Per motivi cautelari, gli si può intimare di celebrare l'Eucaristia soltanto nella diocesi di Superior, tanto più che vi è l'accordo sia del suo Ordinario, i.e. l'Arcivescovo di Milwaukee, che dell'Ordinario del luogo dove egli risiede. Tale provvedimento però dovrà essergli comunicato per scritto.

3. In merito all'eventualità di un processo canonico per il delitto di sollecitazione in Confessione, S.E. il Segretario attira l'attenzione su alcuni problemi che esso presenta: 1°) innanzitutto la difficoltà di provare un tale delitto, la cui interpretazione dovrà essere fatta "in stricto sensu"; 2°) la difficoltà che hanno i sordomuti a fornire prove e testimonianze senza aggravare i fatti, tenuto conto sia dei limiti inerenti alla loro menomazione che della distanza dei fatti nel tempo. Comunque - sottolinea - occorrerà far riflettere seriamente il Murphy sulla gravità del male da lui operato e sul fatto che dovrà dare prove di ravvedimento. 3) Accenna infine all'ampio diritto di difesa che esiste negli USA e alle difficoltà che sarebbero poste dagli avvocati in questo senso.

4. S.E. Mons. Weakland s'impegna a cercare di ottenere dal Rev. Murphy - da lui paragonato a un bambino "difficile" - una dichiarazione di pentimento; tutti e tre gli psicologi che lo hanno esaminato, lo ritengono un pedofilo "tipico", il quale pertanto "si crede vittima". Al riguardo il Sotto-Segretario, P. Gianfranco Girotti, ribadisce che detto sacerdote dovrà dare segni chiari di pentimento, "altrimenti si dovrà ricorrere ad un processo". S.E. il Segretario propone di imporgli un periodo di ritiro spirituale insieme ad un salutare ammonimento per poter comprendere se realmente egli sia pentito o meno, altrimenti si esporrebbe al rischio che gli vengano imposte misure più rigorose, *non esclusa la dimissione dallo stato clericale*. Consiglia poi di affidarlo a un sacerdote come suo direttore spirituale, con incontri periodici di uno o due mesi.

5. S. E. il Segretario infine riassume i due punti centrali della linea da seguire nei confronti del sacerdote in parola: 1°) la restrizione territoriale della celebrazione eucaristica e 2°) l'ammonimento per indurlo a mostrarsi pentito.

Prima della conclusione dell'incontro, S.E. Mons. Weakland tiene a riaffermare che sarà difficile far comprendere alla comunità dei sordomuti la lieve entità di questi provvedimenti.

30 maggio 1998

ARCHDIOCESE  OF MILWAUKEE  
METROPOLITAN TRIENNA

NA  
KINDY REPTA T. 712P  
X' MUP' N' V. C. 87P

INCA'NA

August 15, 1998

Bishop Fliss  
Diocese of Superior  
1201 Hughtt Ave.  
Superior, WI 54880

Dear Bishop Fliss:

Thank you for the time on the phone a couple of weeks ago. In that discussion, I indicated that I had put the CDF letter through a computer translator. I have enclosed a copy of the translation. It is a very rough translation and the computer certainly cannot distinguish some of the peculiarities of canon law. Nevertheless, it does give us non-Italian speakers a rough idea of what happened.

Peace to you and again thanks,



Rev. Thomas T. Brundage  
Judicial Vicar  
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

001074

Ex. 26



Resume of the meeting of the Superiors of CDF with the prelates interested to the case of the Rev. Lawrence C. MURPHY a priest accused of solicitation in Confession (Prot.N. 111/96)

The meeting occurred Saturday May 30 the 1998 in the center of the CDF. For the CDF they were present: S.F. Mons. Tarcisio Bertone, Secretary, which has presided at the meeting, the R.P. Gianfranco Girotti, Under Secretary, Don Anthony Manna of the Disciplinary office, Don Michael Jackels (translator) and P. Anthony Ramos. They were introduced to those who requested the meeting: S.F. Mons. Rembert Weakland, Archbishop of Milwaukee (USA), his Assistant, S.E. Mons. Richard Sklba and S.F. Mons. Raphael Fliss, Bishop of Superior (USA).

1. S.E. Mons. Weakland has briefly described the issued, making notice of the following: 1) there are a lot of the victims of abuse by the Rev. Murphy, all not identified; 2) in 1974 there was an intervention towards the Rev. Murphy, but nothing was recorded in the files of archdiocese (this occurred after the threat of a civil trial, concluding with the imposition of the punishment for the accused and which resulted in the priest being sent to another diocese, i.e. Superior); 3) the community of the deaf at present maintains a great indignation for this case and it refuses every pastoral solution; 4) because of the long period of time spent from the facts of the case, it is no longer possible to start a civil trial in the state of Wisconsin; 5) the Rev. Murphy doesn't have any sense of remorse and it seems not to realize gravitates it of that that you/he/she has done. Besides, 6) there and the danger of big scandal if the case was publicized by the press. According to the picked testimonies, the misdeeds of the Murphy would have origin in the Confession.

2. The Secretary CDF underlined the long period of time by now departed (more than 35 years!) from when they took place, that it also constitutes a true canonical problem, and the fact that no other accusations news of crimes or scandals have arisen from during the years to he has been in Superior and that there are not enough elements to instruct a canonical trial. Yet it notices and unacceptable that he can celebrate the Eucharist in the community of the deaf community of Milwaukee; the diocese will need therefore to prevent him from celebrating Eucharist, and may also recourse to some penal remedies. Fr. Murphy can be summoned him to celebrate the Eucharist only in the diocese of Superior only with permission of his

001075

Ordinary i.e. the archbishop of Milwaukee and that of the ordinary one of the place where he resides. Such permission however must be communicated to him in writing.

3. Regarding the eventuality of a canonical trial for the crime of solicitation in Confession, S.F. the Secretary attracts the attention on some problems that it introduces: 1 () The innate difficulty trying such a crime, whose interpretation must be done strict secrecy; 2 The difficulty that they have to furnish proofs and testimonies without increasing the scandal, taking into account some inherent limits of the impairment caused by the distance of the facts in the time. However the case underlines the need to reflect seriously on the grave evil perpetrated by him and on the fact that there needs to be proof of the evil.

3) it should be mentioned to the generous law of defense that exists in USA and the difficulties that would arise from the execution of this case.

4. S.F. Mons. Weakland should try to have the Rev. Murphy declared impeded from ministry; Three psychologists would have to examine him, decide if he is a typical pedophile, which therefore. To the Secretary, Gianfranco Girotti, stated that the priest must give clear signs of repentance, otherwise he must be applied to a trial.. It is recommended that Fr. Murphy be entrusted to a priest who like his spiritual director then would have periodic meetings with him every one or two months.

5. 5. F. finally the Secretary restates the two central points to be followed towards the priest in question: 1 () the territorial restriction of the celebration eucharist and 2 () the needed remorse and reform of the priest.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, S.F. Mons. Weakland reaffirmed the difficulty he will have explaining this to the community of the deaf.

May 30 th 1998

001076

  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

August 19, 1998

Re: Murphy, Prct. N. 111/96

His Excellency  
Most Reverend Tarcisio Bertone, S.D.B.  
Secretary, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
Piazza del S. Uffizio 11  
00193 Rome ITALY

Your Excellency,

Thank you for the summary of the meeting that I, Bishop Fliss, and Bishop Skiba had with you in Rome on May 30, 1998, regarding Father Lawrence C. Murphy, a priest of the Milwaukee Archdiocese accused of solicitation in the confessional. I found the document an excellent summary of our conversation.

After I returned home from the *ad limina* visit, I met with my advisors to put together a pastoral plan that would address the needs of Father Murphy, the victims of the abuse, and the wider Catholic deaf community in Milwaukee. I wish to briefly inform you of the decisions I have made in this regard.

First, I have instructed my Judicial Vicar to formally abate the judicial process that had begun against Father Murphy.

Secondly, I have instructed our canonists to immediately begin an administrative process to have Father Murphy declared Irregular for Ministry (C. 1044.2, 2). Following your suggestion, I certainly will have Father Murphy assessed by psychological experts as part of this process. Ample care will be provided so that all of Father Murphy's rights are respected throughout the process. I should note also that Father Murphy has an advocate in these matters, Father Patrick Lagges, J.C.D., of the Chicago Archdiocese.

Thirdly, I plan on strengthening the precepts that have already been placed upon Father Murphy. I need to do this to assure that Father Murphy does not continue to seek contact with members of the deaf community, which often in the past has resulted in considerable dismay in the deaf community.

Ex. 27

  
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

August 19, 1998

His Excellency  
Most Reverend Tarcisio Bertone, S.D.B.  
Secretary, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

- 2

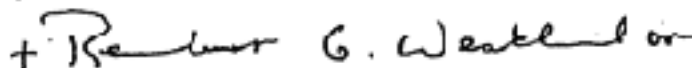
Working with my Vicar for Clergy, I will strongly urge Father Murphy to write letters of apology to the persons whom we know he has sexually abused. I assure you that there will be no reference in any form concerning the sacrament of penance in these letters.

Also, seeing that Father Murphy is in poor health, I have also drawn up plans for his funeral that will be pastorally sensitive to the needs of Father Murphy's family as well as the needs of the deaf community.

Finally, we will continue to pay for the counseling for any of the victims of the sexual abuse.

Again, I wish to express my appreciation for your concern about this grave pastoral situation in my Archdiocese.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

  
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 2, 1998

His Excellency  
M. Rev. Tarcisio Bertone, S.D.B.  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
Piazza del S. Uffizio 11  
00193 Rome, ITALY

Prot. N. 111/96-06888

Your Excellency,

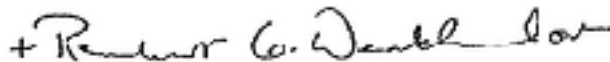
I am writing to inform you that Father Lawrence Murphy, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee accused of solicitation in the Sacrament of Confession and resident in the Diocese of Superior (cf. your protocol number), died on August 21, 1998, of natural causes. I am writing to inform you that you can now close your files on this sad case.

Although we thought the family had agreed to a private funeral Mass at the chapel of one of our cemeteries and that the casket would be closed, they did just the opposite, defied our agreement, invited people from the deaf community to attend, had the casket open and Father dressed in full vestments. The Mass was celebrated by the Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee, His Excellency Bishop Richard Skiba. Bishop Skiba, in his carefully prepared words, alluded to the good work Father Murphy did, but also, in deference to the deaf community present, had to mention that some shadows had been cast on his ministry.

In spite of these difficulties, we are still hoping we can avoid undue publicity that would be negative toward the Church.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

  
**ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE**  
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

September 2, 1998

His Excellency  
M. Rev. Agostino Cacciavillan  
Apostolic Nunciature  
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington DC 20008-3687

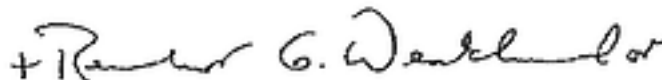
Your Excellency,

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have sent to Archbishop Bertone of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

In the event the Murphy family writes to you in protest, I would like to inform you that they never took seriously the multiple accusations of sexual abuse of boys against Father Lawrence Murphy that have been reported to us and verified. Since these also involved confessional circumstances, we had been working with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith as to how to proceed.

Many blessings.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,



Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee

Enclosure

REDACTED



3501 SOUTH LAKE DRIVE / BOX 07922  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53207-0922

Sept. 10, 1998

Dear [REDACTED],

Peace!

In the name of the Church, I want to tell you how sorry I am about the abuse you suffered because of Fr. Murphy. I know this has caused great torment in your life.

Prior to Fr. Murphy's death, the archdiocese had been actively pursuing a legal Church case against him. When Bishop Selba and I were in Rome this past May, we spoke very strongly and at great length about it with Vatican officials. His recent death, however, put an end to this case.

It is important for you to know that I had issued specific orders regarding the

funeral arrangements for him, some of which the Murphy family chose to ignore at the time of his death. I know that particular restrictions were very important to you, and I apologize if any of the circumstances surrounding his death and funeral have caused any further pain.

As a Church, we have learned so much about abuse in the last ten years. This does not take away the pain you have suffered, but I want you to know that we are now doing everything possible to protect children and all who have been treated unjustly.

Peace to you and many blessings.

Sincerely,  
Archbishop Robert G. Uecker  
Archbishop of Milwaukee





CONGREGATIO  
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,  
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

September 28, 1998

Prot. N. 11/96 - 06996

*(In response for merito haec numerus)*

Your Excellency:

Thank you for your kind letter of September 2, 1998, informing this Congregation that the Reverend Father Lawrence Murphy, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and resident in the Diocese of Superior, died on August 21, 1998.

Having taken note of his passing, the case of the accusation made against Father Murphy of solicitation in the Sacrament of Confession is, in effect, closed.

This Dicastery commends Father Murphy to the mercy of God, and shares with you the hope that the Church will be spared any undue publicity from this matter.

With kind regards and prayerful best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Raffaello Bertone*

---

His Excellency  
Most Reverend Rumbert G. Weakland, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee, USA

ARCH\_MARSHALL -  
01459

Ex. 30

NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
KINDLY REFER TO THIS  
NUMBER IN YOUR REPLY

## Synopsis of case against the Reverend Lawrence Murphy

IN CAUSA

### Personal information

Born November 11, 1925  
Studied at St. Francis Seminary  
Ordained a priest May 27, 1950  
Director of St. John School for the Deaf, July 1, 1963-September, 1974  
On leave until he retired on December 31, 1992

### History of the case against Father Murphy:

There is virtually no written information on how the Archdiocese handled the allegations that surfaced against him in 1974. What is known is that Father Murphy agreed to move to Boulder Junction and to accept "informal" assignments in the Diocese of Superior.

In 1995 Archbishop Weakland began to receive letters from various attorneys and alleged victims accusing Father Murphy of having molested young boys while he was the principal of St. John's.

On December 21, 1995, Archbishop Weakland ordered Father James Connell, J.C.D., to do a preliminary investigation of the allegations. After Fr. Connell's investigation that there was a likelihood that the accusations were true, Archbishop Weakland on October 15, 1996 ordered a judicial trial to begin against Fr. Murphy. During the investigation by Fr. Connell, it was determined that there may be as many as 100 to 150 victims of sexual abuse in this case.

Given the gravity of the accusations and the fact that many of the accusations concerned issues connected to the confessional, Archbishop Weakland on July 17, 1996, wrote to Cardinal Ratzinger requesting the guidance of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in this matter.

Receiving no immediate response to the inquiry with the CDF, in late 1996 a judicial trial was initiated through the Milwaukee Tribunal following the norms of the 1983 Code of Canon Law.

On March 24, 1997 a response was received from the CDF instructing the Milwaukee Tribunal to instruct the case using the secret 1962 norms for Solicitation in the Confessional. The original judicial process was then renounced and a new process using the 1962 norms was initiated.

Early in this new process, it was discovered that according to the norms, the only diocese competent to hear such a case was the diocese of the domicile of the respondent. On November 11, 1997 the Milwaukee Tribunal declared itself jurisdictionally incompetent to hear the case.

Under Bishop Fliss' authority, a new tribunal was constituted in the Diocese of Superior to hear this case and the accused was again cited.

On January 6, 1998, Fr. Murphy wrote a letter to the CDF making an formal exception to the case being heard on the basis that the peremptory time period had elapsed. On April 6, 1998, Bishop Fliss received a letter from the CDF dismissing Fr. Murphy's exception and clarifying that there are no set time periods for prosecuting cases of solicitation.

**Present status of the case:**

Three alleged victims will be interviewed by the Tribunal during late May, 1998 and June, 1998. On June 30, 1998, Father Murphy will be interviewed by the Tribunal. A decision should be coming during the month of August, 1998.

**Fr. Murphy's attitude through the process:**

Father Murphy, in his response to the citations, has denied any guilt for the charges of sexual abuse and solicitation.



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008-2687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

November 13, 1998

Most Reverend Rembert G. Weakland, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee  
P.O. Box 07912  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

Dear Archbishop Weakland:

I enclose herewith a copy of correspondence from Mr. James P. Murphy for your information and the attention you deem appropriate. I did not reply to him.

With cordial greetings and every best wish, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Apostolic Pro-Nuncio

- Enclosure -

ARCH\_MARSHALL 00189

Ex. 32



3330 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20008-3587

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

January 8, 1999

His Excellency  
Most Rev. REMBERT G. WEAKLAND, O.S.B.  
Archbishop of Milwaukee  
3501 South Lake Drive, Box 07912  
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0912

Your Excellency:

I acknowledge your recent correspondence in which you furnish a copy of your letter of December 2, 1998 to Mr. James P. Murphy, brother of the late Father Lawrence Murphy.

Thank you for keeping the Nunciature advised of this matter.

With cordial regards and best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Renato Volante  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

*Bona Noe!*

ARCH\_MARSHALL 00190

Ex. 33

Statement by the Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, regarding the Murphy case.  
March 24, 2010

The tragic case of Father Lawrence Murphy, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, involved particularly vulnerable victims who suffered terribly from what he did. By sexually abusing children who were hearing-impaired, Father Murphy violated the law and, more importantly, the sacred trust that his victims had placed in him.

During the mid-1970s, some of Father Murphy's victims reported his abuse to civil authorities, who investigated him at that time; however, according to news reports, that investigation was dropped. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith was not informed of the matter until some twenty years later.

It has been suggested that a relationship exists between the application of *Crimen sollicitationis* and the non-reporting of child abuse to civil authorities in this case. In fact, there is no such relationship. Indeed, contrary to some statements that have circulated in the press, neither *Crimen* nor the Code of Canon Law ever prohibited the reporting of child abuse to law enforcement authorities.

In the late 1990s, after over two decades had passed since the abuse had been reported to diocesan officials and the police, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith was presented for the first time with the question of how to treat the Murphy case canonically. The Congregation was informed of the matter because it involved solicitation in the confessional, which is a violation of the Sacrament of Penance. It is important to note that the canonical question presented to the Congregation was unrelated to any potential civil or criminal proceedings against Father Murphy.

In such cases, the Code of Canon Law does not envision automatic penalties, but recommends that a judgment be made not excluding even the greatest ecclesiastical penalty of dismissal from the clerical state (cf. Canon 1395, no. 2). In light of the facts that Father Murphy was elderly and in very poor health, and that he was living in seclusion and no allegations of abuse had been reported in over 20 years, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith suggested that the Archbishop of Milwaukee give consideration to addressing the situation by, for example, restricting Father Murphy's public ministry and requiring that Father Murphy accept full responsibility for the gravity of his acts. Father Murphy died approximately four months later, without further incident.