


ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
DEPARTMENT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES

April 23, 2002



Dear 


Thank you for writing about your family's experiences with Father George Hopf. Perhaps Project Benjamin, a program of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee to bring healing, truth and justice to issues of sexual abuse within the Church, can be of assistance to you and your daughter.

I have received one other report of Father Hopf sexually abusing a child. You are correct that due to his severe stroke, we are not able to discuss allegations with him.

Please encourage your daughter to be in touch with me. Often the experience of coming in to talk about what happened, current feelings, and the impact on lives can be beneficial. Project Benjamin can also provide financial assistance with outpatient psychotherapy. I have enclosed a brochure about Project Benjamin. You are also welcome, of course, to be in contact with me if that would be helpful. I can be reached at 414-769-3436.

Your letter will indeed go on file. The next issue is how we can assist your daughter.

Sincerely,


SAZ

Barbara Reinke, Ph.D.
Director, Project Benjamin
Licensed Psychologist

BR:saz

Enclosure



3303 South Lake Drive
St. Francis, WI 53235-3703

March 3, 2002

To Bishop Keller - Dick,
At the banquet at Good Hope Sunday
nite some woman gave me this note. I feel
sure she meant Project Benjamin. Check
it out for me. Thanks.

+Richard

PROF. RICHIE



FR. HUFF - SENT TO MONESTARY
HOLY ROSARY PARISH
1967 MADE NEWSPAPER THEN

NO PRIEST OR ANYONE MALE FROM
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS EVER APOLOGIZED
TO HER. STILL SUFFERS FROM DEPRESSION!

Entry for the File of [REDACTED]
By Barbara Reinke

April 25, 2002

I had an extended conversation with [REDACTED] today, who reports that therapy with Dr. [REDACTED] is going well. She remains angry that Fr. Hoepf went on to work in other parishes, and that we at the Archdiocese claim no awareness, based on our records, that he had abused her despite the police report in 1969.

BR:saz

ADOM013487

March 11, 1954

The Reverend George Hopf,
[REDACTED]
Milwaukee 5, Wisconsin

Dear Father Hopf,

This letter is to inform you that you are herewith transferred from St. Joseph's in Milwaukee to assistant at St. John Nepomuc in Milwaukee.

This appointment is to be effective on Saturday, March 13, on which date you will kindly report to the Pastor of St. John Nepomuc, the Reverend Charles Koudelka.

Wishing you every blessing of God in your new appointment, I remain

Very sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM013522

April 8, 1960

The Rev. George S. Hopf

[REDACTED]
Milwaukee 16, Wisconsin

Dear Father Hopf:

I take this occasion to recognize your interest and your work with our youth to appoint you as Spiritual Director of Division 4 for the Catholic Youth Organization to succeed Father George Gibbons. May I ask that you immediately take over the care of the books and records now in Father Gibbons possession.

Monsignor Philip Schwab of the Archdiocesan CYO Office will be available for outlining more specifically your duties. You will, of course, work under his direction.

With confidence that your manifest interest will find broader expression in this new work, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM013523

July 3, 1962

The Rev. George S. Hopf

Milwaukee 16, Wisconsin

Dear Father Hopf:

By this letter I herewith transfer you from your position as assistant at St. John de Nepomuc Parish, Milwaukee, and appoint you assistant at St. Mary's Parish, Waukesha, effective Thursday, July 12th. You will kindly report on that date to the pastor, Father Enders.

With the warmest of personal regards and wishing you God's choicest blessings in your new field of endeavor, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM013524

August 28, 1963

The Reverend George Hopf
St. Mary's Parish

Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186

Dear Father Hopf:

I hereby appoint you an Instructor
of Religion at Catholic Memorial High School, Waukesha,
for the coming scholastic year.

Please report to Father John Hanley,
principal of Catholic Memorial High School, as soon as
possible.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM013525

February 13, 1964

The Rev. George Hopf
St. Mary's Parish

████████████████████
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186

Dear Father Hopf:

At the recommendation of Father James Doheny and because I am aware of your interest in Vocations, I am appointing you as a District Director for our Program. I am confident that your zeal and dedication will find modes of expression that will be of great help in this very important field.

You are asked to attend a meeting to be held in the basement hall of the Cathedral Rectory at 2:00 on the afternoon of Wednesday, February 19th. At this time your duties will be more clearly defined.

Looking forward to the privilege of greeting you personally at this meeting, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM013526

June 24, 1966

Reverend George Hopf
St. Mary Parish

████████████████████
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186

Dear Father Hopf:

By this letter, I herewith transfer you from your position as curate at St. Mary Parish, Waukesha, and appoint you curate at St. Mary Parish, South Milwaukee, effective Wednesday, July 6, 1966. You will kindly report on that date to the pastor, Reverend Conrad Altenbach.

With the warmest of personal regards and wishing you God's choicest blessings in your new field of endeavor, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins,
Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM013527

January 26, 1968

The Reverend George S. Hopf
Assistant, St. Mary Parish

[REDACTED]
South Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53172

Dear Father Hopf:

With the announcement on January 31st of Father Altenbach's resignation as pastor of St. Mary's Parish, South Milwaukee, we will ask his successor to continue the operation of St. Mary's Parish with only one assistant until the June appointments.

The Assistant at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, West Allis, is being granted a leave of absence for reasons of health. For these reasons we are herewith transferring you from your assignment at St. Mary's Parish, South Milwaukee, and appointing you as assistant at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, West Allis, Wisconsin, effective Wednesday, February 7, 1968. May we ask that you report to Father Dierbeck, the pastor, on that date.

I shall be grateful for your cooperation in this matter and know you will understand the pressing needs for personnel now present in the Archdiocese.

With the warmest of personal regards and wishing you God's choicest blessings in your new field of endeavor, I am

Faternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM013528

August 29, 1964

The Reverend George Hopf
St. Mary's Parish

Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186

Dear Father Hopf:

I hereby appoint you an Instructor of Religion at Catholic Memorial High School, Waukesha, for the coming scholastic year.

Please report to Father John Hanley, principal of Catholic Memorial High School, as soon as possible.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM013529

[REDACTED]
Waukesha, Wisc. 53186

Archbishop William Cousins
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Chancery Office
2000 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, Wisc.

April 29, 1966

Most Reverend Sir

We understand that Father Hoff of St. Marys is being transferred. This transfer is accompanied by a lot of rumors and very little in the way of facts. The manner in which the announcement was made only gives substance to the rumors as to why he is being transferred. These rumors and their resulting conflicts certainly are not in the best interest of our parish.

If, as rumored, this transfer is a result of a clash of personalities between Fr. Hoff and our pastor, we can understand that this could happen when any two people are in close association. We also understand that the role of a curate must be subordinate to that of the pastor. We also recognize that the pastor's position at St. Marys may not have been an easy one the past few years. We do not wish to find fault with either party so let it suffice to say that we also have reasons to believe that this situation may not be strictly one-sided and that not all of the problems rest with Fr. Hoff.

Your Excellency, we sincerely hope that Fr. Hoff's transfer is in no way a demotion or possibly a form of disciplinary action. Father Hoff is "our kind of priest", we like him and naturally do not wish to see him leave. If however, this is necessary, we will abide by it.

We trust that Your Excellency will dwell into this matter and then act in our best interest and that of Father Hoff's.

Respectfully yours,
[REDACTED]

ADOM013538

ST. MARY'S RECTORY
1304 MANITOBA AVENUE
SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

March 30, 1967

The Most Rev. William E. Cousins
2000 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Your Excellency:

I hesitate piling trouble into a Chancery at this time, but there is no alternative. Please pardon my brief description which Father George Hopf's performance record has merited for him since July of 1966.

18 years ordained, he is uncivil and discourteous, independent and undependable, untrustworthy and untruthful, arbitrary and unpredictable, dirty and disorderly, at cross-currents and cross-purposes consistently, and subversively insubordinate. As for his emotional imbalance, we would submit to competent psychiatrists.

To accomplish the purpose of a parish with him on the scene is a contradiction in terms. If Your Excellency wishes, we can furnish a list as long as a sleigh-track of details and proofs on the strange behavior of this Priest.

With him around I cannot start any project at all. He is the kind of "public relations man" Your Excellency referred to on March 16th. As a "trouble-shooter", he shoots life into trouble causing it to live on.

This Priest does not earn his salt. I have violated my conscience in signing his checks. Before doing that again, I feel that this reporting is needed for my exoneration.

I have confidence that Your Excellency understands that here is a question of accomplishing the purpose of a parish judged by minimum standards. I am facing my obligation as pastor of St. Mary's in writing this letter, reluctantly and regretfully, a "first" in my life, though long overdue.

As Your Excellency's representative here, I am helpless in solving this problem beyond reporting it to you.

You have my prayers and mementos for divine help in these difficult days when we must ^{do} all we can to prevent further harm to souls.

Gratefully yours,

C. A. Altenbach

Rev. C.A. Altenbach, Pastor

ADOM013542

August 22, 1969

C
Reverend George S. Hopf
Holy Rosary Parish
[REDACTED]
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

O
Dear Father Hopf:

P
Following the recommendation of the Personnel Board, I herewith transfer you from your present position as Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, Milwaukee, and officially appoint you Administrator of St. John the Baptist Parish, Woodhull, with Mission of St. Mary, Eldorado, effective September 3, 1969.

Y
It affords me great pleasure to make this appointment and I assure you that my prayers are joined with yours as we ask God to bless your labors in this new field.

Fraternally Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM013546

July 26, 1971

[REDACTED]
Eldorado, Wisconsin

My dear Mr. [REDACTED]

I acknowledge gratefully your letter with the accompanying petitions from Eldorado and Woodhull asking that Father George Hopf be retained and named Pastor of St. John's Parish. I am sending the correspondence directly to our Personnel Board.

It is always encouraging to receive such a fine report on the activities and ministry of one of our priests. Unfortunately, a man of Father Hopf's youth and capability will be recognized in promotion to a more demanding parish. This in no way indicates that the people of Eldorado and Woodhull are undeserving of the best. It is simply a way of using the talents of a priest whose capabilities destine him for work of administration for which all priests are not proportionately equipped.

Assuring you that your petition will be given consideration by the Personnel Board, but at the same time advising you that the very qualities you most admire are qualities that cry out for promotion, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM013547

August 10, 1971

C
Reverend George S. Hopf
St. John the Baptist Parish
[REDACTED]
Eldorado, Wisconsin 54932

Dear Father Hopf:

O
Following the recommendation of the Personnel Board, I herewith transfer you from your present position as Administrator at St. John the Baptist Parish, Woodhull with Mission at St. Mary, Eldorado, and officially appoint you Pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish, Sheboygan, effective August 24, 1971.

P
Permit me to advise you that you are dispensed from making the Profession of Faith as is required by Canon Law for newly appointed pastors.

Y
It affords me great pleasure to make this appointment and I assure you that my prayers are joined with yours as we ask God to bless your labors in this new field.

Fraternally Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM013548

His Excellency
The Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee


Your Excellency,

Present disability prevents my return to active parish duty. I, therefore, submit my resignation as Pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, effective as of this date.

Reverend George S. Hopf
Reverend George S. Hopf

Date January 20, 1976

Witnessed by

 M.D.
Speech Pathologist
Trinity Memorial Hospital

ADOM013562

May 28, 1976

C The Reverend George S. Hopf ✓
South Milwaukee Nursing Home
[REDACTED]
South Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53172

O Dear Father Hopf:

Following your resignation, I officially release you from the duties of the Pastorate to St. Peter Claver Parish, Sheboygan, and place you on Sick Leave. Be assured of my continued concern and prayers toward your recovery.

P Because of your deep personal interest, I wish to inform you that upon the recommendation of the Personnel Board, I have appointed Father David J. Braun Pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish, Sheboygan. This appointment is effective June 15, 1976.

Y With the warmest of personal regards and wishing you God's choicest blessings, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM013563

G. HOPF

-1-

7/28/69 - interview - leave of absence - J. Lesch to be Administrator, Holy Rosary.

11/1/72 - telephone - o.k. to D. Budzynski as A.P. at St. Peter Claver, Sheboygan.

5/10/73 - telephone - per J. Waldbauer - J. Kollaparambil willing to go to G. Hopf. G. Hopf happy to have him.

5/15/73 - interview with G. Hopf and D. Budzynski (J. Theisen) D. Budzynski denies any wrong actions. Both feel imprudence involved with too many kids around rectory. Dan is continuing to see Dr. [REDACTED] once a month and feels he is doing good work at St. Peter Claver.

5/16/73 - telephone - G. Hopf re D. Budzynski - he feels situation can be left alone for the time being.

9/18/73 - interview (phone) with J. Dorszynski. G. Hopf surprised at letter and verdict of Archbishop. Says since Dan Budzynski came back from San Francisco he has been doing good work, working hard on good parish programs; has been working enthusiastically. George has had no indication from anybody that Dan has been "acting out" his problem. No complaints, no hints of any complaints. George claims that he certainly would hear something if there was any "acting out." George claims Dan has "kept his nose clean" since return from San Francisco. George would like to have Dan stay, or at least be assigned to some priestly work. George is now asking Board, "When must Dan move?" J. Dorszynski promised to bring this to Board's attention Tuesday and would get back to him.

9/21/73 - interview - agreed to accept G. Heiman as A.P.

9/28/73 - interview - agreeable to have G. Heiman as A.P.

10/31/73 - telephone - that G. Heiman leaving Friday. Brought up R. Aiken or R. Lotz as possible AP's.

11/8/73 - telephone - R. Aiken not interested in St. Peter Claver, Sheboygan because 1) would not like to move in the middle of programs underway 2) feels he would not be able to work with G. Hopf.

11/16/73 - telephone - P. Raczynski will go to see G. Hopf Sunday p.m.

11/16/73 - telephone - told G. Hopf P. Raczynski would like to see him Sunday evening. P. Wittemann will be helping out G. Hopf.

11/19/73 - telephone - that P. Raczynski met with G. Hopf and mutually agreed to go to St. Peter Claver effective 12/7/73.

8/28/74 - telephone - T. Wittliff - G. Hopf called him to work with young people in St. Peter Claver, Sheboygan. He will go up there after Labor Day to check it out.

CONFIDENTIAL

ADOM013596

9/15/75 - telephone - G. Hopf - has suffered a stroke.

9/23/75 - telephone - G. Hopf - transferred to Trinity Memorial Hospital in Cudahy.

10/3/75 - telephone - W.E.C. - Suggests: that an Administrator be assigned to St. Peter Claver, Sheboygan, who may take over once G. Hopf is able to resign.

1/8/76 - Interview - Archbishop - R. Sochurek working on the Geo. Hopf Pension Plan and L. Scherrer is working on supplementary income from Priest Fund.

5/6/76 - telephone - R. Berghammer - re: George Hopf resigning as Pastor, George has already filled out the retirement form, so Berghammer doesn't see any problem. He will, however, speak to George about it just to double check and will get back to us about it. Berghammer definitely feels Dave Braun should be named Pastor of St. Peter Claver.

5/21/76 - telephone - R. Berghammer - has spoken to G. Hopf, and he has accepted the fact of Dave Braun being named Pastor of St. Peter Claver, Sheboygan. List George Hopf as being on "sick leave".

1/6/77 - telephone - R. Sampon - informs us that G. Hopf, J. Walter, F. Roensch are considered to be on disability retirement.

3/27/78 - telephone - Mr. Robert Ulbrich, a good friend of G. Hopf, calls to report that the situation at St. John Rectory is breaking down. Hopf cannot stay there any longer. He was referred to St. Anne Home and St. Michael's Priest Fund.

5/13/92 - George Hopf fell and broke his hip and will have surgery at St. Joseph Hospital today.

2/7/96 - It is learned that George Hopf is in Alexian Hospital in Illinois where he will undergo a by-pass.

PASSED OCTOBER 16, 2004.

ST. PETER CLAVER PARISH

SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN 53081

MARCH 28, 1974

DEAR PERSONNEL BOARD,

ON MAY 28TH OF THIS YEAR I WILL BE ORDAINED 25 YEARS. THOSE YEARS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY HAPPY WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SOME PERSONAL PROBLEMS THAT HAVE ARISEN FROM TIME TO TIME. I THANK GOD FOR HIS GOODNESS TO ME & ESPECIALLY PATIENCE.

IN THOSE YEARS I HAVE ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMPLAINT ALL THE ASSIGNMENTS & CHALLENGES GIVEN ME. I HAVE NEVER ASKED FOR A TRANSFER IN ANY OF THOSE ASSIGNMENTS BUT THERE IS ALWAYS A FIRST TIME. I AM UNABLE TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF A LARGE CITY PARISH ANY LONGER BECAUSE OF SPIRITUAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, MORAL, PHYSICAL & OTHER PROBLEMS DEALING WITH HELP. BEFORE ANY DAMAGE IS DONE TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD AT ST. PETER CLAVER PARISH BECAUSE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED DIFFICULTIES I HEREWITH BEG FOR & REQUEST A TRANSFER TO A SMALL PARISH.

IF AND WHEN ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WOODHULL AND ITS MISSION AT EL DORADO IS AVAILABLE I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR KINDEST CONSIDERATION IN APPOINTING

ADOM013601

ST. PETER CLAVER PARISH

SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN 53081

II

ME AS ITS PASTOR OR ADMINISTRATOR
WHICHEVER IS BEST. AS YOU KNOW I SPENT TWO
HAPPY YEARS THERE WITHOUT ANY PERSONAL
PROBLEMS AND WITH THE GREATEST RAPPORT
WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY,
CATHOLIC + NON-CATHOLIC, AT THE MOTHER PARISH
AND ITS MISSION.

THIS REQUEST IS URGENT AND I AM
SURE YOU WILL GIVE IT YOUR ATTENTION. A RE-
PLACEMENT AT ST. PETER CLAVER SHOULD NOT BE
DIFFICULT AT ALL AS THE PEOPLE ARE DEDICATED
& THE CO-OPERATION IS EXCELLENT, MUCH OF THE
ADMINISTRATIVE WORK IS ABLY & BEAUTIFULLY
DONE BY ITS OFFICE STAFF, PARISH COUNCIL AND
MAINTENANCE CREWS. THIS IS TO SAY THAT THE
PROBLEMS ARE PERSONAL NOT PAROCHIAL.

THANKING YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE IN READ-
ING THIS,

I AM

YOURS IN CHRIST

George S. Hoff

JD 4/2/74

*
October 28, 1968

The Reverend George S. Hopf
Associate Pastor, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish
[REDACTED]
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214

Dear Father Hopf:

By this letter I herewith transfer you from your position as Associate Pastor at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, West Allis, Wisconsin, and I officially appoint you Pastor at Holy Rosary Parish, Milwaukee, effective Tuesday, November 19, 1968, on which date you are asked to report to your new assignment.

You are asked to make the required Profession of Faith in the Chancery Office before November 19th.

It affords me great pleasure to make this appointment and I assure you that my prayers are joined to yours as we ask God to bless your labors in this new field.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM013618

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

July 8, 2004

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL



Dear

In line with the assurances given in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, I have authorized the release of the names of priests who are now or would have been restricted from all priestly ministries. These men can not celebrate the sacraments publicly or represent themselves as priests in any way.

This action will bring with it additional publicity. My concern is that the publicity may bring you, personally, additional anxiety, stress or other difficulties. If you need to talk to someone, please do so. If you would like to contact our office for Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Services, please call 414-769-3436.

What happened to you was not your fault and should never have happened. For that, I apologize in the name of the Church. I hope our actions as a Church in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and my actions as archbishop continue to provide for healing. Please know you remain in my prayers.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy M. Dolan".

The Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee

February 19, 2004

Dear [REDACTED]

Please allow me to continue to update you about developments that may concern you.

On February 27, 2004 the findings of the "John Jay Study" will be released. This study was commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at their Dallas meeting in June, 2002. John Jay College of Criminal Justice conducted a survey, and this report will include cumulative numbers from dioceses across the United States who reported on their individual numbers since 1950.

Naturally you will be interested in this news story because of its personal dimensions for you, but many victim/survivors have also. Let me know how extensive media coverage of clergy sexual abuse causes intense personal disruption and setbacks. In addition to a "heads up" about the turmoil you may face, let me make a few suggestions about how you might manage this time period.

- Be in charge of your media doses, rather than let it control you. Choose when and where and how much exposure you want. Turn off the TV or radio and put away the newspaper, as needed. Let people know if you don't want to talk about it now.
- Turn to people who offer you genuine caring and support. Distinguish these from the people who have another interest or purpose in talking to you about your personal relationship to the topic. Remember that you have choices about whether you publicly identify yourself as a victim. Talk with people with whom you feel "safe."
- Consider making an appointment with your therapist if you don't already have one. If you have not taken advantage of our offer to assist financially with psychotherapy, but would like to do so, please contact me. There are also support groups that focus on the healing needs of sexual abuse survivors, for which I can provide information. You are welcome to turn to me as a support person as well.

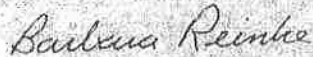
Previously we informed you that a new mediation program, independent of the Archdiocese, was forthcoming. The Clergy Sexual Abuse Mediation System is designed to resolve disputes for those who have been sexually abused by Catholic clergy, with the goal of healing, restoration and closure. If you are not already registered to participate in mediation, you may do so by calling 414-302-9215 or 1-866-302-9215. The last date for requesting mediation if you choose to seek resolution.

February 19, 2004

Page 2

I pray and hope that your journey as a survivor of clergy sexual abuse starts to become easier. For the Catholic Church it is a necessary time of public accountability in order to be responsible for what happened in the past, to change the culture and ways of operating in the present, and to practice prevention in the future. As we have said before, no words or actions erase the burden you have borne as a result of this issue.

May God be with you,



Barbara Reinke, Ph.D.
Sexual Abuse Prevention & Response
Archdiocese of Milwaukee

BR:saz

ADOM036003

January 1, 2004

Dear 

I write to you because you have experienced, firsthand, the pain caused by sexual abuse within the Church, and you courageously reported the abuse to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. No words can apologize sufficiently for your experience, but I will continue to try by saying again how sorry I am. Knowing that no remedies can adequately address the harm done, I still want to make you aware of a variety of services available to you and intended to assist in your healing.

Dispute resolution services to address your unique needs for recovery will become available in mid-January. Eva Soeka, a nationally known expert in dispute resolution systems, is creating a process independent of the Church that will make use of the best mediators in the area. I continue to believe that this initiative represents the best way for us to meet together about your situation and provide assistance. More details and information about how to enter into this process will be available in mid-January. At this time, I ask you to start considering if this might be the right next step for you.

Catholic Charities is also offering a new support group in Milwaukee for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. This group will offer a faith-based perspective, and is meant to supplement other support groups available in the area. A flyer is enclosed.

Financial assistance with psychotherapy also remains available. To access this, or for other questions about our services, please contact Dr. Barbara Reinke in our office for Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response Services (414-769-3436 or reinkeb@archmil.org). Also enclosed is a brochure about our policies and procedures when a report is made.

I continue to meet privately with those victim-survivors who find that helpful. Please contact me at 414-769-3496 if you would like to arrange such a meeting. We have also arranged for several priests, sisters and lay ministers, who are professionally-trained in providing spiritual direction, to be available. If you would like to speak with one of them, please contact Barbara Anne Cusack, my delegate for sexual abuse issues, at 414-769-3341.

It is also important for me to communicate with you about our efforts to prevent clergy sexual abuse in the future. Our *Code of Ethics* makes it clear that no such behavior is to be tolerated within ministry. Our *Mandatory Reporting Responsibility* policy specifies that any employee or volunteer working in our parishes and schools must report any suspicion of abuse. In addition, all adult staff, and volunteers who work with children are required to participate in training to enhance awareness of childhood sexual abuse.

One final thing: if you would prefer not to have further contact from me or from any Church representative, please let us know using the enclosed return letter and pre-stamped envelope.

Much more remains to be done, and we welcome your suggestions. You can use the enclosed response letter and envelope for that purpose as well.

Please know that I am concerned about you and I pray for you. I apologize for the past misdeeds and wish to restore your wholeness as best we can.

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a cross at the end.

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee

3/14/02

Bishop Sklba left a message that he was "shocked" by the allegations against Fr. George Hopf, while also expressing compassion for [REDACTED]. He reported that Fr. Hopf suffered a debilitating stroke about 20 years ago, leaving him unable to speak and confined to a nursing home, such that it would not be productive to attempt to talk to Fr. Hopf about these allegations.

3/21/02

I spoke with [REDACTED] by phone. She reported getting in touch with considerable anger, particularly around the idea that Fr. Hopf's behaviors were overlooked, despite the police report, and he was moved to another parish. I explained our inability to find police records from that time period; she wants to pursue her own investigation. I assured her that we do not doubt her story. I gave [REDACTED] information available from the Chancery Office about Fr. Hopf's assignments. I also gave her names of suggested therapists, and the names of priests at SS Peter & Paul recommended by Bishop Sklba.

Barbara Reinke, Ph.D.
Director, Project Benjamin

February 12, 2004

His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Piazza del S. Uffizio 11
00193 Rome, Italy

Your Eminence:

In accord with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Youth* and *The Essential Norms* which are in effect in the United States, I am referring several cases for your consideration. I take very seriously the problem of sexual abuse of minors by clergy and the ensuing public outcry over past inaction by church officials. The demand for justice is one that receives a favorable hearing from me.

However, I also believe firmly that some situations call for justice tempered by mercy. I have reviewed carefully all of cases of alleged sexual abuse of minors by clergy. We are in the methodical process of preparing all such cases for referral to the Congregation. In the course of that review, I have come to the conclusion that some clerics, even though we are convinced about the substance of the allegations and even though, in some cases, the cleric has confessed, should not be imposed with canonical penalties.

I am sending in this mailing the cases of those priests whose life situations are such that a canonical penal trial or an administrative dismissal would be unreasonable. They are either of such advanced age or fragile health that such actions could be tantamount to a death sentence. Therefore, in each case I am asking that the priest be permitted to live out whatever may remain of his life in prayer and penance. The elements of such a life will be designed along the protocols presently being prepared by the Conference of Bishops. In all cases, there would be no public ministry permitted and the priest would not present himself publicly as a priest by title or attire.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Should Your Eminence determine that an alternate action be taken, I stand ready to accede to your wishes.

With sentiments of esteem, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Dolan".

Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM039323

ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

NAME: Reverend George Stephen Hopf
 DATE OF BIRTH: May 19, 1924
 AGE: 79
 PRESBYTERAL ORDINATION: May 28, 1949
 YEARS OF MINISTRY: 24 years
 DIOCESE OF INCARDINATION: Milwaukee
 ADDRESS: [REDACTED] Palatine, IL 60067

ASSIGNMENTS:

YEAR	PARISH	LOCATION	APPOINTMENT
1949-1954	St. Joseph Parish	Milwaukee	Assistant Pastor
1954-1962	St. John Nepomuc Parish	Milwaukee	Assistant Pastor
1962-1966	St. Mary Parish	Waukesha, WI	Assistant Pastor
1966-1968	Immaculate Heart of Mary	West Allis, WI	Assistant Pastor
1968-1969	Holy Rosary Parish	Milwaukee, WI	Pastor
1969-1971	St. John Baptist Parish	Woodhull, WI	Administrator
1971-1975	St. Peter Claver Parish	Sheboygan, WI	Pastor
1975-1976	Sick Leave		
1976	Resignation		
1976	Retirement		

ACCUSATION AGAINST THE CLERIC

YEAR	VICTIM	AGE	IMPUTABLE ACTS	DENUNCIATION
1969	[REDACTED]	12	Vaginal penetration with finger; fondling; forced masturbation	2002
1963-69	[REDACTED]	3-6	Not specified	2002

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CLERIC

The 1969 incident was supposedly reported to the police by the parents. There are no police records still intact. The statute of limitations has expired in both cases.

MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE DIOCESE

YEAR	ACTION TAKEN
2002	Files studied for any indication of prior knowledge or reports. None found. Priest not able to be confronted due to total disability.
2004	Case referred to Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

SUSTENANCE PROVIDED TO THE CLERIC

Father is fully vested in the priests' pension plan and receives the same monthly payment as any other retired priest. He is cared for in a Catholic nursing home.

RESPONSE / RECOURSE MADE BY THE CLERIC
None, he is totally incapacitated due to a severe stroke.

BISHOP'S VOTUM

The pattern of the allegations has an internal consistency. All of the dates and places are verified in the records. The accusers have no knowledge of or contact with one another. These cases have been given no public notoriety and there has been no scandal. Because of his inability to mount any defense, I am asking that he not be subjected to a penal trial. He does not appear in public and is capable of no ministry.

I ask that Father Hopf, for reasons of advanced age and poor health, be permitted to live a life of prayer and penance the details of which will be worked on with him to the best of his ability to understand the situation.

249. George Hopf
March 28, 2002 Vicar receives sexual abuse intake reports from Dr. Reinke on George Hopf re an incident of sexual abuse which took place in '69. No follow-up to confront Hopf in his retirement is warranted.

JFH

- ✓172. George Hopf
On March 28, 2002 as a result of a recent allegation I requested Barbara Ann Cusack to review the files of assignment, which revealed that he had been assigned to St. Mary in Waukesha in 1962, then to St. Mary in South Milwaukee in 1966, then at Immaculate Heart of Mary in West Allis in February of 1968, then as Pastor at Holy Rosary in Milwaukee in November, 1968, and then as Administrator at Woodhull in September, 1969, after which he was named Pastor at St. Peter Claver and retired in 1975 because of a stroke.

RJS

- ✓243. George Hopf
On April 22, 2002 I spoke with Fr. Robert Berghammer, close friend and long term assistant for Fr. George Hopf since his stroke. I asked if he had any information regarding Father Hopf's rapid departure from Holy Rosary Parish in approximately 1967 or 1968. Fr. Berghammer reported that I was the first person to asks the question and that Fr. Hopf had left the Diocese for a three month residence at Saxony with classmate, Fr. Taylor, before returning to a pastorate at Woodhull. He knew no further details about that move.

RJS

November 3, 1972

C
O
P
Y
Reverend George S. Hopf
St. Peter Claver Parish

Sheboygan, Wisconsin 53081

Dear Father Hopf:

Following the recommendation of the Personnel Board, I have appointed Father Daniel A. Budzynski as Associate Pastor at St. Peter Claver Parish, Sheboygan, effective November 14, 1972.

I also understand that the Personnel Board has recommended that Father Budzynski assist Father Donald R. Peters in the CCD work at St. Mary Parish, Sheboygan Falls.

With warmest personal regards and with every blessing,
I am

Fraternally Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

ADOM040849

May 10, 1966

Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your letter of April 29 addressed to the Archbishop concerning Father Hopf. Rumors are devastating. Be assured that rumors do not form the basis for any transfers the Archbishop might make.

With kind personal regards and good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis M. Beres

FMB:jee

COPY

ADOM040911

February 2, 1968

Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
South Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53172

My dear Mr. and Mrs. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of January 31st. Permit me to tell you that you were misinformed as to the reasons for Father Hopf's transfer. Emergency hospitalization left one of our parishes unmanned. We are asking the pastor who will eventually be assigned to St. Mary's to continue with one assistant. Father Hopf is the senior man in his present appointment and brings with him the necessary qualities to fit into the vacancy created by illness. In spite of anything you have heard, no other motivation was involved.

With every blessing, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Cousins
Archbishop of Milwaukee

COPY

ADOM040917

GEORGE V. MURPHY, M.D.
General Practice
 CHARLES E. THEISEN, M.D., F.A.B.F.P.
General Practice
 WAYNE L. McFADDEN, M.D.
General Practice
 JAIME R. SCERPELLA, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Surgery
 ROMEO B. BIBOSO, M.D.
General Practice
 G. J. BIEDLINGMAIER, M.D., S.C. & Assoc.
Radiology
 ILHAN S. ADALI, M.D.
Obstetrics & Gynecology
 JACOB M. FINE, M.D.
Internal Medicine
 THOMAS N. ROBINSON, M.D.
General Practice

South Milwaukee Clinic, Ltd.

100 FIFTEENTH AVENUE
 SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53172
 PHONE: 762.3680

December 26, 1975

Archdiocese of Milwaukee
 Rev. Robert Sampon
 345 N. 95th Street
 Milwaukee, WI 53226



Dear Rev. Sampon:

Rev. George Hopf suffered a stroke in September, 1975. This resulted in paralysis of the right arm and leg and inability to speak. At present he can walk with a cane, but there is no use of the right arm and no effective speech. We are hoping for and expecting more return of the latter function. We hope to transfer him soon from Trinity Memorial Hospital to South Milwaukee Nursing home from where he will continue his physical, speech, and occupational therapy.

If Father's speech returns, he could conceivably be of some assistance in a limited capacity in a low-key parish setting. We will have to see what time brings.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at anytime for further information.

Sincerely,

 M. D.


January 19, 1976

The Reverend George S. Hopf
c/o Trinity Memorial Hospital
████████████████████
Cudahy, Wisconsin 53110

Dear George,

Though I haven't done much of a job as far as visiting you is concerned, you have taken a priority place in my thoughts and prayers. It is this overall concern for a brother priest that prompts my letter.

I am informed that you are making real progress on your way to recovery but that some time could elapse before you are able to return to full duty. This is quite understandable, and I want you to have the best of care in the interval. Among other things, I am convinced that you should be receiving from the Priests' Pension Plan the full benefits attendant upon your present disability.

To clear the way for a definitive vote on the part of the Pension Board, I would ask that you resign as Pastor of St. Peter Claver Parish in Sheboygan. This in no way prejudices any future reassignment, but it does open the way to a full four hundred dollars (\$400.00) a month compensation, which is a larger amount than that realized from a pastor's salary and to which you can deservedly make claim.

Your past ministry deserves every consideration, and we share with you the hope that this ministry will be resumed in God's Own time and through modern rehabilitation techniques. It is also important for you to have peace of mind as far as your future is concerned. I, therefore, give you the definite assurance that you will be financially cared for in the interval and that your return to active duty, though not hurried, will be greeted with warm welcome.

In line with relieving you of financial worries, I am making another proposal to St. Michael's Priest Fund. Its Board will meet later this month, and I would like to propose an additional sick benefit compensation from its resources. While these things have a necessary temporal aspect, they take on a spiritual value because they have to do with the illness and recovery of a Priest of God. It is against this background that I propose your resignation.

ADOM040947

January 19, 1976

The Reverend George S. Hopf
c/o Trinity Memorial Hospital

-2

There is no intention of "putting you on the shelf", but there is a strong desire to set your mind at rest and to provide every possible aid to bring about your recovery.

I am enclosing a simple form of resignation which would need only your signature. Upon its return the above-mentioned machinery will be put in motion.

With the warmest of personal regards and with every blessing, I
am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

COPY

AGREEMENT AND MUTUAL RELEASE

This Agreement and Mutual Release (hereafter "Agreement") is made by and between [REDACTED] (hereafter "[REDACTED]"), whose address is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and all of its affiliated entities, schools, and parishes, including, without limitation, Holy Rosary Congregation and its successors in Milwaukee, WI (hereafter "Archdiocese").

[REDACTED] has brought to the attention of the Archdiocese that she was sexually abused by George Hopf (hereafter "Hopf"), a priest of the Archdiocese, when [REDACTED] was a minor.

[REDACTED] and the Archdiocese entered into mediation to achieve reconciliation and restoration, to help repair the harm to [REDACTED], to address issues of concern to [REDACTED] about prevention of sexual abuse of minors in the future and reformation of Church practices in this regard, and to otherwise resolve and settle all disputes between them.

Accordingly, the parties to this Agreement wish to resolve and satisfy all claims of any nature that [REDACTED] has against the Archdiocese, and all of the Archdiocese's employees, agents, officers, directors, affiliates, insurers, and assigns, including, without limitation, all members of the Roman Catholic clergy and all parishes, schools, and religious orders, and any person or entity affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church in the territory of the Archdiocese, arising from the sexual abuse of [REDACTED] by Hopf without the necessity of further proceedings or expense of any nature, and all parties wish to generally release one another from all liability for any claims that may exist to the date of the signing of this Agreement, including, but not limited to, any claims for sexual abuse of [REDACTED] by Hopf.

So, in consideration of the mutual promises made here, and other valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties to this Agreement agree as follows:

1. The Archdiocese agrees to provide [REDACTED] with \$50,000. These funds shall be used at [REDACTED]'s own discretion for therapy assistance.

2. [REDACTED] and the Archdiocese will each bear their own costs and any attorney's fees associated with the Agreement, and there will be no payment to [REDACTED] other than that specifically enumerated above.

3. In return for the payment set out above, and for the mutual promises contained herein, [REDACTED] releases and forever discharges the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee, and all of the Archdiocese's employees, agents, officers, directors, affiliates, insurers, and assigns, including, without limitation, all members of the Roman Catholic clergy, and all parishes, schools, and religious orders, including, without limitation, Holy Rosary Congregation and any person or entity affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church in the territory of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee from, and covenants not to sue them for, all claims, causes of action, charges, and demands, whether in tort, contract, or otherwise, of any nature that she may have had at any time up to and including the date of signing of this Agreement, including, without limitation, any claim of any nature arising from the assault, injury, whether physical or mental, or any other activity by Hopf.

4. The Archdiocese hereby releases and forever discharges [REDACTED] from all claims, demands, and causes of action of any nature that were in existence up to and including the date of the signing of this Agreement.

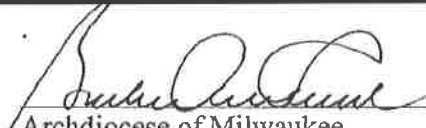
5. This Agreement supersedes all prior understandings and agreements between the parties, and constitutes the full agreement of the parties. No change to this Agreement shall be enforced against any party unless it is in writing signed by both parties.

6. The undersigned represent and warrant that each has read the foregoing Agreement; had an opportunity to discuss it with a lawyer; and fully understands its terms; voluntarily, freely, and without coercion signs the Agreement; and that Dr. Barbara Anne Cusack is an authorized representative of the Archdiocese and is duly authorized to execute this Agreement and Mutual Release.



7-1-04

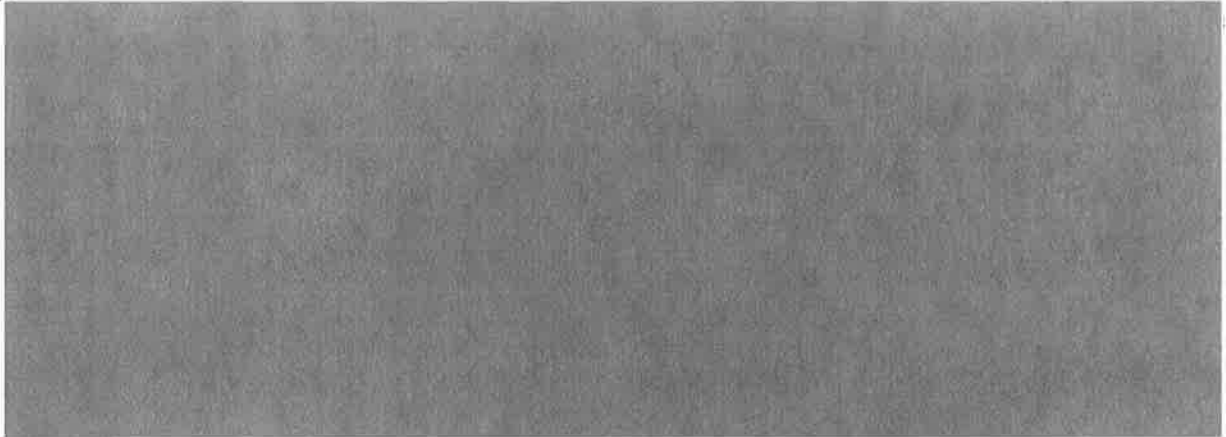
Date


Archdiocese of Milwaukee
by: Dr. Barbara Anne Cusack

7-2-04

Date

History:



Current Therapist:

would like assistance with this.

Next Steps:

It has been ascertained that police records are no longer available. If further confirmation is needed, could ask her mother to become involved or we could attempt to get records from previous therapists whom has told. I'm not sure further confirmation is needed.

Our current information is that Fr. George Hopf is retired and living at: Palatine, IL 60067
We need to decide how to make Fr. Hopf aware of these allegations. I will get back to with names of potential therapists. We need to decide who could be helpful to re returning to Church.

Report given to:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archbishop Weakland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bishop Skiba | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr. Joe Hornacek (Clergy) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Al Veik (Religious) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rick Tank (Non-Cleric) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Flynn (Legal) | <input type="checkbox"/> Molly Hatfield (Insurance) | |

Intake form
saz/02/12/01

AOM SUPP 001704

ADOM057715