

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

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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700-102, W  
6-16-95

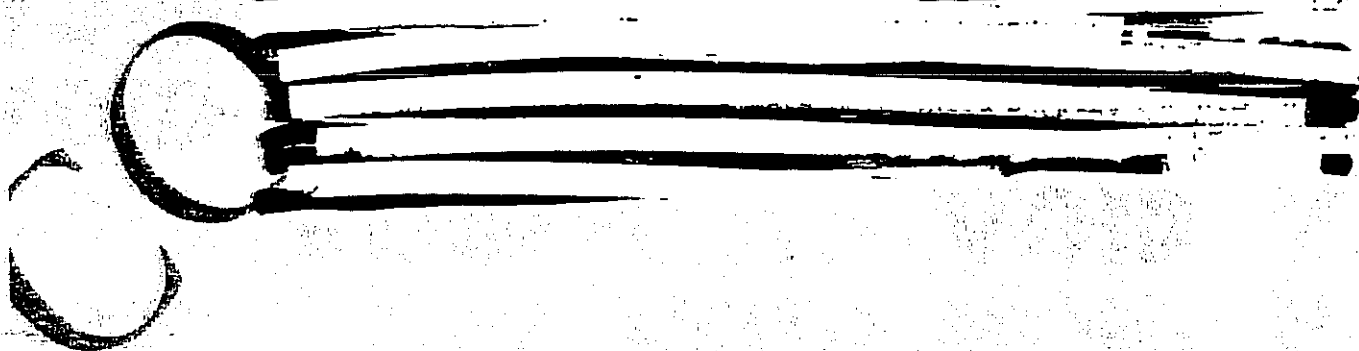
MEMORANDUM  
Confidential

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] 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 16." [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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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 and a circled 'U'.

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

[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 him 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 all 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.

*announced at all meetings  
of the Cathedral*

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10-04-04 Order  
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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. My friends and admirers throughout North Texas 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

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

 **Diocese of Fort Worth**  
Bishop's Office

HOOVER, WM.

July 3, 1995

July 3, 1995

Dear

I am writing with information about Father William Hoover who is scheduled to be at [redacted] 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.

[redacted] 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, [redacted] I decided to make a public statement to have some control over how the matter is aired.

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 [redacted]. 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, [redacted] year-old, who is in very difficult straits—in danger of losing what little he has and of going to jail. [redacted] 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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800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • 817/560-3300 • Fax 817/244-8839



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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CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order  
0085

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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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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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 in 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

*Handwritten:*  
pen  
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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