

MEMORANDUM
Confidential

L. EDVET
6-6-95

TO: Diocesan Files
FROM: Fr. Joseph Schumacher
DATE: June 6, 1995, 9:30 a.m.
SUBJECT: Conversation with Fr. John Bell, J.C.D., Judicial Vicar for Diocese of Dallas, with reference to sexual abuse accusation, possibly of priest now in our Diocese

Fr. Bell had made an appointment to see me this morning. He came on time. He reported the following:

A man by name of [redacted] who says he lives in [redacted] with his present wife [redacted] works at a permanent [redacted] She's in to Amerindian Art. He called John to report a sexual abuse by a priest when [redacted] was an adolescent or younger, Catholic resident in [redacted]

The incident took place on Boy Scout outings and in the sacristy of the parish on one occasion. The actions took place over a period of a year: fondling, mutual masturbation, and one time fellatio. He said the priest's name was [redacted]. In a conversation with Fr. Glenn Gardner, V.G. of Dallas, he admitted he was traumatized in 1963 when JFK was assassinated and perhaps got mixed up on the name since [redacted]

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He said it definitely wasn't the pastor [redacted] it was not the priest who drove the school bus, but another one. The three assistants prior to [redacted] (When the [redacted] moved out of [redacted] were [redacted] Fr. William Hoover. He said he thought it was Fr. Hoover, hence the reason for mixing up names of [redacted] and Hoover.

[redacted] that case is still under investigation, since it was reported [redacted] never finished high school, but attended [redacted] He joined the [redacted] at age 16 but came out after 14 [redacted]

He is asking the "Church" in meeting expenses of filing bail, cost of testing, and counselling.

John talked to [redacted] since Duffy wasn't available. Duffy then spent an hour talking to him. Fr. Gardner and [redacted] are approximately same age; Duffy grew up in St. James parish. Fr. Gardner got [redacted] talking and repeating what happened. Fr. Gardner thinks there is some truth in what [redacted] is saying, but maybe a bit mixed-up because of counselling.

Fr. Bell is going to contact [redacted] and say he has contacted me. Since the only living priest "involved" is in this Diocese and since the [redacted] live in [redacted] Fr. Bell says he is "turning" it over to us.

At present Fr. Bell, Fr. Gardner, and Fr. Kilian Broderick form a "Blue Ribbon Committee" to deal with such accusations. They know we have a more established group to handle it.

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0069

700-102, W
6-16-95

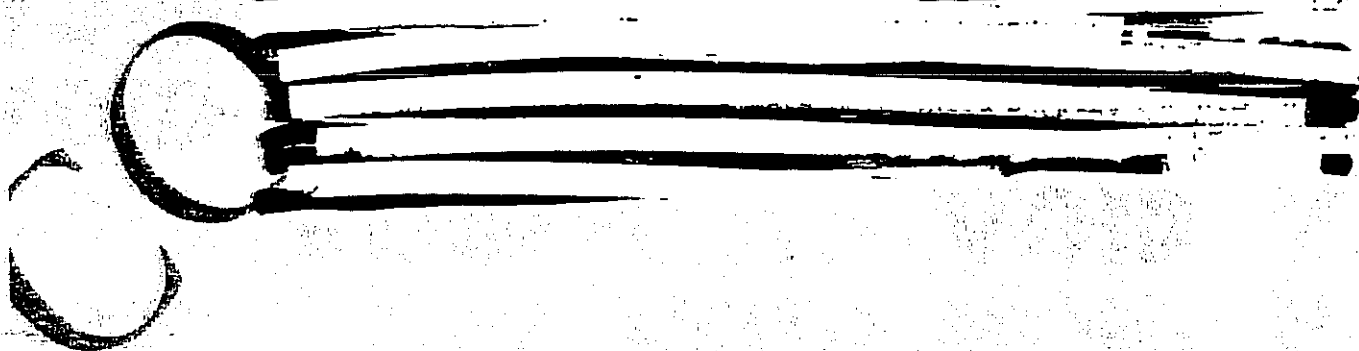
MEMORANDUM
Confidential

TO: DIOCESAN FILES
FROM: FR. JOSEPH A. SCHUMACHER
DATE: JUNE 16, 1995
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH [REDACTED] AT ASSESSMENT CENTER OF
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES, 1000 MCKENZIE ST, FT WORTH, TX
76105

As arranged, [REDACTED] met with the diocesan investigation team on sexual allegation. Present were [REDACTED] with me. We began at 3:30 and finished at 4:30 p.m. I told him we were part of a team set up by the bishop to investigate allegations of sexual abuse, that he would seek the good of the one accusing abuse, if that be the case of the abuser, and of the public at large as the facts became known. Our findings were of a confidential nature; we were seeking the truth of the facts as they will be reported. I then asked him to tell us about himself and what he alleged had happened, since I only knew about the allegation from a short conversation with [REDACTED] of the Dallas Diocese.

[REDACTED] said that he was [REDACTED] years of age, having been born in [REDACTED]. His parents were not Catholic, though his stepfather who reared him from pre-school years was. The parents sent him to [REDACTED] parochial school. [REDACTED] He became a Catholic there and also a [REDACTED]. His life seems to go in periods of [REDACTED] 4 years, bottoming out at the end of his 4 year period. With his family he left [REDACTED] moving to [REDACTED] Texas where he then attended the parochial school at [REDACTED] church where the [REDACTED] priests had the parish. He attended [REDACTED] High School, [REDACTED] for two years and returned to [REDACTED] for the last [REDACTED] years of his school, graduating from [REDACTED] High School. As a high school boy he wanted to be a priest and went one summer to [REDACTED]. He went one semester to [REDACTED] left then and [REDACTED] where he was trained as a [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. He said he was not a good student in school. He left [REDACTED] after about a year, with an honorable discharge (3916 unadaptability discharge).

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

During his counselling with a woman named [REDACTED] he admitted to [REDACTED] he had been sexually abused by a priest when he was in the [REDACTED] over a period of a year. He was told to confront the priest since that would help heal him. He refused to do so at that time. He had pneumonia [REDACTED] and was admitted to [REDACTED] Hospital for a week of treatment. He left and was home with his [REDACTED]. He can't remember what happened over Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's and blames it on the medication which he had taken. [REDACTED] got angry at him recently since he wouldn't let her stay out late with her boy friend [REDACTED].

is about 14.

he maintains Fr. Hoover, who was the chaplain for the [REDACTED] had taken him into his tent on a camp-out of [REDACTED] he taught him how to masturbate. They masturbated each other. When they returned to parish, he [REDACTED] to volunteer to serve at the altar. He maintains Fr. Hoover would [REDACTED] in the area behind the altar, masturbate him, he seemed to remember Fr. Hoover on a camp out with [REDACTED] committing fellatio on him. He didn't think it was sinful, since he knew nothing about sex and after all a priest was doing it to him and he to the priest. One time while bathing his mother saw how itched [REDACTED] with scabs on his private parts. He lied to her and said he had caught it in his trousers' zipper. [REDACTED] maintained there were many camping trips and behind the altar occasions when he was sexually abused by Fr. Hoover. He was never angry at Fr. Hoover, just upset. [REDACTED] He was upset and this caused him to leave [REDACTED] after just a year. He was living [REDACTED].

In the last 8 years he has talked to a grade school friend, [REDACTED] who said Fr. Hoover had also sexually abused him. [REDACTED] is going to talk to [REDACTED] next week. I asked him to ask [REDACTED] to contact us. He and [REDACTED] knew of another boy who was also abused. He is admitting his actions, but blames Fr. Hoover for causing him to be a [REDACTED]. "It's time to share the blame," he says.

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He insisted he did not come in an "adversarial" mood, not to file charges.

At present time, he cannot stay in his house in [redacted] so he has the expense of a motel. He says he is not angry at Fr. Hoover, his present wife can't understand why he isn't angry. [redacted] left the Catholic Church in [redacted]. He says Fr. Hoover contributed to his mental state which made him think there was nothing wrong in having sex with an adolescent.

His attorney in the first case was [redacted] now wants \$10,000 to handle his present case; he got \$10,000 for first case in 1988.

When asked why he didn't remember Fr. Hoover's name and said it was Fr. Huber, he said he remembered the individual and came to remember the name. He was so taken with the assassination of J.F.K. that he mixed up the name of the priest from [redacted] who had gone to [redacted] to see the president.

When asked to describe Fr. Hoover, he said he was young, tall, had no beard (his face was rough from not shaving, he remembers.), dark hair, wore clerical attire except on camp-outs when he wore black slacks and a T-shirt, no glasses, didn't smoke and couldn't remember his drinking alcohol.

[redacted] remembered another assistant priest who drove the school bus. He said that Fr. Hoover did not, none of the other names [redacted] described was the one who sexually abused him. He said he and wife [redacted] with her [redacted].

[redacted] are always barely making it financially. When he last had a job, they made [redacted] gross. He said he was "a mommy's boy until age 25." [redacted] and his mother always got in terrific arguments. He hasn't talked to her in last 2 years. She always tells him "You're killing me." She badgers him.

He then handed us a memorandum outlining the costs he wanted us to pay, piecemeal or in a lump sum of \$50,000.

We thanked him for coming, again asked him to get [redacted] to contact me, said we would be in touch with him at a later time after we had talked to Fr. Hoover and hopefully [redacted] and the "other boy."

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COPIES

Request for assistance: _____

Pay for or provide living quarters, in the _____ area: _____

My cost for 30 days: \$1050.00

Pay for or provide any and all counseling required by _____ or any other agency involved in this matter.

Based on a 2 year program of weekly counseling my cost: \$3100.00

Pay for all Test required by _____

Cost: \$150.00

_____ for me if there is an arrest in this matter

Based on personal experience: \$20,000 Bond

Will require posting cash bond: \$ 4,000

Pay for or provide legal council in this matter.

My attorney will require \$15,000 to handle this matter.

If the Church is only interested in a cash settlement then I request the amount of \$50,000 in order to put this matter to rest.

Thank You,

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COUNSELED

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1700-22 WAM
6-23-95

MEMORANDUM

Confidential

Memorandum

From: Fr. Joseph Schumacher
Subject: Telephone conversation with
Date: July 22, 1995, 2:50 p.m.

[Handwritten initials]

I made contact with [redacted] who said "he was within blocks of [redacted] with whom [redacted] had discussed this earlier who had said then he didn't want to bring it up. He will try to get [redacted] to call me. He also said since our conversation that [redacted] he has been in contact with a [redacted] who also say they were abused by the same person as [redacted] he [redacted] also said that he was in touch with a [redacted] who told him [redacted] was abused by the priest who followed as associate [redacted] then identified that one as [redacted] went on to say that he was emphasizing he didn't want to sue anyone; the only reason he was doing this was to get financial help for himself [redacted] in which he now finds himself [redacted] I encouraged [redacted] to encourage the others to contact me. [redacted] said nothing else.

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MEMORANDUM

Confidential

HOOPER, W
- 23 / 5 -

From: Fr. Joseph Schumacher
Subject: Interview with Fr. William Hoover
Date: July 23, 1995, 4:45 p.m., at St. Theresa Assessment Center, Ft. Worth, with team members, and me

Fr. Hoover met with us; he was very quiet, subdued. I told him the reason we had asked him to talk to us, repeated that we were asked to speak with him because of the allegation of that Fr. Hoover had sexually abused him over a period of a year, when Fr. Hoover was assistant pastor at [redacted]. I asked him to talk about what he knew and remembered.

Fr. Hoover said that he had read the memorandum I had given Bishop Delaney and the facts there were in general true. He said that he had touched sexually during the period mentioned. He was to say, though, that the details of what took place other than touching and nuzzling did not, as he remembered, take place. He said that he had not committed fellatio on him, nor had he masturbated him.

Fr. Hoover said that he had been ordained early, with Church permission, at the age of 23, that he was very immature, that he had worried about this incident over the years, that he had not done this to any other person since then, that they had been successful in parish ministry, working with the Cursillo Movement, and other diocesan projects. He believed he had matured after those incidents, that he was sorry that it happened.

When asked if anyone else knew about these occurrences, he said that he believed Bishop Gorman knew about it, that Fr. Fred Mosman who was his pastor at Holy Cross Church, Dallas (following his 2 years at St. James) also knew about it. He didn't know of any others who had knowledge of it. I brought up the names which [redacted] had given me, viz.,

(He said the last name was probably [redacted])
He said he knew the boys, their parents, their families; but that he had not had not done anything sexually with any one of them. He asked if he would ever have an opportunity to meet with [redacted]. I said perhaps if [redacted] wanted it and he did, too. We talked about what might happened at this point. I said that

we might consider helping him with counselling if that was deemed appropriate and helpful to his emotional life. I told him we would be making a report to Bishop Delaney. After he left, the team members said they hoped some of the other men (boys) would contact us, having been contacted by [redacted]. I said I had told [redacted] to encourage them to call me and he said he would. [redacted] and [redacted] will send me their reports as they finish them.

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In re: William Hoover

6-25-95

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney
In re: Father William Hoover
Date: June 25, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]

2. I met a short while later with WH and explained all of the above. We decided that he will be out of the Cathedral rectory by Tuesday evening. I will call WH tomorrow morning and set up an appointment for him to go for a full evaluation. Any decision about WH's future will depend on that report. He understood the need to go public with what had happened before the newspapers got it from [redacted] and give it their own slant. He knows that this will mean a complete change in his ministry, but seems resigned to that.

3. In the course of our conversation, WH admitted that there were two other boys with whom he was involved at the same time as with [redacted]. He says that Bishop Gorman found out about it from some parents who complained to a neighboring pastor. He was transferred to Fort Worth for a couple of years and then returned to Dallas as pastor. He insists that all this occurred in the late '50's and that nothing has ever happened since. I did not ask for the names of the other boys, but I presume they are included with the names that he mentioned to the investigating team.

4. I plan to publish a statement in the next North Texas Catholic and provide a written statement to the press if it is requested. I will also meet with several of the Cathedral staff to let them know before it becomes public. These will include: Fathers Tyl and Smith, Edie Hartwick, Cabl Weaver, Cecil Lejure, Kevin Levy and Art Dickensen.

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In re: Hoover, William
Date: June 27, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney
Date: June 27, 1995
In re: Father William Hoover - Conversation with Fr. Kevin McDonough

I spoke with Father Kevin McDonough of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul this afternoon to get his advice in dealing with the question of disclosure. He believes that disclosure is necessary and inevitable in this case, but thinks it would be good if we could buy time to have WH evaluated and a process of therapy and rehabilitation in place before announcing it. He understood that much will depend on my meeting with [redacted]. If [redacted] is not insistent on getting money, it may work.

In dealing with the parish, he urged that if possible they be the last ones to hear about it. He suggested an announcement after communion at Sunday masses to this effect: Father X has been removed from the parish for reasons too painful to discuss at this time, especially in the presence of the children. More information will be presented this evening at 7 p.m. here in the church. Members of the parish are invited to come back then. He urged that the bishop lead the meeting and have a child psychologist/communication person present to talk about how to present this to the children. All this would be much easier if the assessment of WH was complete, etc.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL FILES~~

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney
Date: June 27, 1995
In re: Father William Hoover - Conversation with Father Gardner

A telephone conversation this afternoon with Father Glenn Gardner, V.G. of the Diocese of Dallas:

I called GG to bring him up to date on where things were with the Hoover case. I told him that our committee had met with [redacted] and heard his story and had then met with WEH who had admitted that something had indeed happened 38 years ago. I told him that I was almost ready to go public with the news, but that I was waiting until I had a chance to talk to [redacted] this evening. He expressed surprise that WEH had admitted the incident and we discussed the lack of legal implications so far as I could see. He thought that we might be able to get [redacted] to keep quiet by offering him some money for counseling.

Almost by accident, GG told me, sort of in passing, that the Diocese of Dallas had given a check for the amount of \$5000 last Friday, June 23 to be used for "counseling." He said that it was their policy to offer help to anyone who comes with a complaint against a priest. I expressed wonder at their having done this and without ever telling us without any proof that the allegations were true. He implied (I'm interpreting) that this was the easiest way to handle [redacted] since [redacted] needs money right now. He urged me to do the same. I explained that I would do whatever was necessary to help [redacted] overcome any problems that may have resulted from the abuse, but that we would do this only by paying directly a counselor, and would never offer cash. The odor of extortion and cover-up is too strong!

I ended by telling GG that I would make a decision about going public or not after talking to [redacted] this evening. I devised a code to alert him to my decision if I did not reach him directly.

GG also told me that the man named [redacted] who [redacted] alleged was also abused by WH, was [redacted] is an active Catholic and received a call from [redacted] He wanted GG to know that he was never abused and that he knew nothing about any abuse when he was a kid. He also told GG that he had not seen [redacted] for 35 years, but knew of him because [redacted] are friendly. He says that [redacted] is very strange and has always had problems.

In re: Hoover, William
Date: June 27, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney
In re: Father William Hoover -- My meeting with
Date: June 27, 1995

I met with _____ this evening at _____ parish in _____. I did not take notes but these are my recollections:

1. The meeting over-all went well. _____ was impressed and pleased that I had called him and gone over to _____ to meet with him. Also, several very mistaken impressions that had made him very angry were cleared up.

2. _____ was very angry after meeting with the investigating committee for two reasons: first, because he understood from them that WH had denied that the abuse had happened, and second, because he felt that the committee did not believe him and had challenged him to present proof. As to the first point, I explained that the committee (or anyone else) had not spoken with WH about the accusations when they met with him and could not have indicated that he denied it. Then I explained that when the committee did speak with WH that he did admit to it. At that point, _____ began to cry, saying that he had been so angry with WH for denying what had happened and all the time he had misunderstood. Somehow he felt much better to know that WH had acknowledged the fact. As to the second point, feeling that his veracity was challenged, _____ has begun a crusade to find other victims. He says he has two other people who admit to being abused by WH and another priest, whom he identified as, _____. He has other names and is continuing to try to contact people. This may be the source of more pain in the future. A learning: the committee did not come across to him as being interested in his story and supportive of victims, but rather as accusatorial and judgmental. This is not the proper role of the investigative committee.

3. _____ referred to the list of financial needs that he had given the committee and hoped that the Church could help him in this time of crisis. I told him that on behalf of the DoffW I could offer him as much counseling as was necessary, but that was all. After a round-about conversation on this point, it became clear that he was expecting much more--in line with the list of financial needs he had left with the committee. He insisted that he was not trying to extort money, but only that his life was in crisis and he needed help--and he feels that the crisis in part is due to the childhood abuse. Further conversation produced the amazing revelation that he had signed a hold-harmless agreement with the Diocese of Dallas last Friday and was paid the sum of \$5,000. When he met with Frs. Gardner and Bell at the chancery in Dallas, there was an attorney present. They had a document prepared that in its original form included the DoffW, Frs. Hoover and Schumacher, as well as the Dallas people. He questioned why he was signing on FW, so they struck that part out and told him that he should approach us for further help. (In my conversation with Fr. Gardner this afternoon he left slip as an afterthought the fact that they

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had given the \$5,000, which he said was for counseling, but never mentioned the attorney or the hold-harmless agreement. When I explained to [redacted] that the DoFW had no liability for an act that occurred before the diocese even existed, he pondered this and then said something to the effect of "then I've been had." This led to his become very angry with the Church as a whole and Dallas specifically.

4. [redacted] then said that if he couldn't sue either diocese, he would sue WH directly, and that would cause a great deal of bad publicity and would cost everybody a great deal. But he also kept insisting (and I believe he is sincere) that he is not looking for a lot of money, but only enough help to get him through the present crisis.

5. Some conclusions: I don't think he will go to the press, since he does not seem to want to get in the public eye, particularly given his own legal situation. If he can find an attorney who would take the case, however, I think he would go forward with a suit. I doubt there are any extant grounds for such, but who knows. He is upset at what Dallas did to him, and as he ponders that there may be some fall-out. He told me that he wishes WH well and does not hold anything against him.

6. The meeting ended friendly. He was glad to have met with me. I gave him my card and asked him to call me if I could help him in the future. I think he will call me before he takes any further action.

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HOOPER, WIM

July 1, 1975

July 11, 1995

Dear Brothers:

I am mailing this letter to you on Saturday morning so that most of you will receive it on Monday. Attached you will find the copy of a statement that I intend to make to the parishioners of Saint Patrick's Cathedral parish on Sunday evening. It will be printed in the current issue of the North Texas Catholic (the publication of which has been delayed to accommodate it), and will undoubtedly be picked up by the secular press on Monday or Tuesday.

I know that the news it contains will be the source of great sadness to all of you that has been to me. Because of the circumstances of the case, it became apparent to me over the past several days that it was necessary to take the step of making a clear announcement of the situation before it became public by other means.

This information will cause dismay throughout the Diocese, but especially at Saint Patrick's. For that reason, I want to speak to those parishioners about it in person and to offer them my support and prayers before they learn about it from other sources.

Bill Hoover is a priest whom I have admired and trusted since I came to the diocese. My admiration for him and my trust in his integrity is not diminished by learning of a mistake he made a long time ago. He will be undergoing a full psychological evaluation during the coming weeks, and he will be offered whatever therapy is indicated. It is my hope and prayer that he will be able to return to active ministry.

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This news is bound to cause you great distress. I have been living with it for the past three weeks and I am still upset and discouraged by it. I would like to find a way for all of us to get together to talk about what has happened and to offer each other support. It occurs to me that many of us will be together on July 11 for the fish fry at Bob Wilson's place. Most of the seminarians will be there too. Perhaps we can set aside some time around 5 p.m. that day to talk about this matter as a group and to join together in prayer. I hope that many of you will be able to come.

I know that you will continue to keep Bill in your prayers. Please pray too for Saint Patrick's parish and for the Diocese. Our lives as priests are intimately tied up with the mystery of the Cross. The Lord Jesus gives us the power to take up our own cross day after day to follow him. That cross may be ill health, psychological problems, temptations, failures and all the other things that living in the world brings to us. But each one of us is uniquely and eternally loved by the Savior who died for us and who lifts us up day after day, and who promises us his presence and life forever.

No matter what else happens, of that we are certain.

Please pray for me and for all your brothers in the priesthood.

Fraternally in Christ,

John P. O'Connell

10-04-04 Order 0081

July 2, 1995

[My name is _____] I am the chairman of the parish council. Bishop Delaney has asked me to make the following announcement: Father William Hoover has resigned as pastor of Saint Patrick's. It is not possible at this moment to go into the details of this development. However, Bishop Delaney would like to invite everyone who is able, to come to the Cathedral this evening at 7 pm, so he can give the members of the parish an explanation of this decision.

*announcement at all meetings
of the Cathedral*

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10-04-04 Order
0082



HOOPER, WILLIAM
July 2, 1995

Statement of Bishop Joseph P. Delaney
July 2, 1995

It is with great sadness that I make the following announcement.

Father William Hoover has resigned as pastor of Saint Patrick's Cathedral parish in Fort Worth. He has admitted the sexual abuse of a minor in an incident that occurred nearly 40 years ago. Knowledge of this matter came to the attention of diocesan officials three weeks ago when the person who was abused made the accusation against Father Hoover. In accord with diocesan guidelines, a committee was appointed to meet with that person and with Father Hoover. When he was presented with this accusation, Father Hoover acknowledged that it was true. When a complaint of this nature is found to be true, the care of the Catholic community requires that a full disclosure be made.

On behalf of the whole Church, I offer that person our deep sympathy and profound apology for the suffering that has been caused by what happened so long ago. The Diocese of Fort Worth stands ready to provide whatever counseling may be required to deal with this past abuse and to help that person cope with problems that may have resulted from that experience.

Father Hoover is on an indefinite leave of absence from active ministry. He will be undergoing an extensive psychological and spiritual evaluation and, if indicated, further therapy. He has served the Church in an exemplary way so many years after that sad event occurred, winning friends and admirers throughout North Texas. I know that all those who love him will join me in praying for him at this very difficult time.

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The Catholic Center

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Diocese of Fort Worth
Bishop's Office

HOOPER, WM.

July 3, 1995

July 3, 1995

Dear _____

I am writing with information about Father William Hoover who is scheduled to be at _____ for assessment beginning on July 9, 1995. I am enclosing copies of several memoranda that will shed light on the situation. I will try in this letter to give further details.

Father Hoover was pastor of our cathedral parish until I asked for his resignation last week. He celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination last month. He is known and admired by everyone as one of our finest pastors—an excellent preacher, a kind counselor and a wise friend. Three weeks ago a man came to us (referred by the Diocese of Dallas) with a claim that Father Hoover had abused him sexually when he was a young boy (about 10 years old). As you will see from the enclosures, this man has had a very complicated and tragic life.

_____ He came to us to ask for money for his current needs with the unspoken threat of going public with the information about Father Hoover. After a lot of soul searching, _____ I decided to make a public statement to have some control over how the matter is aired.

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Yesterday (Sunday, July 2) I had an announcement made after all the Masses at the cathedral telling the parishioners that Father Hoover had resigned and that I would explain the circumstances in the evening. About 500 people came to the church last evening and I read the statement that you will find enclosed. It was also sent to all the news media. Thus the bare facts of the matter are fully public and the story is being widely aired in both the print and electronic media today. Because the facts made public are so few, I hope that the publicity will quickly die down. Father Hoover has already left the diocese and is waiting for next Sunday when he will be at _____. Naturally, he is very affected by all this and will need your support and assurance when he arrives.

When he was questioned by the inquiry committee Father Hoover was very forthright in admitting that there had been sexual contact with the boy but he disputed whether it has been as extensive as had been reported. He denied that there had been any other such events. When I met with him, however, he told me that there had been a couple of other boys involved too. Since the original accuser has also indicated that there were other involved, we are pursuing that matter. Father Hoover has assured me that nothing ever occurred again after that one year.

I met with the person making the accusation last week. He is an intelligent and articulate but unsophisticated, _____ year-old, who is in very difficult straits—in danger of losing what little he has and of going to jail. _____ He insists that his asking for money is not extortion, but only justifiable assistance at this terrible time in his life. He thinks that the abuse he suffered was the cause of his present predicament. He was very angry with _____

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Letter to _____ on re: Father William Hoover, July 3, 1995

Father Hoover and the Church and was threatening to make a major public issue of the matter at one point, and then later he was sorry for Father Hoover. I have offered him as much help with counseling as he wishes or is indicated, but no other recompense. (Actually, if there were further financial liability, it would fall to the Diocese of Dallas, since the abuse occurred in a parish in the city of Dallas and this diocese did not exist at that time.) Our attorney has concluded that it seems that there is no legal liability, either civil or criminal, in this case because of the lapse of time. It is not unlikely, however, that the person will bring the matter up during his trial as a mitigating circumstance to explain his present pathology.

This is the first time any hint of anything improper has ever been heard about Father Hoover. The news is causing profound shock and sadness throughout our diocese and beyond. My hope is that the assessment will do several things: first, give Father Hoover support and affirmation at this very critical time; secondly, provide us, insofar as it may be possible, with some assurance that indeed nothing improper has taken place since [unclear] years ago; and, finally, provide some indication about whether he can ever be reassigned to priestly ministry, and if so, under what circumstances.

Either I or Father Robert Wilson, diocesan chancellor, will be ready at any time to furnish any further information that you may need. Thank you and staff for all your help.

Sincerely,
Christ

Joseph P. Delaney
Bishop of Fort Worth

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10-04-04 Order
0085

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In re: Hoover, William

Date: July 3, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney

Date: July 3, 1995

In re: Father William Hoover -- Call from

I had a call this afternoon from [redacted] who was a pupil at [redacted] in the late '50's. He called to tell me that he was abused by WH [redacted]. He says he thought it was the thing that priests did. He says that he is no longer a Catholic because of it.

I offered him my sympathy. He said that he doesn't need anything, that he is fine now. He called because he heard about WH on the radio and wanted me to know that he was not guilty of abuse. He also mentioned that Father Duffy Gardner was his classmate and should have know about it.

July 3, 1995 - I spoke by telephone with [redacted] and told him of [redacted] accusation. He denied that it happened and seemed not to know who [redacted] was.

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CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order 0086

In re: Hoover, William
Date: July 5, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney
Date: July 5, 1995
In re: Father William Hoover - Telephone call from

I received a call from a man who identified himself as [redacted] who said that he was an altar boy at [redacted] in Dallas and was abused by Father Hoover. He was calling because I had expressed the hope that if there were other victims they would be in touch with me. I thanked him for calling and asked how he was doing with it. He said that he had not thought about it for years and that it was certainly abuse by modern standards. He indicated that he did not need any help. I promised to be back in touch with him. He lives in [redacted]

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CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order
0087

In re: Hoover, William
Date: July 5, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney
Date: July 5, 1995
In re: Father William Hoover - Telephone call from

I had a call today from _____ telling me that he had been abused by WH in _____
and _____ when he lived in _____ parish in Dallas, over a period of about 1 1/2 years. He
is _____ years old now and is an _____ in _____. He indicated that the abuse had been overly
sexual and that it happened on some occasions in the sacristy.

He told me that the abuse had "screwed up my mind" and that he had difficulty in sexual
relations for a long time, but that _____ were doing well now. He was inactive as a
Catholic for many years and joined the _____ Church in _____. At that time he discussed the
earlier abuse with his priest who urged him to write to someone, but he never did. He did share
the story of his abuse with "several people" over the years.

He mentioned that he was a classmate of _____ who knew WH well and might know
something about what happened then.

He is angry with WH for causing distress and his life for some years. I told him that we would
provide him with counseling if he wished, and promised to be back in touch with him about it.

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10-04-04 Order
0088

In re: Hoover, William
Date: July 6, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney
Date: July 6, 1995
In re: Father William Hoover - Call from

called at 4:30 p.m. from Dallas. He wanted to report that he had been abused by WH in 1957 or '58. It happened a number of times and included kissing and fondling and overt sexual acts. It took place in the sacristy before or after mass and in the rectory. On one occasion it involved both of them lying naked together. Other times it was WH who disturbed him. He told no one then. His family was close to WH who had befriended them when

Some data: _____ was attending _____ School but living in _____ parish. He would go with WH by car from the school to serve mass at _____. A lot of kissing and hugging occurred on those occasions. He said that he knew the same thing was going on with other kids, but they didn't talk about it.

He has thought about the abuse over the years. The abuse now has upset him very much, but he is especially concerned about how his mother and sister are taking it. He has told them about his experiences with WH and he quotes his mother: _____

He definitely wants counseling for himself and for _____. I promise him that I or Father Wilson would be back in touch with him in a day or so.

10-04-04 Order
0089

In re: Hoover, William
Date: July 6, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney
Date: July 6, 1995
In re: Father William Hoover - Call to Father Glenn Gardner

I called Duffy this evening to bring him up to date:

1. I told him that [redacted] had given an interview to Channel 5 and that it would be aired at 10 this evening. We wondered what his motives could be.
2. I raised the matter of the hold-harmless document that [redacted] had signed last Friday at the Dallas chancery. He pretended that he was not there and that it was something that John Bell had done! I complained about how we had not been informed, etc. He claimed that he thought that Bob Wilson had told him that we had no responsibility.
3. I told him that I had six more complaints about WE and that we would handle them one more step, but that it was up to Dallas to provide the counseling if it is requested. He agreed that all the liability is with Dallas.

My reactions: I am very uncomfortable talking with Duffy because I feel he is spinning out whatever answer will get him off the hook. I simply don't trust him and don't believe that he has told us the truth. I also wonder how much he knows by personal experience about what happened back then. Why did he give [redacted] \$5,000 without any proof that what he said was true unless he knew it was true some other way?

We need to decide how we will deal with the victims in their relations with Dallas so they are not made to feel that they are being abused all over again.

10-04-04 Order
0090

In re: Hoover, William
Date: July 6, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney
Date: July 6, 1995
In re: Father William Hoover - Call from

I received a call this morning from [redacted] who was a pupil at [redacted] School during the 3-5 grades, and at [redacted] school for grades 6 - 8. He was an altar boy at both parishes. He called to tell me that he was molested by WH when he was in the sixth grade at [redacted].

The event occurred when he and a group of boys were packing up for a camping trip with the Boy Scouts. WH was going along. WH called him aside into the rectory and for about 30 minutes acted "very strangely," kissing [redacted] five or six times. Nothing more happened. [redacted] got out of the rectory back to the other kids and told them all what had happened. He never told his parents. He has told other people since.

He said that there were [redacted] other boys in his graduating class from [redacted] but he never heard anything else about WH. He is trying to get in touch with some of the others. I asked him to have anyone else he finds who was bothered by WH to get in touch with me.

Although he says he felt "a lot of pain about [redacted]" at the time, the whole matter is long in the past for him and has no effect on him now. I specifically asked him how he was doing with it, and he said it was no problem. I did not mention counseling to him because in the context it seemed somewhat patronizing. — Perhaps we should follow up with that offer.

10-04-04 Order
0091

In re: Hoover, William

Date: July 6, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney

Date: July 6, 1995

In re: Father William Hoover - Call from

I had a call from _____ this morning. She did not identify herself until the end of the conversation. She was calling to recount an incident that happened to her son when WH was at _____ Church. They were no longer living in _____ parish, but they went back there a lot because of the Boy Scouts. He was _____

He was in the rectory with WH and WH asked him to pull down his pants. He did, but then he pulled them up and nothing happened. (He told his mother about this when he got home.) Then a little later the same day when they were in the Boy Scout building, WH put his arm around him and kissed him. (He did not tell his mother this until just now when he saw the news about WH.)

_____ went to Monsignor Bester to complain about the incident but he just put her off. She wants no publicity and says that her son wanted her to call me, but didn't want to be involved himself. She says that it had not effect on him since nothing very bad happened. I told her I would welcome a chance to speak with her son if he wishes.

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10-04-04 Order
0092

In re: Hoover, William
Date: July 7, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney
Date: July 7, 1995
In re: Father William Hoover - Call from

called today from Dallas to tell me of an experience with WH that occurred at Rectory in the [redacted]. He had accompanied his mother, who was taking instructions, to the parish. When they left, she realized that she had forgotten her catechism and send [redacted] back to get it. While he was in the rectory he says that he was "fondled" by WH. I did not ask for more details about what that entails. This happened only once. He did not tell anyone. As he explained, his mother "thought that Father Hoover hung the moon." (She is now deceased.)

He has thought about this over the years, but is not having a problem with it now. He called me at [redacted] urging. He was explicit that he does not want counseling or any other help. I thanked him for calling and told him that I would not be back in touch with him, but invited him to call me if he ever needed to.

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10-04-04 Order
0093

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copy

In re: Hoover, William
Date: July 7, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney
Date: July 7, 1995
In re: Father William Hoover - Call from:

called today from Dallas to tell me of an experience with WH that occurred at Rectory in the [redacted]. He had accompanied his mother, who was taking instructions, to the parish. When they left, she realized that she had forgotten her catechism and send [redacted] back to get it. While he was in the rectory he says that he was "fondled" by WH. I did not ask for more details about what that entails. This happened only once. He did not tell anyone. As he explained, his mother "thought that Father Hoover was the moon." (She is now deceased.)

He has thought about this over the years, but is not having a problem with it now. He called me at [redacted] urging. He was explicit that he does not want counseling or any other help. I thanked him for calling and told him that I would not be back in touch with him, but invited him to call me if he ever needed to.

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10-04-04 Order
0094

HOOVER, WILLIAM
7-7-95

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HOOVER 07-07 0293

HOOVER July 7, 1995 (320 words) 303XN

FORT WORTH PRIEST RESIGNS AS CATHEDRAL PASTOR AFTER ABUSE ADMITTED

By Catholic News Service

FORT WORTH, Texas (CNS) — The pastor of St. Patrick Cathedral Parish in the Fort Worth Diocese has resigned after admitting to a sexual abuse incident involving a minor boy dating back nearly 40 years ago.

Father William Hoover resigned after being confronted with the accusations, according to a July 2 statement by Fort Worth Bishop Joseph P. Delaney. The priest is on an indefinite leave of absence from active ministry, he added.

Since the diocese made the resignation public, it has received further reports alleging abuse by Father Hoover, which date back to the years 1957-59.

The diocese had not released the sex of the victim who came forward because its policy states that it will not release any such identifying information unless that individual makes it public.

But July 6, in a broadcast on KXAS-TV in Fort Worth, the victim discussed the incident. The man, who is now 50, said that he had been abused in 1957 by Father Hoover when he was age 12.

Diocesan officials only learned of the abuse in mid-June when the victim came to them, according to Bishop Delaney.

"In accord with diocesan guidelines, a committee was appointed to meet with that person and with Father Hoover," the bishop said.

"When he was presented with this accusation, Father Hoover acknowledged that it was true.

"The standard of this nature is found to be true, the care of the Catholic community requires that a full disclosure be made.

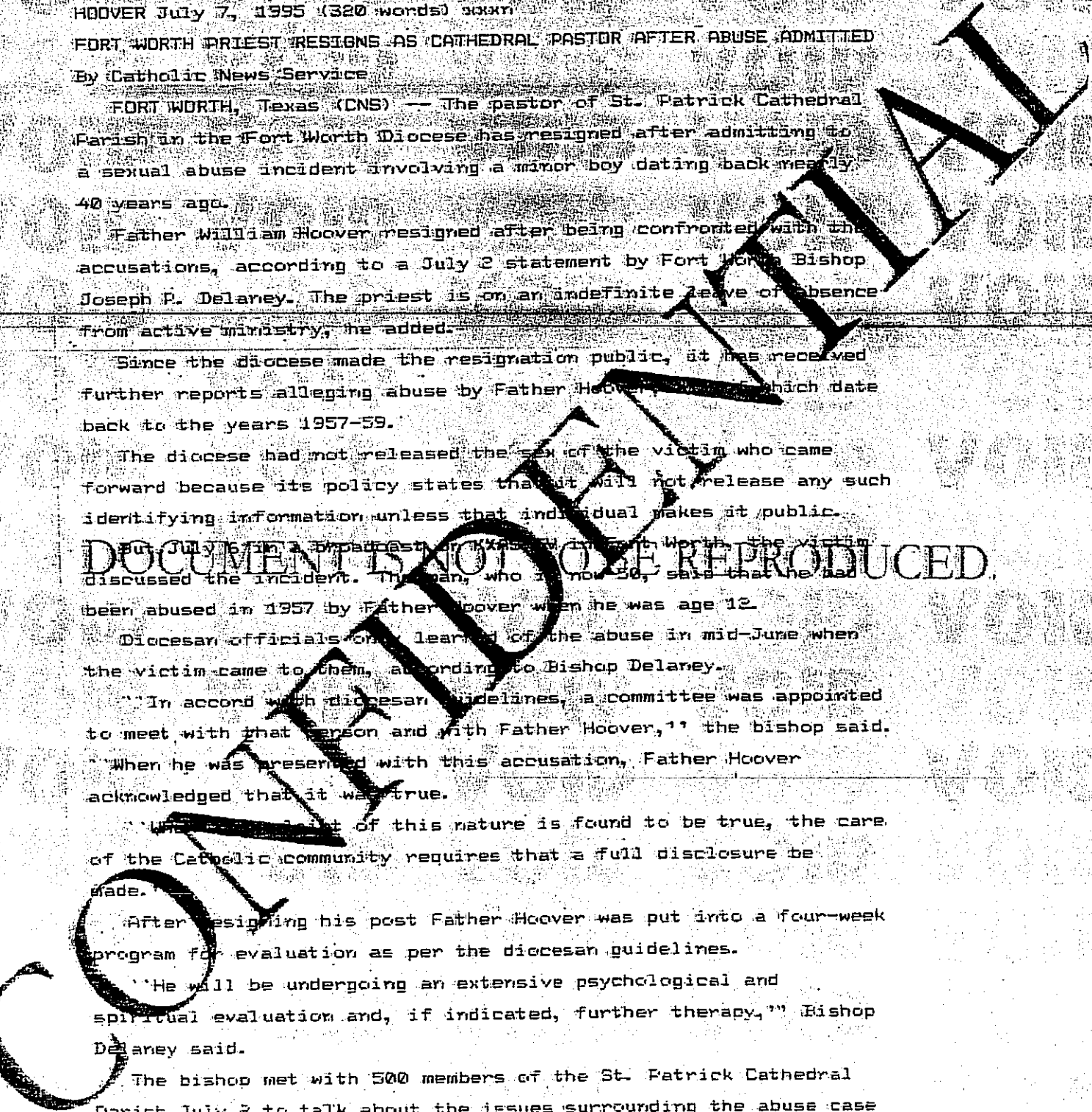
After resigning his post Father Hoover was put into a four-week program for evaluation as per the diocesan guidelines.

"He will be undergoing an extensive psychological and spiritual evaluation and, if indicated, further therapy," Bishop Delaney said.

The bishop met with 500 members of the St. Patrick Cathedral Parish July 2 to talk about the issues surrounding the abuse case and Father Hoover's resignation.

END

10-04-04 Order
0095



Diocese of Fort Worth
Bishop's Office

Hoover, William
7-8-95

July 8, 1995

Most Reverend Charles V. Grahmann
P. O. Box 190507
Dallas, Texas 75219

Dear Charlie,

This has been a difficult time for both our dioceses. I tried to reach you last week as the affair with Bill Hoover was about to break, but you were out of town. I spoke with Duffy Gardner and got the information he had and told him what our plans were to make a public announcement. I am sure that he kept you informed.

The decision to go public was a very difficult but as it turned out, a very necessary one. Not only did it keep faith with our pledge to disclose sexual abuse fully, but it also elicited calls so far from six other people who had been molested at [redacted] and [redacted] by Bill during the same years. So far no one has come forward with any complaints after 1959. My prayer is that, as Bill has stated, he was never involved in any more abuse after that time.

I tried to reach you on Thursday, but you had already left so I talked to Duffy again to fill him in on how things were going. Bob Wilson has also been in touch with him and the two of them are making arrangements for any of the victims who may want counseling.

Bill is still [redacted] for assessment right now. I don't know what the future holds for him, but he has a lot of support from the laity. If in fact all this ended more than 35 years ago, it may be possible, if he wishes, for him to return to ministry. I would like very much to see that.

I will be leaving on vacation in a few days. Let's touch base when we both get back.

In Christ,



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10-04-04 Order
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AM

In re: Hoover, William
Date: July 10, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delancy
Date: July 10, 1995
In re: Father William Hoover - Call from

called this noon time to report that he had been abused by WH when he was an altar boy at Church in Fort Worth. It occurred sometime between the years [redacted] and [redacted] was [redacted] years old. It happened at least twice in the church building. [redacted] told no one about it at the time. When asked to describe the abuse, [redacted] said "it was the same as with the other man," meaning the one who was on TV. I did not press for further description, but later asked him if he would describe it as fondling, and he agreed that was close enough.

[redacted] also spoke at some length about WH's drinking problem. He said that he, as a young child, was very aware that WH had something wrong with him when he was at the altar and in the pulpit. He said it was common talk around that parish that WH had a serious drinking problem, and that the people joked about it.

[redacted] described a little of his own life. He [redacted] degree from [redacted] and was about to be commissioned as an [redacted] officer when he "got into some trouble" and [redacted].

[redacted] He has never recovered from the trauma of the year in prison and now finds life difficult because although he has credentials for good work, his record is keeping him from advancing.

He readily accepted the offer of counseling. (In my opinion, he badly needs some help, whether it is in response to the abuse or not.) I promised that Father Wilson would be in touch with him in two or three days.

CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order
0100

July 10, 1995

Memo to Files
from Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover -- returned call to

As Bishop Delaney promised I would do, I followed up with [redacted] I reached him on Friday, July 7. The bishop had spoken with him the day before. Since he had just come home from the hospital where [redacted] I agreed to call him the next day.

I reached him the second time on July 8. We had a good conversation. He seems to hold no bitterness toward the Church. He mentioned a good experience with a priest a few years after the Hoover experience, a Vincentian named [redacted] at [redacted] in Dallas. [redacted] mentioned that he received the Serra Club award for altar boys while at [redacted]

As he told the bishop previously, he would be glad to receive counseling. Again he requested it for [redacted] who are upset about the publicity. He said that it would probably be short term, at least for them. I told him that Father Gardner of Dallas had promised him counseling, and gave him the Dallas diocesan number, explaining that the reason was that the Diocese of Fort Worth did not exist at the time of the incident. He understood. I also told him that I had spoken with Father Gardner about the short term counseling for [redacted] since he had mentioned that to the bishop, [redacted] was not so sure about that I told [redacted] that the Diocese of Fort Worth would provide short term counseling for [redacted] if the Diocese of Dallas did not.

DG had told me that Dallas prefers that victims choose their own counselor, and not one picked by the diocese. [redacted] told [redacted] about this. He said that he knew no one. I suggested that he consult his family physician for a referral. I also mentioned the Pastoral Counseling Center in Dallas, sponsored by the Dallas Council of Churches (at least a few years ago), as a possibility. [redacted] I suggested that he might need counseling from a psychiatrist or a clinical psychologist.

July 10, 1995

Memo to File
from: Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover -- Follow up call to

_____ was incorrectly identified in Bishop Delaney's July 3 memo to the file as _____ first verified that he was the _____ that had called the bishop. He is the same, and even _____ is middle name is not _____ I reached him at work, an

After not reaching _____ on July 7 or 8 I was able to talk to him by phone on July 10.

He said that WH always "tried to get the boys alone in the rectory," and that he _____ avoiding _____ him.

He said that he is doing well in his personal life. His marriage of many years, I presume his first, is good. _____ I got the impression that he told _____ me of the bad things done to him as a child more to explain his reasons for not attending church any more than because he thought it messed him up.

I apologized for the Church, as I did in back of the ball, backs to victims, and offered counseling. He declined. I asked him to give me a call if he changes his mind.

10-04-04 Order
0102

July 10, 1995

Memo to File
from Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover - Follow up call to

Bishop Delaney spoke with [redacted] July 5, 1995. I attempted to reach him Friday, July 7, but did not reach him. I left a message on his answering machine at work. I tried his home number over the weekend, obtained from one of the [redacted] in the office, but did not reach him. I finally got him at work Monday, July 10.

He spoke of his anger, and said that he was the second person to come forward to the media, in his case to the Dallas Morning News. His name was not printed in the July 8 news story. He did not seem angry to me. Rather, he was most cordial. I apologize for Father Hoover and for the Church, as I have done with each of the victims. He said that it was not my fault.

He had two reasons for coming forward:

1. He wanted to let us know that there was more than one boy as alleged by Hoover.
2. Working in an [redacted] law firm, he knows that the statute of limitations has expired, and he is aware that it is Dallas' problem, not ours. Nevertheless, he feels that the Church owes him and the other victims monetary compensation and not just counseling.

The last was in response to my offering counseling. We never got back to it, and I take it that he does not want it.

He feels pain at having the abuse brought up again after all these years. He is in a second marriage for about a year.

The worst incident happened to [redacted] on a rainy evening when the boy scouts came back in from a camping trip rather than stay in the rain. They "camped out" on the floor of an old rectory which was due to be torn down to make way for a new convent. WH called him out and abused him. When he went back to the others he was very sensitive because of the way that boys can be cruel to someone different like a homosexual. He feels that if Monsignor Becker had heard of this he would have taken disciplinary action against WH, though perhaps not as today when we have learned so much.

He was angry at WH when he sent him, [redacted] a graduation gift, a lives of the saints, even though he did not get an invitation. [redacted] graduated from [redacted] in [redacted]

[redacted] has been trying to reach the Dallas attorney, [redacted] without success. He has only gotten voice mail. I suggested he call Father [redacted] whom he knows as a classmate of nine years in school. He seems to have known that DG is the Vicar General of Dallas, but not that he speaks for Dallas in these matters. I never agreed that he should receive compensation, but did not expressly disagree.

10-04-04 Order
0103

Page 2 - Telephone Conversation of Father Robert Wilson with

He requested that I give the first person who reported abuse his name and phone number, asking that he call him if he would like to do so. I did not agree or disagree to do so. The conversation was terminated by [redacted] who said he had other phone calls coming in.

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10-04-04 Order
0104

July 10, 1995

Memo to File

From: Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover - Follow up call to

Bishop Delaney spoke with _____ on Thursday, July 6. I reached him on July 7.

He stated "that he wanted no compensation or that he would have come forward much sooner." He tried to contact some of his classmates from those days, but has not succeeded in reaching anyone.

He is still a practicing Catholic and does not feel that the incident scared him or life attends] _____ School in Dallas, and he hopes to have him attend High School.

The bishop did not offer him counseling. I did with specifics about our (of Dallas) willingness to pay for it. He declined. I requested that he call me if he should change his mind.

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10-04-04 Order
0105

July 13, 1995

Memo to Confidential File
from: Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover, Complaint of

Bishop Delaney first received a call from [redacted] on July 5. He told him that he would be back in contact. This was the reason for my call. I missed him for several days, and assume that he was out of town. I finally reached him on the above date.

I used the word "victim." He immediately said that he did not feel victimized as he understood was the case for the first caller. It happened when he was an altar boy. He was about 11 or 12 and it happened on at least two occasions. He would serve early morning mass and then stay for school.

I asked him if it was fondling. He said that it was nothing like that. Rather it was sitting on Father Hoover's lap and being kissed passionately. He was upset and told his mother about it. He solved the problem by no longer serving mass.

He is not sure that anyone believed him back then. He feels better having reported it to officials in the Church, and thinks this has probably helped him, although he does not think of it except when there is a story in the paper about abuse. Even so he does not think it affected him.

He declined counseling. I asked him to call me back if he changed his mind.

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10-04-04 Order
0106

July 13, 1995

Memo to Confidential File
from Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover, Accusation by

Bishop Delaney first spoke to [redacted] on July 10. He made the notes in this file, and then called him a second time in my presence to discuss a conflict in dates. He promised to follow through and get back to the bishop. He had not by the time the bishop left on vacation. Thus I called him today.

He had told the bishop that he would go to his mother's house to check out a picture of him and [redacted] making their first holy communion. They are pictured with the priest, and she believes the date is on it. His mother is on vacation, but he promised to do so as soon as she returned, and to call me.

We went into great detail about chronology. [redacted] was born [redacted] when he was little. He attended kindergarten there. He began 1st grade at [redacted] School. We determined that this was in the fall of [redacted]. He had just turned six August 16 of that year. At first he said that he moved with his family to [redacted] in either the 4th or 5th grade. As we talked more he flashed back to the name of his 3rd grade teacher, [redacted], who impressed him. From this he was able to remember that his family left for [redacted] in the middle of his [redacted] grade year. This would have him leaving [redacted] School at the end of [redacted].

He asked about Father [redacted] I explained that Father [redacted] was pastor [redacted] until he died in 1965. [redacted] was pastored by Father Hoover in November of 1966.

He began to question the dates himself at that point. He remembers the name Hoover well, but says that they often returned to Fort Worth, and would attend mass with [redacted] who lived in [redacted]. She was the one who mentioned Father [redacted] name to him.

He spoke at length of Father "Hoover's" alcoholism, saying that it was common knowledge in the parish and that people joked about it making fun of him. His specific words were "they made a comedy of it."

[redacted] complaint is that when he was an altar boy, the priest fondled him through the cassock (he did not remember the name of the garment) on two occasions. He was very upset about it. He wonders if this was the blame for his father having to send him to the base psychiatrist when they were [redacted] at a later time. He did not do well in school and leaving [redacted].

I reiterated the bishop's offer of counseling. I suggested that he contact his family physician for a referral, but he "does not want anyone to know anything about this." He agreed that he might go to Catholic Charities. He will call me after checking his mother's picture.

Based on the chronology above, I believe he has the wrong priest. I have no doubt about his story.

10-04-04 Order
0107

July 24, 1995

Memo to Confidential File
from Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover's Testing at

I traveled to [redacted] today to attend with WH the feedback session of his week of testing. Five therapists gave the report. A written report will be sent within two weeks to WH and Bishop Delaney. [redacted] was the committee head.

[redacted] he will discuss this with Bishop Delaney when both have received the report.

In the meantime WH will return to the Cathedral rectory. Hundreds of letters of support have been sent in his name to the chancery. They have been forwarded to [redacted]. He will spend some time in San Antonio and some time with his mother. He will then stay in seclusion, possibly at Father Breedlove's lake house.

When I told WH that many of the letters are calling for his reappointment to St. Patrick's he said that it would be impossible for him to return there. He wishes to wait until after spending time at [redacted] or elsewhere to decide about returning to ministry. His original plan was to retire at age 70 and to be available for weekend help after that.

He agreed with [redacted] commendation that he should not read the notes of the bishop and myself on the calls we have received from those abused until he is able to be with someone for support, a close friend or a therapist. He will call me for the reports upon his return to Fort Worth.

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CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order
0108

MEMORANDUM
Confidential

TO: Diocesan Files
FROM: Fr. Joseph Schumacher
DATE: July 31, 1995, 7:30 p.m.
SUBJECT: Meeting with

We talked for about 15 minutes. He did not go into any detail about being abused by W.H. He said that he had gone to school at [redacted] for 3 years (3-5 grades), then [redacted] for one year, back to [redacted] through the 8th grade. [redacted] family was in [redacted] parish by that time. It [redacted] that he was abused. He said he knew of others who had talked of being abused. He had never told anyone, though his mother had asked him "indirectly" about it once, and he denied it to her. married; he has [redacted] by this first marriage: [redacted]

DOC

D.

After counseling, [redacted] and [redacted] are doing all right now. Though [redacted] intimated that [redacted] was involved in [redacted] [redacted] did not bring this up. I told [redacted] that I would write a letter to the counsellor advising him to send the bills to Dallas Diocese and that we as Church would see that the bills were paid. I said I imagined the counseling would be once a week and that our psychologist would contact [redacted]

to [redacted] the counselling was progressing, some 5 or 6 months after it begins. I said that this would be the usual time the psychologist would probably want to meet with him. I apologized for what had happened, told him the Church was sorry it happened. [redacted] said "at one time he had wanted to be a priest, that he had quit the Catholic Church some years ago, and that he and his present wife did not go to any church." He wanted to go to this counselor, since he had gone before. I assured him that if he wanted to go there or to another counselor, it was agreeable to the Church. [redacted] and [redacted] live in [redacted] (.); he works in the [redacted]

Fr. Joe Disk - AT

10-04-04 Order
0110

August 1, 1995

Memo to Files
from: Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover, Complainant

I spoke with [redacted] by phone first yesterday and then again today. He had called for Bishop Delaney July 27. My return phone call July 31 was the first response to his call. I reached him on first try.

He was calling for two reasons. He has decided that he would like counseling, and would like it from [redacted]. He is traveling to [redacted] with his wife during August, and will be available for counseling after Labor Day. He told me that his legal problems are over, but that are still wanting him to not live in the same house as [redacted].

It was for this last reason that he requested help with someplace to stay. I heard sounds in the background and surmise that he is staying at home. He is afraid of being caught. I told him that I would have to check with Bishop Delaney about any help beyond counseling.

Later in the day July 31 Father Joe Schumacher and I spoke to Father Duffy Gardner, Vicar General of Dallas, in a conference call. Father Gardner agreed to pay for the counseling for [redacted] even up to two years. I said that I would prefer to give him six months and ask him to check back with us at that time. DG told us that [redacted] had called Father John Bell of Dallas for help with housing as well. DG agreed to this and asked me to have [redacted] call JB again.

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED.

On August 1 I spoke by phone with [redacted] and explained the arrangements outlined above. I gave her a summary of [redacted]'s background, and DG's address for billing. She is assigning the case to [redacted] who will call [redacted] to set up appointments for after Labor Day. [redacted] says that [redacted] will want permission from [redacted] to have [redacted] send them his record.

Later on August 1 I spoke with [redacted] relating all the above. He was grateful, and said he would call JB on Thursday when he is back in the office at the Diocese of Dallas.

CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order
0111



1-56

August 11, 1995

Very Rev. Glenn Duff Gardner, V.G.
Diocese of Dallas
P.O. Box 190507
Dallas, TX 75219

Dear Duffy:

As I promised I am sending you the complete file of notes taken by Bishop Delaney and myself as complainants called in about Father Bill Hoover. The only one I am not enclosing is the one that I mentioned on the phone who decided after talking to me that it was a case of mistaken identity. His family moved from [redacted] in Fort Worth before Hoover was appointed pastor there.

I reached [redacted] on the phone today, and have arranged for him to receive counseling from [redacted] one of our counselors, will call him to set up appointments beginning after Labor Day. I told [redacted] that you had agreed to pay, and asked that the bills be sent to you per your instructions to me. I also asked that they report back to me after six months about how it is going. Will let you know of course, but you may wish to do the same.

Finally, I told [redacted] that you told me of his call to Father John Bell last Friday. I also told him that you had agreed to work out some thing for temporary housing for him, and requested that he call Bell upon his return to the office Thursday.

He seemed grateful to both of us for the assistance.

Please let me know of any new developments. I thought things were becoming quiet here until the call from [redacted] came in. Father Joe Schumacher interviewed him last night, and extended your offer for counseling. He will be sending you a summary of the interview and what he said. That will complete our file here. Hopefully, there will be no more calls. Let us pray that this too will pass.

Fratemally yours in Christ,

Rev. Robert W. Wilson
Chancellor, Moderator of the Curia

cc: Rev. Joseph A. Schumacher, V.G.

10-04-04 Order
0112

The Catholic Center
800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • 817/560-3300 • Fax 817/244-8839

August 11, 1995

Dear

I am enclosing the memorandum of Father Joseph Schumacher, our Vicar General concerning his meeting with _____ is the latest complainant we have concerning Father William Hoover. His was the only call that came several weeks after the initial publicity. _____ was sent the memoranda in three, eight in number, including the original complainant. I have given Father Hoover a copy of this memorandum as well as the other eight. You will note that no complainant has come forward alleging misconduct after 1960.

Also, I am enclosing a copy of Father Hoover's itinerary which indicates that he will arrive at

I understand that you are sending Father Hoover's acceptance to his temporary address. He is staying with his mother at _____ If you need to call him the number is _____

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Robert W. Wilson
Chancellor, Moderator of the Curia

Enc. 1

10-04-04 Order
0113

The Catholic Center
800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • 817/560-3300 • Fax 817/244-8839

An re: Hoover, William

Date: July 3, 1995

August 11, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney

Date: July 5, 1995

In re: Father William Hoover - Summary of events to this date

1. Friday, June 30: I met with the Division Directors and _____ to read the public statement to them and to discuss how we would handle the phones and other inquiries on Monday.
2. Saturday, July 1: I mailed a letter to the priests of the diocese with a copy of the statement.
3. Sunday, July 2: Kevin Levy, president of the parish council, read a statement from me at the end of each morning Mass at the Cathedral (Fr. Smith read it at the 5 p.m.) telling the people that Father Hoover had resigned and inviting them to a 7 p.m. meeting with me for an explanation.
4. Sunday evening at 6:15: I met with parish council members and parish staff people to read the statement and answer their questions and to encourage them in dealing with the parishioners.
5. Sunday evening at 7:00: There were about 50 people in church. They were praying the rosary and I waited until the decade had ended. I thanked them for coming, read the statement (I read the first paragraph twice) and then spoke for a few minutes. Although I could not accept questions from such a large group, I did have the questions that the parish council had asked, and I used them as the framework for my further remarks. I ended the meeting with a reading from Romans, 8, vv. 28-39, and the recitation of one decade of the rosary. The meeting lasted about 30 minutes. I talked with a number of people in the parking lot afterwards. To a person they expressed sorrow but also support of WH.
6. Immediately following the meetings, Jeff faxed copies of my statement to the major TV stations and to the Star Telegram. In fact there were two reporters in the Cathedral at the meeting and I spoke briefly with one of them afterwards.
7. Monday, July 3: I gave interviews to the following media: Channels 4, 5 and 11, and station KRLD, and by telephone to the Dallas Morning News and the Star Telegram.
8. In the evening I spoke with WH and told him how the events of the day went.
9. Tuesday, July 4: I spoke with Fr. Larry Breedlove this morning. He called to tell me about _____ confusion about the story in the DMN. He wanted my o.k. to explain to her that there may be other victims besides the original person and that was the reason for inviting people to come forward. I urged him to call her.
10. I called _____ today. See memo.

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0114

11. Wednesday, July 5: I had a call on Monday evening from _____, and today from _____ and _____. Each said that they had been abused by WH. See memos on each call.

12. I spoke with _____ at _____ about arrangements for WH. They are expecting him. She will wait for my mailing of info and get back to me if necessary. WH called later in the day and I gave him _____ number and asked him to call her for further instructions.

Update as of August 14, 1995: -- A total of 9 persons came forward with complaints about having been abused by WH, all of the before 1960 (see file). (A tenth complaint was judged to be a case of mistaken identity, since given the details it could not have been WH involved.) WH went to _____ in mid-July for evaluation (results in file). He came back to Fort Worth and has been living with his mother or with _____. He will return to _____ on August 23 for extensive therapy. I have announced today that the priest personnel board is soliciting bids for the Cathedral. I will have a letter in the parish bulletin on Sunday with this information (see file).

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CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order
0115

August 11, 1995

Memo to Diocesan Priests
from Father Joseph Scantlin, Chairman, Clergy Personnel Board

Concern: St. Patrick's Cathedral

Although hundreds of letters of support for Father Hoover came to the chancery, many of them requesting that he be reassigned to the Cathedral, he and the Bishop have decided that it would be best for him not to return. Bishop Delaney has sent a letter to the Cathedral parishioners explaining this to them. He told them that even after all the publicity there have been no further accusations of misconduct by Father Hoover and none occurring after 1960. Nevertheless the harm done sometimes lingers for decades, and so counseling is being provided those who requested it. He asked the parishioners to pray for those who were hurt, some of whom are still hurting, and for Father Hoover who assuredly has been hurt by all this. He will be receiving counseling, and catching up on rest, and rehabilitation for the next few months. He will then dialog with the bishop about reassignment to ministry.

Therefore, if you are interested, you may request assignment as pastor of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Those who have already indicated an interest in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller are not prohibited from volunteering for the Cathedral.

It will be difficult to provide a profile since Father Hoover is no longer at the Cathedral. Therefore, I will list several pertinent facts. St. Patrick's has a mass attendance of 2250, with 1500 registered households. It also provides mass for San Mateo which has an attendance of 220. One of the masses at San Mateo's is celebrated in Spanish, or is bilingual. Many St. Patrick's parishioners pride themselves in being more traditional in their practice of the faith than some suburban churches. Members are registered from all over Tarrant County. There are five Sunday masses at St. Patrick's, and a Saturday vigil mass and a Sunday mass at San Mateo's. There are two daily masses, with the noon mass usually crowded with downtown business people. Fathers Dennis Smith and Albert Tyl serve as associate pastors.

The Cathedral has a Savings of \$165,000, with weekly income of \$13,500. The last fiscal year its income exceeded its \$593,300 budget by \$66,000. A multimillion dollar renovation project has been in the planning stage for some time. A project architect has outlined the needs and estimated costs, and a capital drive was scheduled for the fall. It has been put on hold until the new pastor is assigned.

In addition to the three priests there is a parish staff of eight full time and twenty part time. The religious education program has 500 children enrolled. There were 158 infant baptisms last year, 10 adult baptisms and 12 adults received into full communion with the Church. There were 104 first communions, 112 confirmations, 62 marriages and 48 funerals.

There is a personnel board meeting August 23. If you would like to be considered for this position please write me at 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76107, or FAX me at 737-6876 by August 22, 1995.

The Catholic Center

800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • 817/560-3300 • Fax 817/244-8839

10-04-04 Order
0116



Diocese of Fort Worth

Bishop's Office

Hoover, W

August 12, 1995

Dear Parishioners of Saint Patrick's Cathedral:

I want to express to you my deep gratitude and admiration for the way in which you have dealt with the difficult situation involving Father William Hoover's resignation as pastor of Saint Patrick's last month. In spite of the pain and disappointment you experienced, you have been a model of Christian dignity and compassion for all to see.

I am also grateful to you for the many letters I have received from members of the parish sharing your sorrow with me and telling me of your prayers and support. I have been especially moved by your love for Father Hoover and your willingness to forgive what happened so long ago. He has received all your letters and they have been a great comfort to him at this very difficult time in his life.

Many of you urged me to consider asking Father Hoover to return to Saint Patrick's. I have discussed this with him and we have concluded together that at this time it would not be in the best interest of either Saint Patrick's or of Father Hoover himself. Therefore, I am about to begin the process of selecting a new pastor in the usual way, by inviting interested priests to apply. I hope that I can announce the assignment within several weeks.

Please continue to keep Father Hoover in your prayers. He will be away from the diocese in a counseling program for the next few months. When he and I first discussed the accusations against him, he admitted immediately to me that they were true and that several young men were involved, but that nothing happened again after that time. Now, in spite of all the publicity, there have been no further accusations of misconduct by Father Hoover and none occurring after 1960. It is clear that this problem was said to rest a long time ago. Unfortunately, the results of our misdeeds often last far longer than we can foresee. Several innocent and vulnerable persons were deeply affected by that misconduct. They need our prayers and support. Those who have requested help are receiving it.

I will continue to keep your parish community in my prayers. May the Lord Jesus fill your lives with peace and joy.

Sincerely in Christ,

Joseph P. Delaney
Bishop of Fort Worth

10-04-04 Order
0117

The Catholic Center

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In re: Hoover, William
Date: January 17, 1996

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney
Date: November 28, 1995
In re: Father William Hoover

I met this morning with Father Hoover and the staff at [redacted] to discuss WH's progress in therapy and his plans for the future.

First, a report on how he is doing: [redacted]

He would like to come home in a couple of weeks [redacted]

He will be working on his after-care contract during the next couple of weeks. I have offered to have him live with me, either temporarily while he waits for an opening at SPV, or even permanently. He will call me and tell me his wishes.

We discussed possible ministry. [redacted] has no reservations about WH returning to ministry, but WH feels that he needs time to see what he is able to do. He will probably be "retired" but active: possibilities include, representative to priests, helping Spanish ministry at Holy Name, Chap. of Faith, etc. After he is back and settled and has got his psychological & physical needs met, we will be able to discern better.

I met with [redacted] and the medical director/psychiatrist, Dr. [redacted]

Again all I did not learn much new, but was able to affirm all that WH is doing.

10-04-04 Order
0118

In re: Hoover, William
Date: February 7, 1996

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney
Date: November 28, 1995
In re: Father William Hoover

from _____ called this afternoon to talk about W.H. He has
agreed to stay on at _____ until March 20.

DOC _____ ADVISED.

CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order
0119

In re: William Hoover

December 14, 1995

1. I spoke with WH. He is feeling well enough,

2. I spoke with his mother about her trip and reassured her that WH was doing fine and improving.

3. I spoke with [redacted] in the clinic department at [redacted] to express Bill's concern about how he would be able to function when he gets back there. She [redacted] with WH and the doctors and was fully aware of his condition.

12/19/95

I spoke w. WH the morning. He is doing well (both) and will be going back [redacted] the afternoon.

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED

1/2/96

I spoke w. [redacted] on Friday. He is still confined to his room with short walks. The concern [redacted] otherwise, it's fine.

1/12/96

called yesterday to correct my error because the [redacted] in DC. I spoke w. WH. He is about the same. I will [redacted].

10-04-04 Order
0120

MEMORANDUM

Confidential

TO: Bishop Delaney

FROM: Fr. Joseph Schumacher

SUBJECT: Conversation with Hoover+ concerning Fr. William Hoover+

DATE: 25 April 1997, 9:30 a.m.

CONFIDENTIAL

I received a call at St. Matthew parish from [redacted] while [redacted] was at DPAC. I returned the call on Monday, since it was an office number and I had returned "after" office hours. He asked if I would be the one to contact about a situation in which he and Fr. Hoover had been involved. I acknowledged I would be the one. He wanted to come to see and talk to me. I made an appointment today, at this hour. He wanted to see me at the parish and not at the Catholic Center, since he thought he might meet someone at the latter place, and he didn't want to be recognized.

In brief, he has in the last year come to remember and agonize over a sexual incident he had with Fr. Hoover in either [redacted]. He was either 10 or 12 years of age. His [redacted] was being married at [redacted] Church. [redacted] was to witness the ceremony. The night before the wedding, he and [redacted] (about 2 years older than he) were at the rehearsal. Following the rehearsal, [redacted] went to a rehearsal dinner. Fr. Bill Hoover, pastor, who had helped with the rehearsal, asked him to stay behind so he could show him where the different items were for the wedding. The sanctuary area was smaller than now; the vesting sacristy was off to the side and quite small. While the two of them were alone in the sacristy, Fr. Bill showing him things like the chalice, wine, etc., Bill began talking about masturbation. Bill touched him sexually. [redacted] couldn't/didn't say if he reached inside his trousers. He did say that Bill did not engage in oral sex nor in sodomy with him. After a while, Bill quit, and then took [redacted] to the place of rehearsal dinner. [redacted] was so upset about this, he forced himself [redacted] think it so deeply that he forgot it, until the news of Fr. Hoover's death was made public, recently.

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[redacted] is the middle of [redacted] children, Catholic parents - among the siblings. [redacted] is related to all the [redacted] nephew of [redacted], and also related to the [redacted] - a cousin to [redacted], and also related to the [redacted] - a cousin to [redacted]. He was born on [redacted]. Upon finishing high school he [redacted] in the [redacted], attended school with them, [redacted]. He returned to Texas and entered [redacted], was majoring in [redacted] and with the [redacted].

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0126

encouragement of his [redacted] professor changed to [redacted] though still taking elective courses which he could use if he decided to apply for [redacted]. He graduated with a degree in [redacted]. He has worked for [redacted] since then, some 24 years, where he is now a supervisor. His office is in [redacted]

[redacted]

They were married by [redacted]. His wife became a Catholic after their marriage. He is a [redacted]. In short he is acquainted with and close to many priests. He has had [redacted] and has received counseling for it. His [redacted] would not go with him, saying he had the problem. His [redacted] thought nothing of the incident described with Fr. Hoover has ever come up.

said he had so hidden the incident described above, involving him and Fr. Hoover, that he did not remember it until he read about Fr. Hoover's death in the newspaper. Since then it has caused him deep, traumatic grief. He can hardly talk about it to himself. He has not discussed this, he says, with anyone, including his [redacted]. But it is causing him deep anxiety; he knows he must get counseling to "get through this psychological trauma." He doesn't want to go to his own therapist; he wants someone who would know how to help him deal with this sexual abuse which is now causing him so much grief. He is asking for recommendations from us. I believe, since he mentioned that he isn't highly paid in his work, that he is also asking us for help in paying for such counseling. He did not ask for us to pay; he made no threats of any kind. He cried when speaking of the incident. He could not at the beginning verbalize it; he was silent for as long as 3 minutes when he tried to tell me about it. [redacted] began with his family then; he spoke more freely, worked into his education and work, then into his marital difficulties, and finally he got to the incident with Fr. Hoover mentioned earlier. [redacted]

DOCUMENT NOT TO BE REPRODUCED



[redacted]

seems to be a honest, truthful person, deeply disturbed psychologically, who wants to put closure to his present remembrances of what happened in 1960 or 1962. I told him that I would tell you and Fr. Wilson about what we had discussed. I told him that Fr. Wilson had his graduate degree in psychology and would be able to suggest a therapist to work with him. I said I would be in contact with him the end of next week, since Fr. Wilson was out of town at this time.

When he tried to talk to me at the beginning, tears would well up in his eyes.

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED.
(I can get the exact date of the marriage of _____ at _____ to ascertain if
this initial information is correct.)

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10-04-04 Order
0128

The Catholic Center
800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • 817/560-3300 • Fax 817/244-8839

Memorandum to the Files

From JAS

Concerning

May 15, 1997

I talked to Duffy Gardner and told him about _____ and his conversation with me last April. I told Duffy we would be willing to work with _____ since it seemed that what _____ needed was counseling. Duffy said that would be okay with Dallas, that they had enough problems already with their very public case of Kos. Duffy said they would be willing to talk to _____ if he wanted it to see if they could come to a settlement which would help him. I told him that _____ hadn't even told his wife and wanted to keep it confidential. We will contact a counselor here and see if that is what will help.

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10-04-04 Order
0129

Hoover, Wm

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fr. Bob Wilson and Bishop Joe Delaney
FROM: JAS
SUBJECT:
DATE: September 17, 1997

My machine and the "network" locked up. I couldn't send this following message by E-Mail, so here goes a rewrite.

I got a call from [redacted] and told him that the person from whom we first heard about W. H. has not revealed his name to the public nor was he seen or identified precisely on television (It was a blacken image.) When he gave an interview.

For this reason, I told [redacted] that we would need to get in touch with this gentleman and get his permission to pass on his name and phone number to [redacted].

I believe you have that information, Bob -- or perhaps the bishop does??

At the time that first individual came to us, he was living away from his [redacted].

[redacted] I don't know if he and his [redacted] reconciled or not or what happened to him. I do believe we paid for some counseling for him.

Let me know and I'll call back to [redacted] number with [redacted].

[redacted] leaves his work [redacted], since [redacted].

[redacted] doesn't know of any of this.

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COPIES

10-04-04 Order
0130

Hoover, Wm
9-24-97

Joe Schumacher

From: Joe Schumacher
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 1997 10:22 AM
To: Robert Wilson
Cc: Bishop Delaney

I talked to [redacted] this morning. I told him that the individual to whom he wished to talk had never gone public, that he did not give his name to the newspaper people nor to the TV reporter, that he had his face shielded out when he appeared only in profile for the latter interview. I also told him that the man was separated from his wife when he talked to me and as far as I knew did not get back with her, so I wouldn't know his address nor phone number, and that he quite probably wouldn't want to have his name or whereabouts made public now. [redacted] said he was disappointed but he understood. I then answered my enquiry as to when the incident happened by saying he didn't remember exactly but it was when [redacted] got married at [redacted] about 1961. I then [redacted] and asked for a copy of that marriage record to be sent me at the C.C. I then [redacted] to [redacted] that Ft. Worth was in Dallas-Ft. Worth Diocese then and he acknowledged he knew [redacted] as all in that Dallas Diocese then. I asked him how the counseling was coming along, he said, "Okay." I said I had heard on [redacted] in general that he was doing fine with it and of course we knew it because we had offered to bear the cost. I told [redacted] also, that we would do this for anyone who needed counseling but couldn't afford it; he said he knew that.

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Dear Fr. Schumacher,

Please refer to the attached letter. I am asking the person I read about in the paper to contact me. I am assuming you have an address for him. Please forward my letter to him. Please advise me if you are willing and able to do this. Thank you.

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10-04-04 Order
0132