

MEETING OF THE REVIEW BOARD  
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO  
(Minutes)

Date: April 16, 1994

Board Members Present:



Others Present:

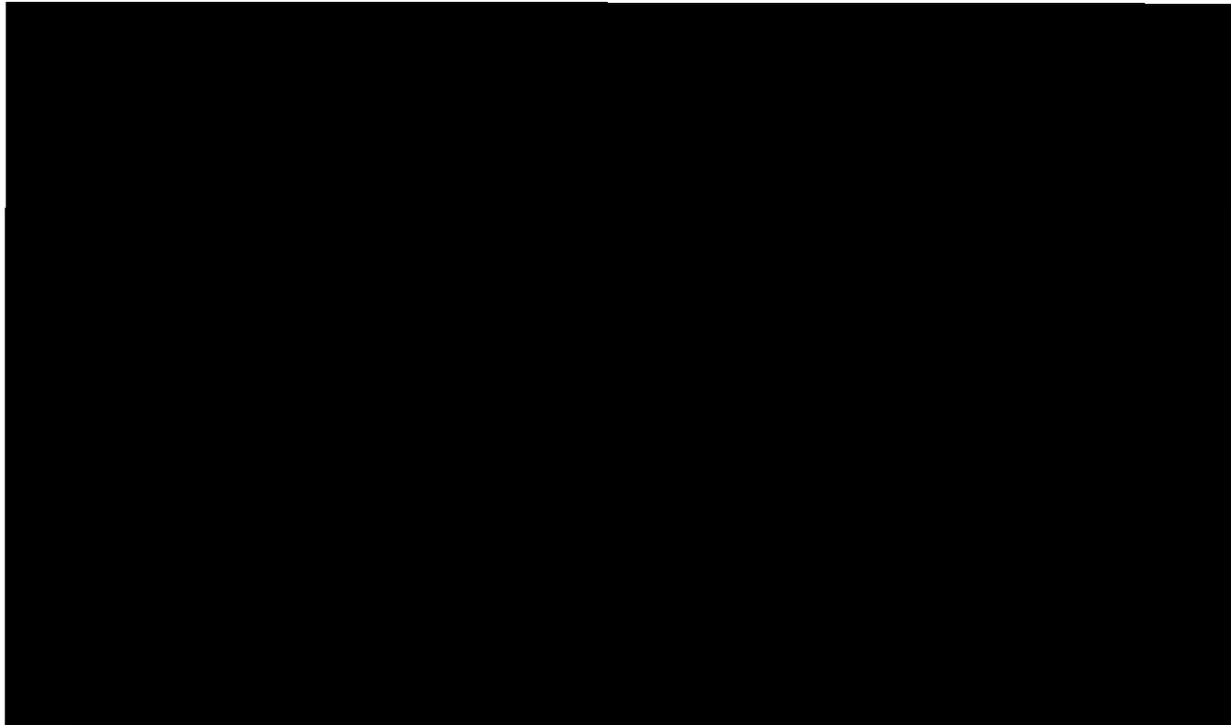
Thomas Paprocki

Steve Sidlowski

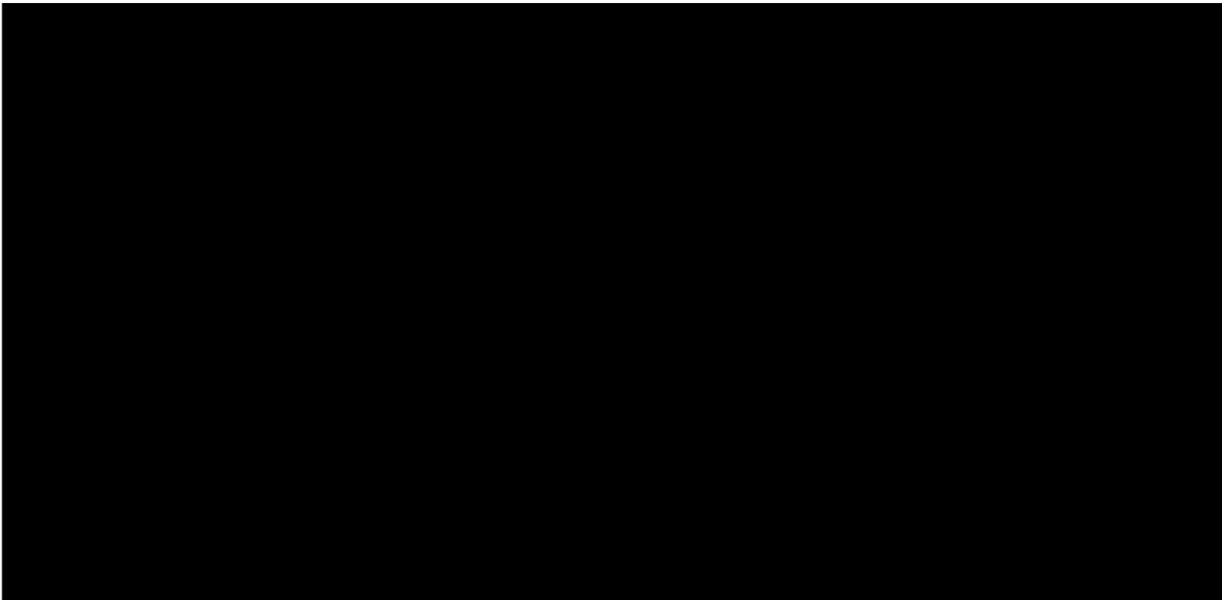
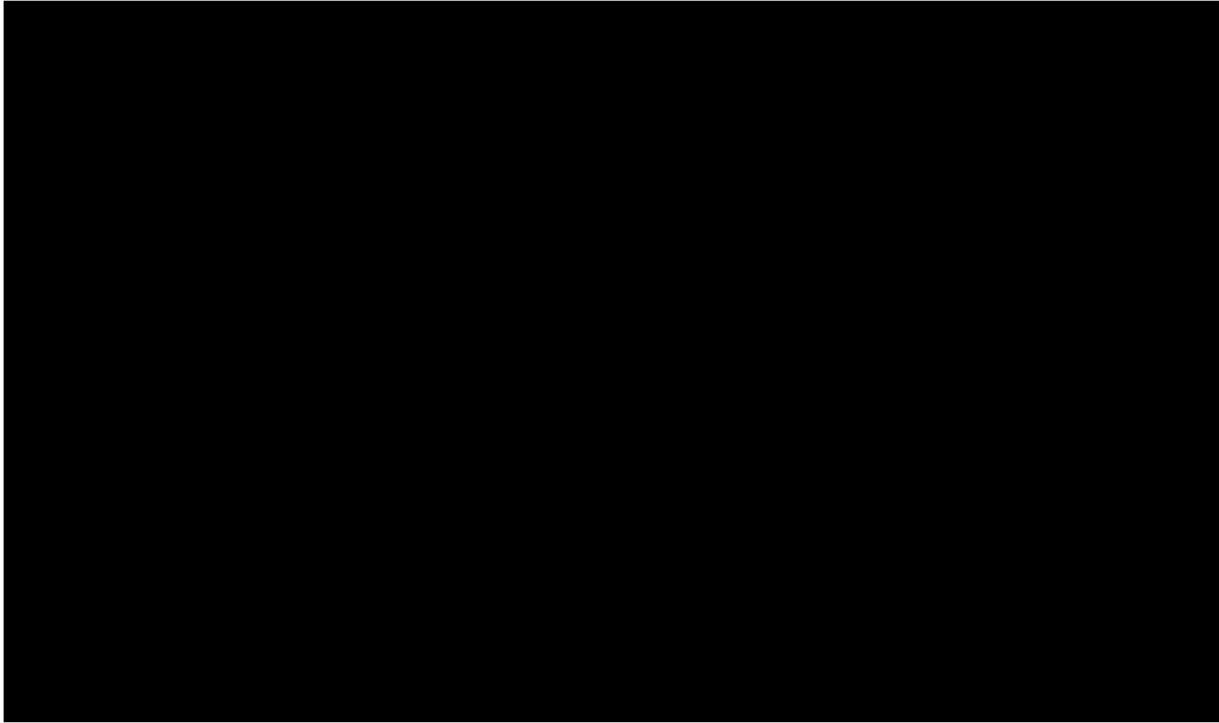
\* The Review Board formally approved the Meeting Minutes for Board Meetings of March 19, 1994 and April 6, 1994.

Also, [redacted] requested that his name be deleted from the minutes of the 4-6-94 meeting and that he was unable to attend that meeting as it turned out.

Matter of [redacted]







[REDACTED]

Matter of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

\* Miscellaneous Information and Updates to the Board:

[REDACTED]



Respectfully  
Submitted By  
Steve Sidlowski -  
Administrator



These Minutes Unanimously  
Approved By  
Review Board

MEETING OF THE REVIEW BOARD  
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO  
(Minutes)

DATE: March 19, 1994

Board Members Present:



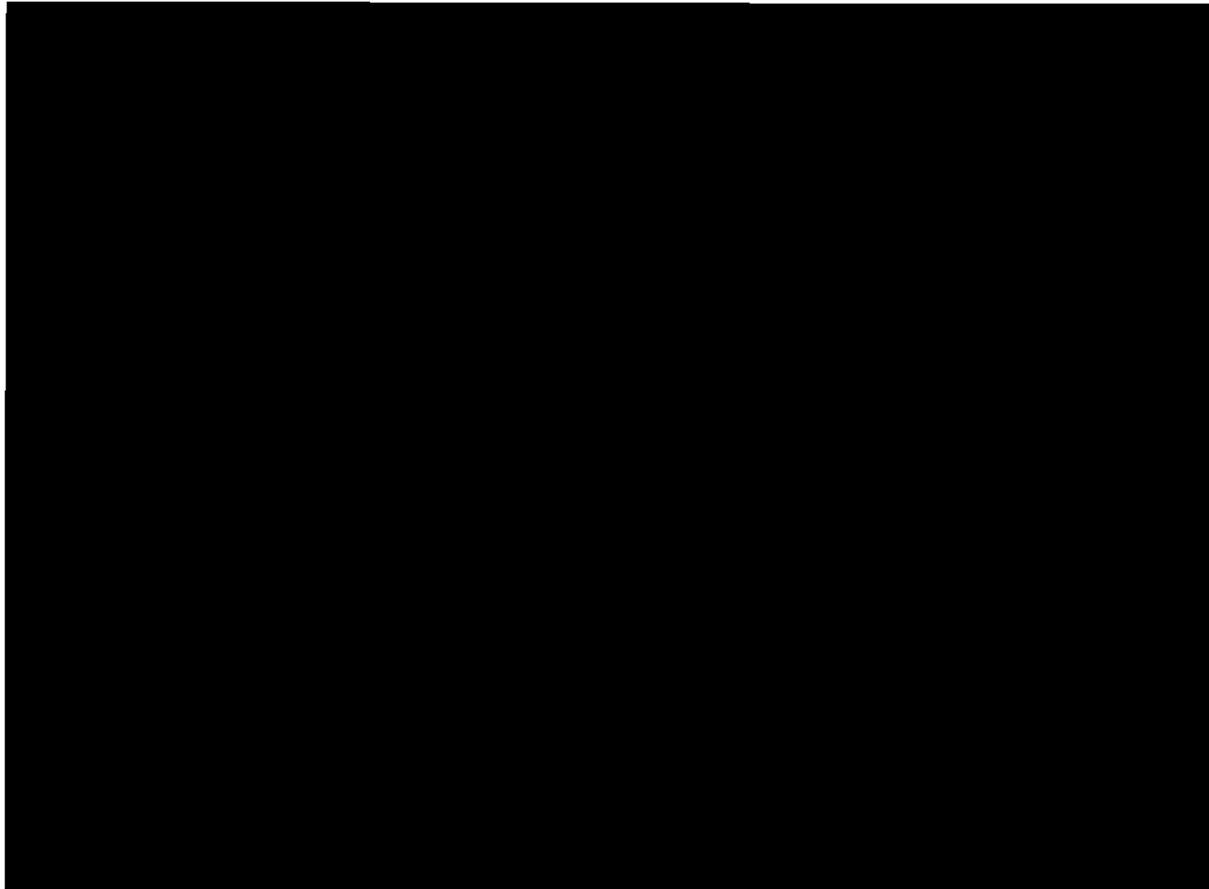
Others Present:

Thomas Paprocki

Steve Sidlowski

\* The Board formally approved the Minutes of the Review Board Meeting of 2-19-94.

Matter of



**Matter of PFR-31 (J.O.):**

1. The Administrator informed the Board that he had received information pertaining to a new allegation of sexual misconduct as a minor from a [REDACTED] involving a Rev. J.O. The Board was informed that J.O. left his ministry as a priest in 1970 although he was never formally laicized. The Board was informed that [REDACTED] was informed of that information and invited to contact Assistance Ministry. The Administrator informed the Board that he had arranged for a phone conversation with [REDACTED] this coming week to discuss the situation further.

2. The Board directed the Administrator to re-iterate (the Administrator had already so communicated) to [REDACTED] that the Board would not be able to proceed formally through its review procedures in that there is no priest to request an explanation to the allegation from. However, the Board suggested that the Administrator explain to the alleged victim that her allegation has been documented in a formal file, also for the purpose of in case any other persons would come forward an allegation against J.O. in the future.

**Matter of [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

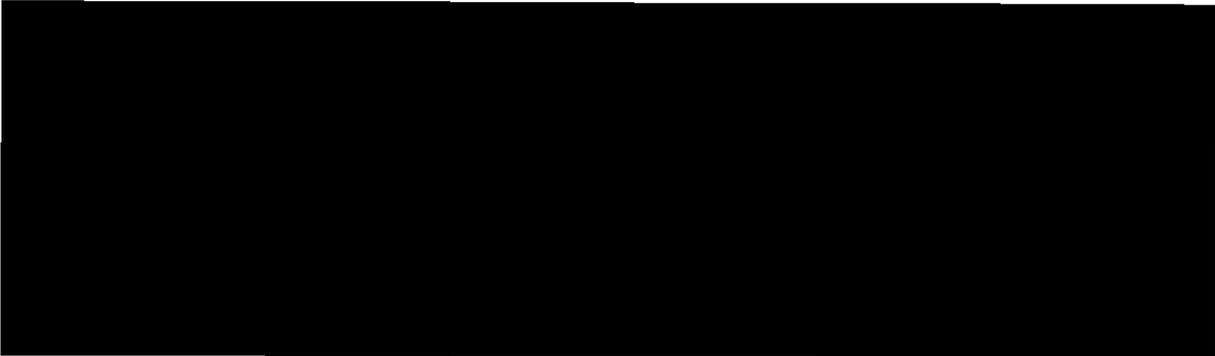
**Matter of [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

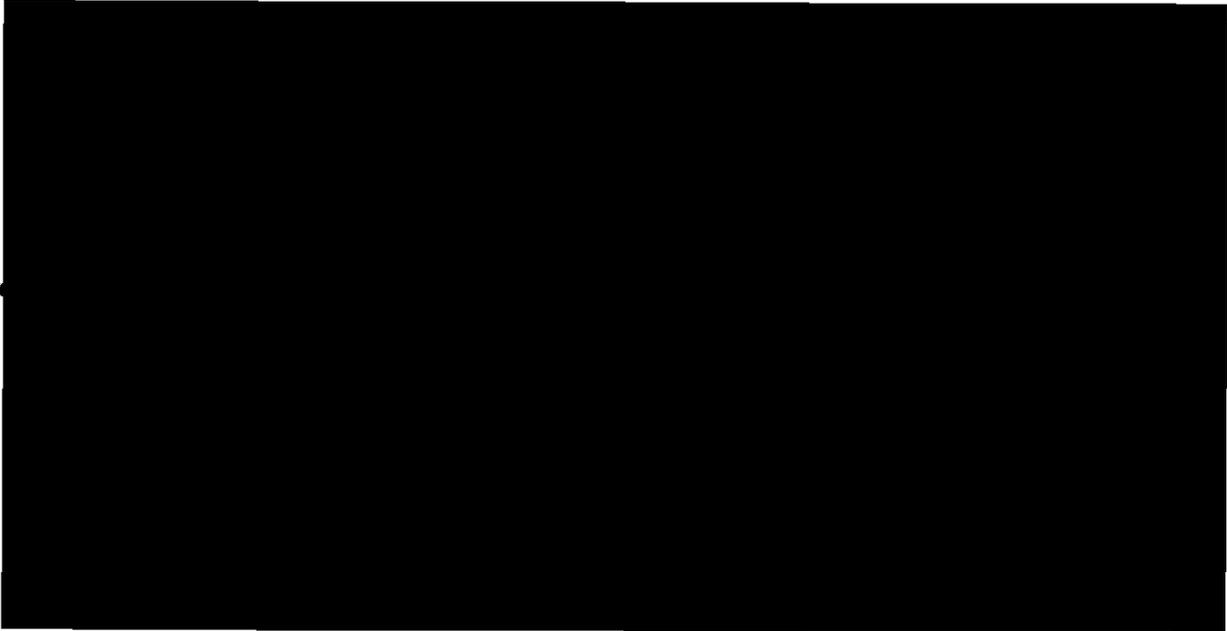
**Matter Involving [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Possible Forthcoming New Allegation



The Board confirmed its next meeting is 4-16-94.

Respectfully  
Submitted By  
Steve Sidlowski -  
Administrator



These Minutes Unanimously  
Approved By  
Review Board

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205  
Fax: (312) 751-5279

**Professional Responsibility Review Board**  
**Saturday, November 20, 2004 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Correction

**Review Board Members Present:**

[REDACTED]

**Members absent:**

[REDACTED]

**Non-members present:**

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]  
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

**I. New Board Members Introduced**

- [REDACTED] fulfilling the role of attorney on the Board
- [REDACTED] fulfilling the role of social worker on the Board
- Newly appointed Chair of the Board, [REDACTED] provided background information on the Review Board and it's process

**II. Approval of Minutes - October 16, 2004**

- Unanimously approved [6-0]

**III. Case Reviews**

**Initial Review**

**A. In the Matter of [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

**B. In the Matter of Joseph Owens [Resigned 1970] - PFR - 31**

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The claim is as follows: fondling penis and genitals under clothing.

In a 6-0 vote, in light of the information presented, the Board determined that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board also made the following recommendations:

- That PRA request to speak with [REDACTED] and ask if he is comfortable disclosing the name of the female former classmate he spoke with regarding her brothers' contact with Fr. Owens [see allegation].
- That Fr. Smilanic review the former Fr. Owens' file in the Chancellor's office and provide the Board with a written summary.
- That PRA obtain a list of other clerics assigned with the former Fr. Owens at St. Gertrude. PRA then to determine if any of the identified clerics are living to ask if there were any rooms in the rectory that resembled "... a study-type area... [REDACTED]

**In the Matter of Joseph Owens [Resigned 1970] - PFR - 31**

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]

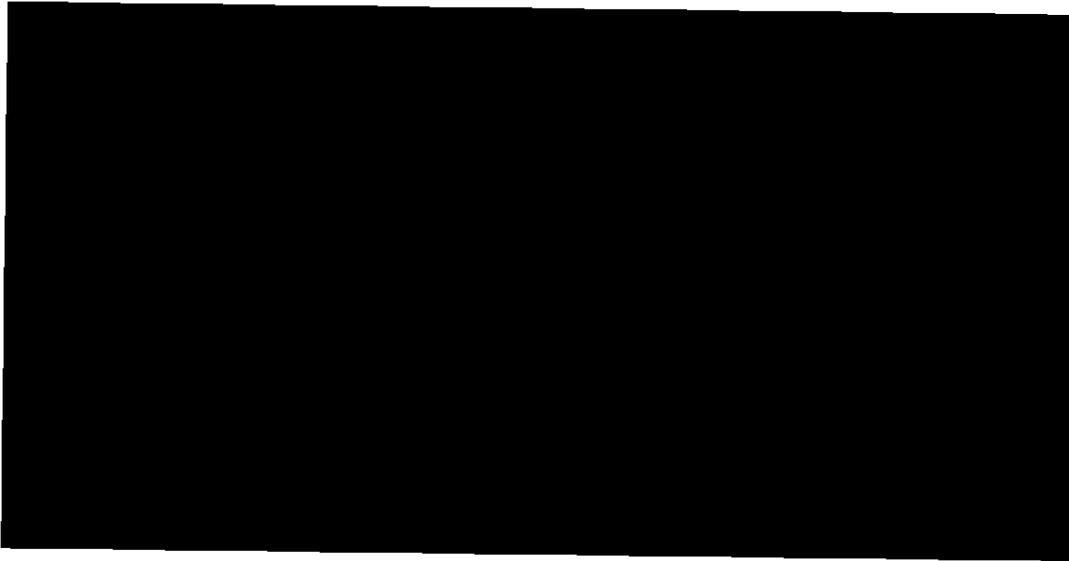
The claim is as follows: cleric instructed [REDACTED] to take off his [own] pants and underwear, cleric fondled [REDACTED] penis and testicles while talking to the minor about sexual intercourse.

In a 6-0 vote, in light of the information presented, the Board determined that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board also made the following recommendations:

- That PRA request to speak with [REDACTED], as a stated witness to the abuse by the former Fr. Owens.
- That Fr. Smilanic review the former Fr. Owens' file in the Chancellor's office and provide the Board with a written summary.
- That PRA obtain a list of other clerics assigned with the former Fr. Owens at St. Gertrude. PRA then to determine if any of the identified clerics are living to ask if there were any rooms in the rectory that resembled "... a study-type area... [REDACTED]

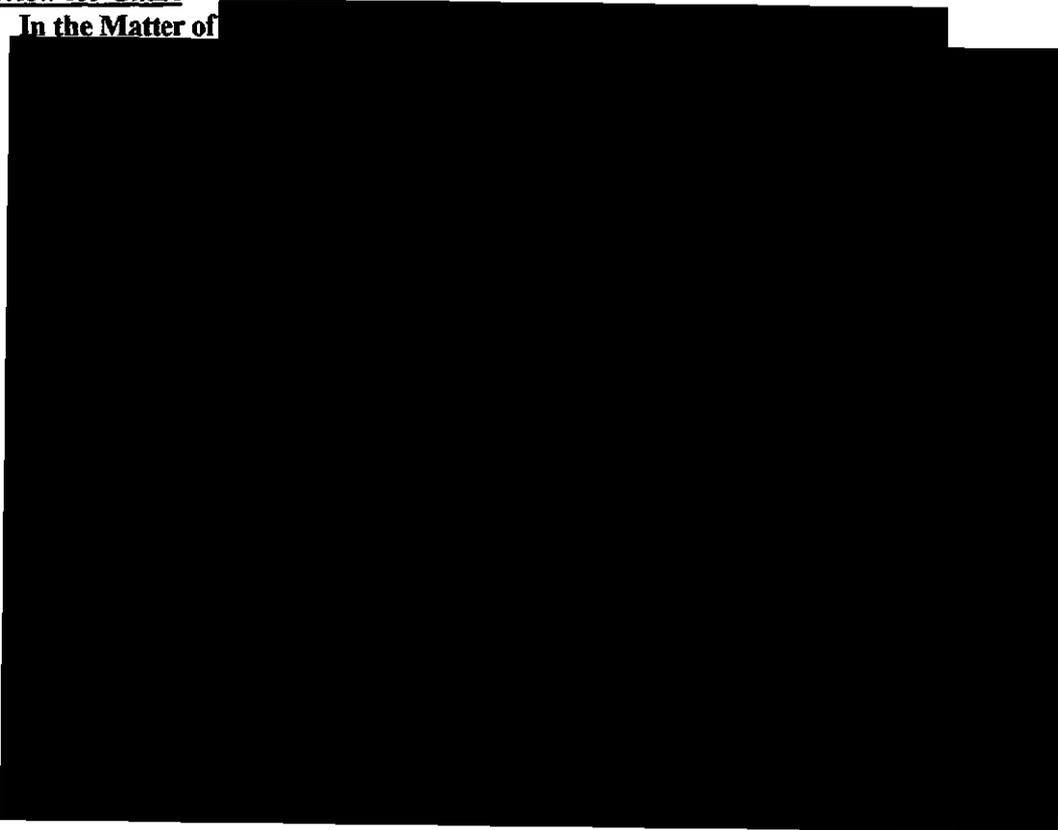
**C. In the Matter of [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]



**Review for Cause**

**A. In the Matter of**



**B. In the Matter of**



**IV. Other Matters**

- Arrival of Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. to swear in new Board members [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*Next scheduled meeting is December 4, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.*

Cc: Review Board Members  
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests  
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests  
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

**Professional Responsibility Review Board**  
**Saturday, October 15, 2005 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

(312) 751-5205  
Fax: (312) 751-5279  
www.archchicago.org

## MINUTES

### Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

### Review Board Members Present via Phone:

[REDACTED]

### Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]  
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

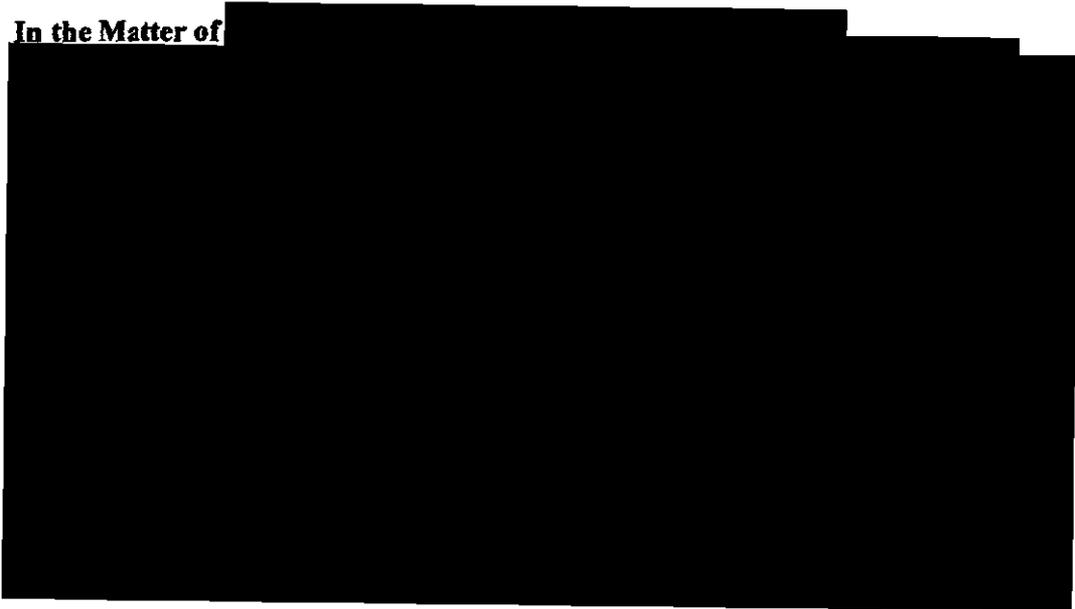
- 
- I. **Approval of Minutes – August 20, 2005**
    - No objections or proposed changes to the agenda
  - II. **Case Reviews**

### Initial Review

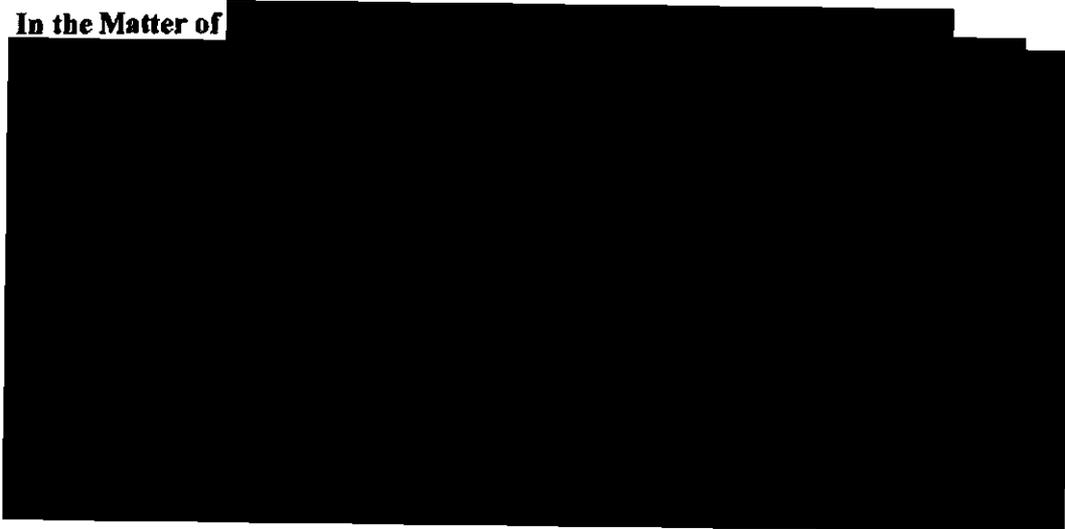
#### A. In the Matter of

[REDACTED]

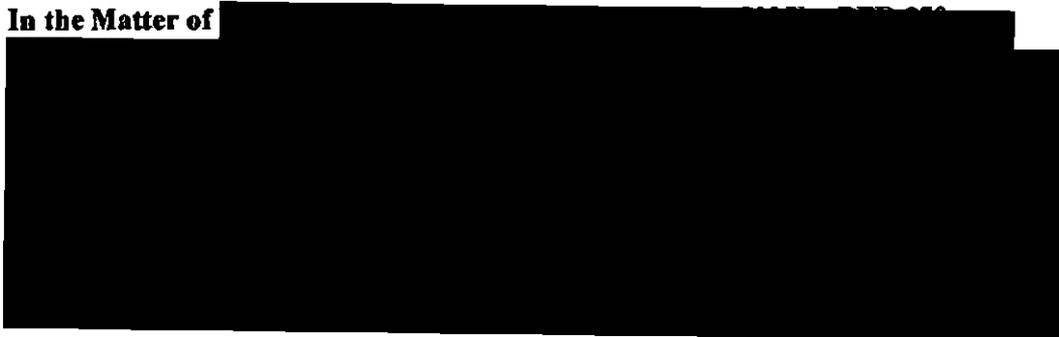
**B. In the Matter of**



**C. In the Matter of**



**D. In the Matter of**



[REDACTED]

**E. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Owens [Resigned 1971] – PFR – 31**

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review of the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The allegation is as follows: one incident of Fr. Owens taking [REDACTED] with him on a retreat to St. Mary's of the Lake. Fr. Owens touched [REDACTED] under his clothing; Fr. Owens also touched himself.

In a 6-1 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board also directed PRA to do the following:

- o Attempt to determine [REDACTED] medical history and /or if he is under current medical care.
- o Obtain [REDACTED] records from St. Gertrude.
- o Write a letter to Mr. Owens inviting him to present [REDACTED] allegation to him, as well as to provide a response.

**F. In the Matter of [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

**Review for Cause**

**G. In the Matter of [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

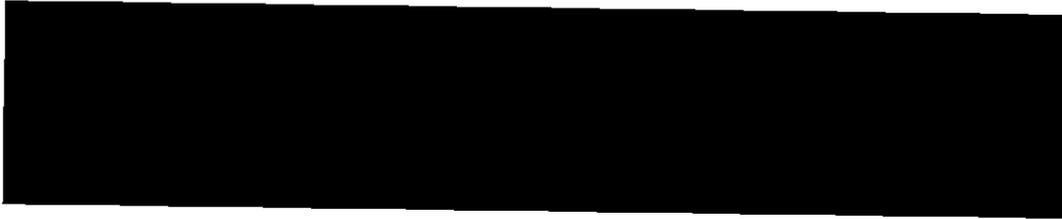
**In the Matter of** [REDACTED]

**H. In the Matter of** [REDACTED]

**I. In the Matter of** [REDACTED]

**J. In the Matter of** [REDACTED]

**K. In the Matter of** [REDACTED]



**III. Other Matters**

- Due to time constraints, a review of the "Other Matters" unable to be completed. The "Other Matters" will be placed on the agenda for the scheduled November 19, 2005 Review Board meeting.

*Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, November 19, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.*

Cc: Review Board Members  
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests  
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests  
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Approved  
4/16/05  
(W)

Office of Professional Responsibility



PO Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205  
Fax: (312) 751-5279  
www.archchicago.org

**Professional Responsibility Review Board**  
**Saturday, April 9, 2005 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[Redacted]

Members absent:

[Redacted]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA] (P)  
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

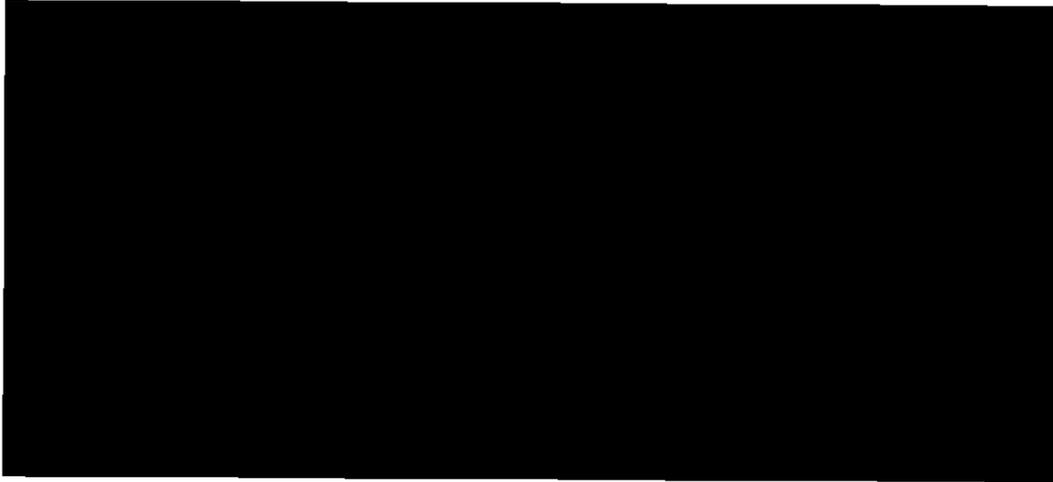
**I. Approval of Minutes – March 19, 2005**

- [Redacted]
- Unanimously approved pending one correction [6-0]
- [Redacted]

**II. Case Reviews**

Initial Review

A. In the Matter of [Redacted]



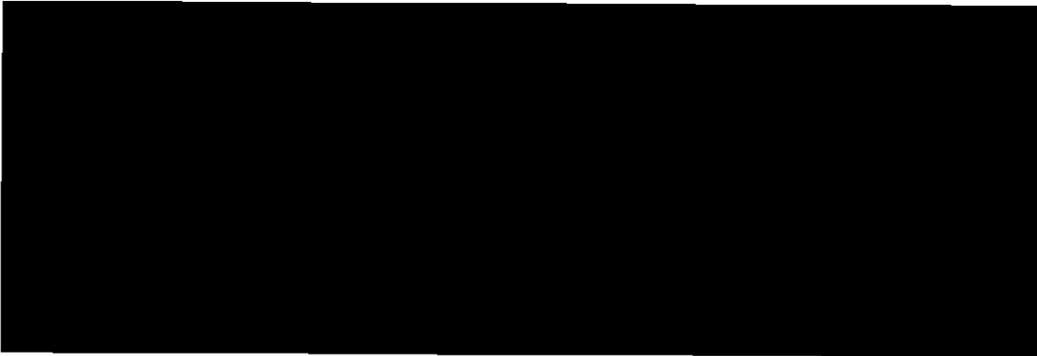
**B. In the Matter of**



Review for Cause

**C. In the Matter of**





**D. In the Matter of Joseph Owens [Resigned 1970] – PFR – 31**

The Review Board conducted a Review for Cause regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The claim is as follows: fondling penis and genitals under clothing.

In a 6-0 vote, in light of the information presented, the Board determined that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred. The Board also recommended that no further action be taken because the accused priest is resigned, except to provide appropriate outreach to those affected by the alleged misconduct.

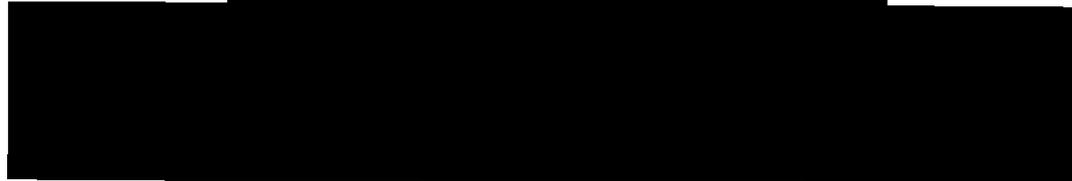
**In the Matter of Joseph Owens [Resigned 1970] – PFR – 31**

The Review Board conducted a Review for Cause regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The claim is as follows: Fr. Owens instructed [REDACTED] to take off his pants and underwear. Fr. Owens fondled [REDACTED]'s testicles and penis while talking to him about sexual intercourse. Fr. Owens told [REDACTED] this was part of confession and penance and that this was between the two of them.

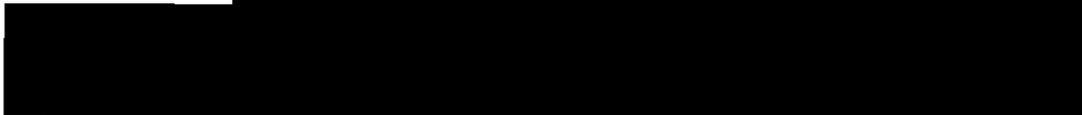
In a 6-0 vote, in light of the information presented, the Board determined that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred. The Board also recommended that no further action be taken because the accused priest is resigned, except to provide appropriate outreach to those affected by the alleged misconduct.

**Update on Recommendations Made to the Cardinal:**

**E. In the Matter of [REDACTED]**



**F. In the Matter of [REDACTED]**



**III. Other Matters:**

- Fr. Smilanic discussed having an in-service in the near future. The suggested date is August 20, 2005.

*Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, April 16, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.*

Cc: Review Board Members  
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Rev. James T. Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests  
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests  
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



## Office of Professional Responsibility

Leah R. McCluskey, MSW, LSW  
Administrator  
312-751-5205  
lmccuskey@archchicago.org

Patricia J. Zacharias, LCPC, CADC, CEAP  
Assistant Administrator  
312-867-8793  
pzacharias@archchicago.org

Post Office Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979  
1-800-994-6200  
312-751-5279 (fax)

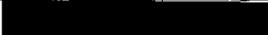
## Professional Responsibility Review Board Saturday, November 18, 2006 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

### MINUTES

#### Review Board Members Present:



#### Review Board Members Absent:



#### Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]   
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

#### **I. Approval of Minutes – October 21, 2006 and October 25, 2006**

- October 21, 2006 Minutes approved
- Changes made to October 25, 2006 Minutes [clarification on page 2, fourth bullet point]



**II. Case Reviews**

**Initial Review**

**A. In the Matter of [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

**B. In the Matter of [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

**C. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Owens [Resigned/Laicized]/ - PFR 31**

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review of [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against the former Rev. Joseph Owens. A summary of the allegation is as follows: fondling under clothes.

In an 8-0 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that the matter warrants additional investigation. The Board also directed PRA to attempt to obtain a current address for Mr. Owens and send a copy of [REDACTED] allegation to him via certified mail, requesting a response.

**D. In the Matter of [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**III. Review for Cause**

**E. In the Matter of**

[REDACTED]

**F. In the Matter of**

[REDACTED]

**IV. Supplementary Review**

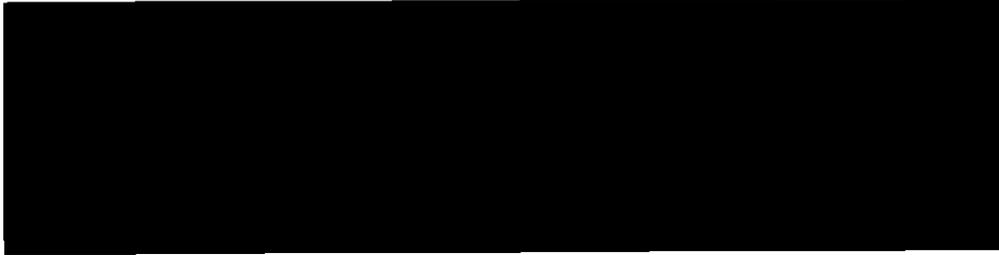
**G. In the Matter of**

[REDACTED]

**V. For Discussion**

**H. In the Matter of**

[REDACTED]



**Other Matters**

•



•

- Discussion concerning receipt of anonymous allegations against identified clerics; concerns expressed with recording and reporting of such allegations, as the accused cleric is identified, but there is no name/identity of the accuser
- Cardinal George swore in new Board member, 
- 2007 Schedule: all meetings scheduled for the third Saturday of every month except for December, which the meeting will be on 12/8/07

***Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, January 20, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.***

Cc: Review Board Members  
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor  
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests  
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests  
Rev. John Canary, Vicar General

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of Professional Responsibility

Leah R. McCluskey, MSW, LSW  
Administrator  
312-751-5205  
lmccluskey@archchicago.org

Patricia J. Zacharias, LCPC, CADC, CEAP  
Assistant Administrator  
312-867-8793  
pzacharias@archchicago.org

Post Office Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979  
1-800-994-6200  
312-751-5279 (fax)

**Professional Responsibility Review Board  
Saturday, August 19, 2006 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

MINUTES

Review Board Members Present:

[Redacted]

Review Board Members Present Via Phone:

[Redacted]

Review Board Members Absent:

[Redacted]

Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]   
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Patricia Zacharias, Professional Responsibility Assistant Administrator [PRAA]

**I. Approval of Minutes – July 15, 2006**

- Minutes approved 5-0

**Approval of Minutes – June 17, 2006**

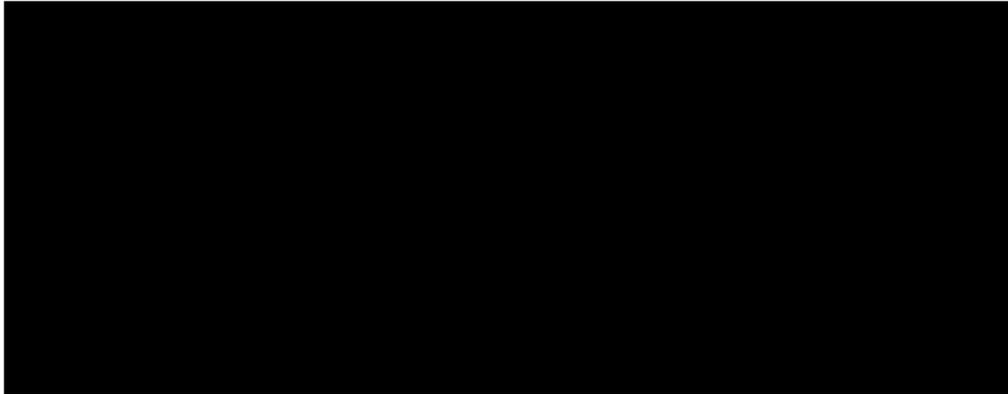
- Corrections made to the use of “it’s” to the correct form “its”
- Minutes then approved 5-0

**II. Case Reviews**

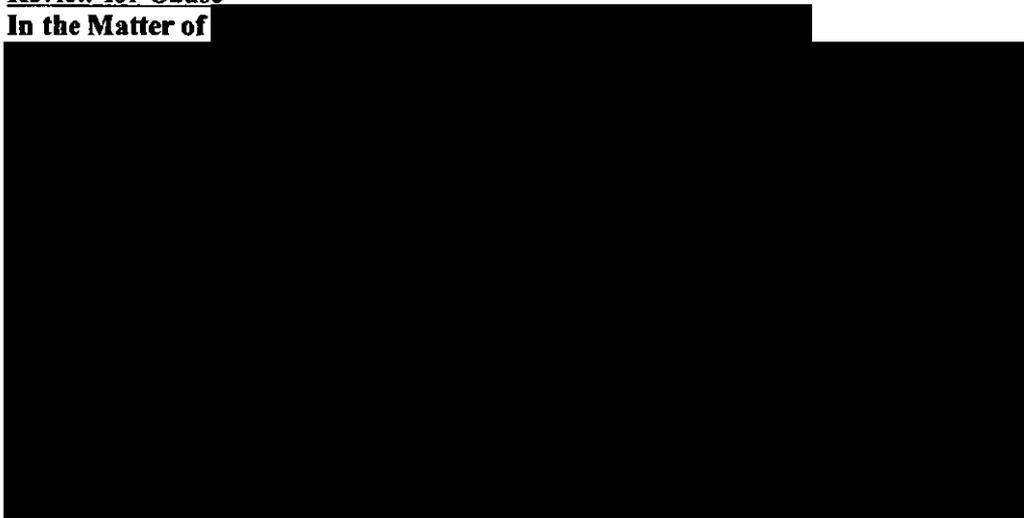
**Initial Review**

**A. In the Matter of**

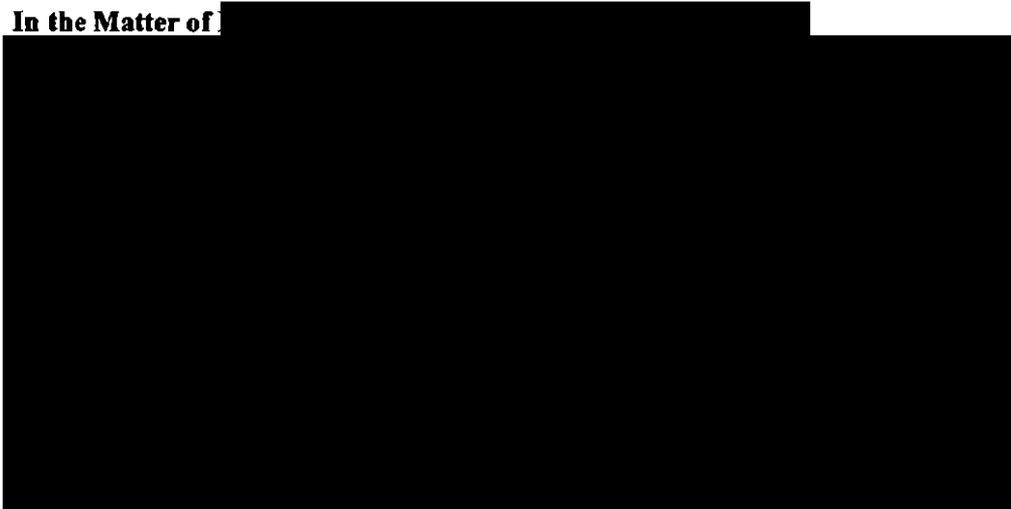
[Redacted]



**III. Review for Cause**  
**B. In the Matter of**



**In the Matter of**





**C. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Owens [Resigned/Laicized] – PFR 31**

The Review Board conducted a Review for Cause of [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against the former Rev. Joseph Owens. A summary of the allegation is as follows: inappropriate language [swearing], talk of description of male and female genitalia to [REDACTED] Fr. Owens exposed himself to [REDACTED] and verbally described the male genitalia to him; Fr. Owens then directed [REDACTED] to drop his own pants; Fr. Owens fondled [REDACTED] genitals while verbally describing the minor's own genitalia to him.

PRA provided all present Board members with copies of Patty Zacharias' August 18, 2006 memorandum regarding this matter.

In a 6-0 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board determined that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred.

**D. In the Matter of** [REDACTED]



**III. Informational**

**E. In the Matter of** [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

**F. In the Matter of**

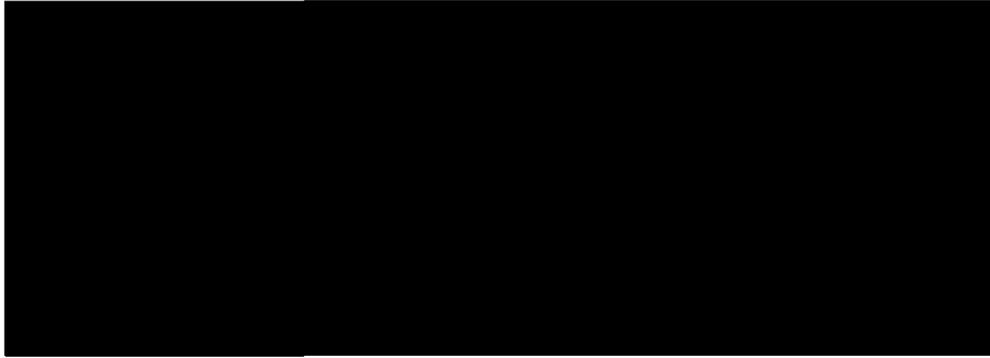
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

**G.**

[REDACTED]

**H.**

[REDACTED]



**I. New Deacon Candidate**

- Fr. Smilanic is continuing to follow up, as the first two selected deacon candidates for the position have not worked out; Fr. Smilanic stated that he will discuss the potential appointment of the third selected candidate with the Vicar General, Fr. Canary in Cardinal George's [medical] absence

**V. Other Matters**

- Patricia Zacharias, PRAA introduced to all Review Board members



-  will not be present at the October 21, 2006 scheduled Review Board meeting

---

***Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, October 21, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.***

Cc: Review Board Members  
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor  
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests  
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests  
Rev. John Canary, Vicar General

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



PO Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

**Professional Responsibility Review Board**  
**Saturday, March 18, 2006 9:00 am to 1:00 pm**

(312) 751 5205  
Fax (312) 751-5279  
www.archchicago.org

## MINUTES

### Review Board Members Present:

[REDACTED]

### Review Board Members Absent:

[REDACTED]

**CORRECTED**

### Non-members present:

Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator [PRA]   
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board

## **I. Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2005**

- Corrections to the December 3, 2005 minutes still need to be made

### **Approval of Minutes – January 21, 2006**

- Minutes approved

### **Approval of Minutes – January 25, 2006**

- Minutes approved

## **II. Other Matters**

[REDACTED]

### **Jimmy Lago, Chancellor**

- Mr. Lago was invited to the Review Board meeting by [REDACTED], Chair to discuss recent events in the Archdiocese of Chicago
- [REDACTED] asked Mr. Lago to discuss his new position [in regards to matters of cleric sexual misconduct with minors], the Archdiocese's new agreement with DCFS, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- Mr. Lago began by explaining that his new position he has been appointed to by Cardinal George has to do with his responsibility to now coordinate the responses of all offices regarding the sexual abuse allegations; he also spoke of the [positive] unintended effects of strengthening the Archdiocese's internal policies/practices regarding reporting abuse cases to DCFS; he also referenced the training of Archdiocesan employees and volunteers
- Mr. Lago spoke about the agreement with DCFS and that DCFS asked the Archdiocese to "step aside" until their [DCFS] investigation is completed in such cases
- Mr. Lago talked about the need of the Archdiocese to clarify with DCFS that the diocese does not want to wait "forever" prior to following through with our own investigation/follow up of a report of the alleged abuse of a minor by a cleric
- Mr. Lago stated that he does not feel that this agreement with DCFS will affect the Board and its work
- Mr. Lago spoke of issues and need for clarification with DCFS on the reporting of old cases that have been substantiated by an archdiocesan process; Mr. Lago stated that he would discuss this matter with DCFS for clarification
- Mr. Lago talked about the need to sharpen reporting and training of archdiocesan employees and the possibility of involving the Child Advocacy Center [CAC], as the CAC has offered its assistance with training
- Mr. Lago stated that the reporting of all [old] substantiated cases to DCFS may assist the Archdiocese with accused clerics who have left the priesthood [locating clerics if their whereabouts are not known; determine if children are at risk]
- Mr. Lago feels that the Archdiocese will share more information with DCFS on old cases; this raised the concern that if DCFS "finds" an old case that the Archdiocese has found to be unsubstantiated
- [REDACTED] raised the question of a time line with DCFS when they are investigating a case and the delay that this may cause with the Archdiocese and related process
- [REDACTED] suggested the need for clarification from DCFS as to when the 14 days of their initial investigation begins to determine if DCFS will formally open a case for investigation
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- As for the monitoring report, Mr. Lago spoke of the fact that the Archdiocese does not have the power of the courts, but that we don't really have a monitoring program; as per the report, Mr. Lago spoke of the need for evaluation and therapeutic intervention for those priests who have substantiated allegations of sexual misconduct with minors against them; Mr. Lago spoke of the need for conversation to ask if the Archdiocese can put elements into place for an effective monitoring program
- Mr. Lago stated that the Archdiocese has pulled together a group of eight that will be given the consultants' reports [as the Review Board will be given copies of the reports as well] and ask, "What kind of things do you think we [the Archdiocese] should start with?"

- [REDACTED] spoke of [REDACTED]'s past recommendation of having a treatment facility for men with substantiated allegations against them; a treatment facility that would offer specific sexual offender treatment
- [REDACTED] referred back to Mr. Lago's comments regarding DCFS; [REDACTED] expressed his concerns with the information [as a result of their investigations into a matter] that DCFS would or would not give the Archdiocese and then the concern with the time lost by the Archdiocese while DCFS investigates a case
- [REDACTED] suggested that it would be helpful if the resigned/laicized priests with substantiated allegations could be placed on the DCFS Registry
- The group engaged in a discussion of forced laicization of men with substantiated allegations against them, both the positives and negatives of such, and the need to protect children
- Mr. Lago offered to return to meet with the Board members if/when appropriate to share information as we go forward; all present agreed with the preference that Mr. Lago come back to report to the Board as the Archdiocese continues forward in addressing all discussed matters
- [REDACTED] expressed his concern to Mr. Lago of the release of Review Board members' names

**III. Case Reviews**

**Review for Cause**

**C. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Owens [Resigned 1991] – PFR 31**

The Review Board conducted a Review for Cause of the allegation made by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The allegation is as follows: one incident of Fr. Owens taking [REDACTED] with him on a retreat to St. Mary's of the Lake; Fr. Owens touched [REDACTED] under his clothing; Fr. Owens also touched himself.

In a 5-2 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that there is insufficient information to make a finding of reasonable cause.

**D. In the Matter of [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

**In the Matter of [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**IV. Review for Advice**

**F. In the Matter of**

[REDACTED]

**V. Supplementary Review**

**E. In the Matter of**

[REDACTED]

**VI. Other Matters**

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- The May 2005 Review Board meeting will take place on May 13, 2006
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

**II.**

**Initial Review**

**A. In the Matter of**

[REDACTED]

**In the Matter of**

[REDACTED]

• [REDACTED]

**B. In the Matter of Rev. Joseph Owens [Resigned 1991] – PFR – 31**

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review of the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The allegation is as follows: inappropriate language [swearing], talk of description of male and female genitalia to [REDACTED]. Fr. Owens exposed himself to [REDACTED] and verbally described the male genitalia to him; Fr. Owens then directed [REDACTED] to drop his own pants; Fr. Owens fondled [REDACTED] genitals while verbally describing the minor's own genitalia to him.

In a 6-0 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board requested the following:

- That PRA attempt to determine if Fr. Owens was in charge of the altar boys
- That PRA attempt to locate and speak with [REDACTED]

*Next scheduled meeting is Saturday, April 8, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.*

Cc: Review Board Members  
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Rev. Vincent Costello, Vicar for Priests  
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests  
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Jimmy Lago, Chancellor

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

COPY

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth  
Office of Assistance Ministry  
Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review  
Safe Environment Office



P O Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979  
312-534-5254, general  
312-751-8307, fax

MEMORANDUM

To: Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
From: Leah McCluskey, Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review  
Re: Owens, Rev. Joseph (Laicized)  
Date: January 19, 2010

Rev. Daniel Smilanic called me this morning to ask for information pertaining to the number of allegations of the sexual abuse of minors that have been received against the former Rev. Joseph Owens and of those, the number that have been substantiated.

Fr. Smilanic asked that I share with you the names of the alleged victims of the former Fr. Owens, the dates the allegations were received, and the dates that each allegation was substantiated. Please note that the following allegations were presented to the Review Board and that the substantiated dates are the dates of your acceptance of the respective Review Board determinations:

- [REDACTED] - allegation received on 3/15/94 and substantiated on 1/29/07
- [REDACTED] allegation received on 5/5/04 and substantiated on 4/29/05
- [REDACTED] - allegation received on 5/5/04 and substantiated on 4/29/05
- [REDACTED] - allegation received on 2/7/05 and substantiated on 5/3/06
- [REDACTED] - allegation received on 9/8/05 and substantiated on 8/28/06

There is one other allegation against the former Fr. Owens that has not been before the Review Board. The matter is inactive due to the fact that the accuser did not respond to my offer to schedule a time to meet so that he could formalize his allegation against the former Fr. Owens:

- [REDACTED] - allegation received on 11/7/07

Please feel free to contact me if you are in need of any additional information that I may be able to provide.

Cc Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Episcopal Vicar for Canonical Services

AOC 004395

ARCHDIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD

MINUTES

MEETING NUMBER 52

Meeting: May 7, 1968

Place: Personnel Office

Time: 10:45 A. M.

Present: All present

I. Minutes Approved.

II. Approval of Agenda Approved.

III. Agenda

Item 1

Reports:

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f. J. Owens wrote requesting an interview. M. Borowczyk, J. Cardiff and W. Goedert will try to see him before a future Board meeting.

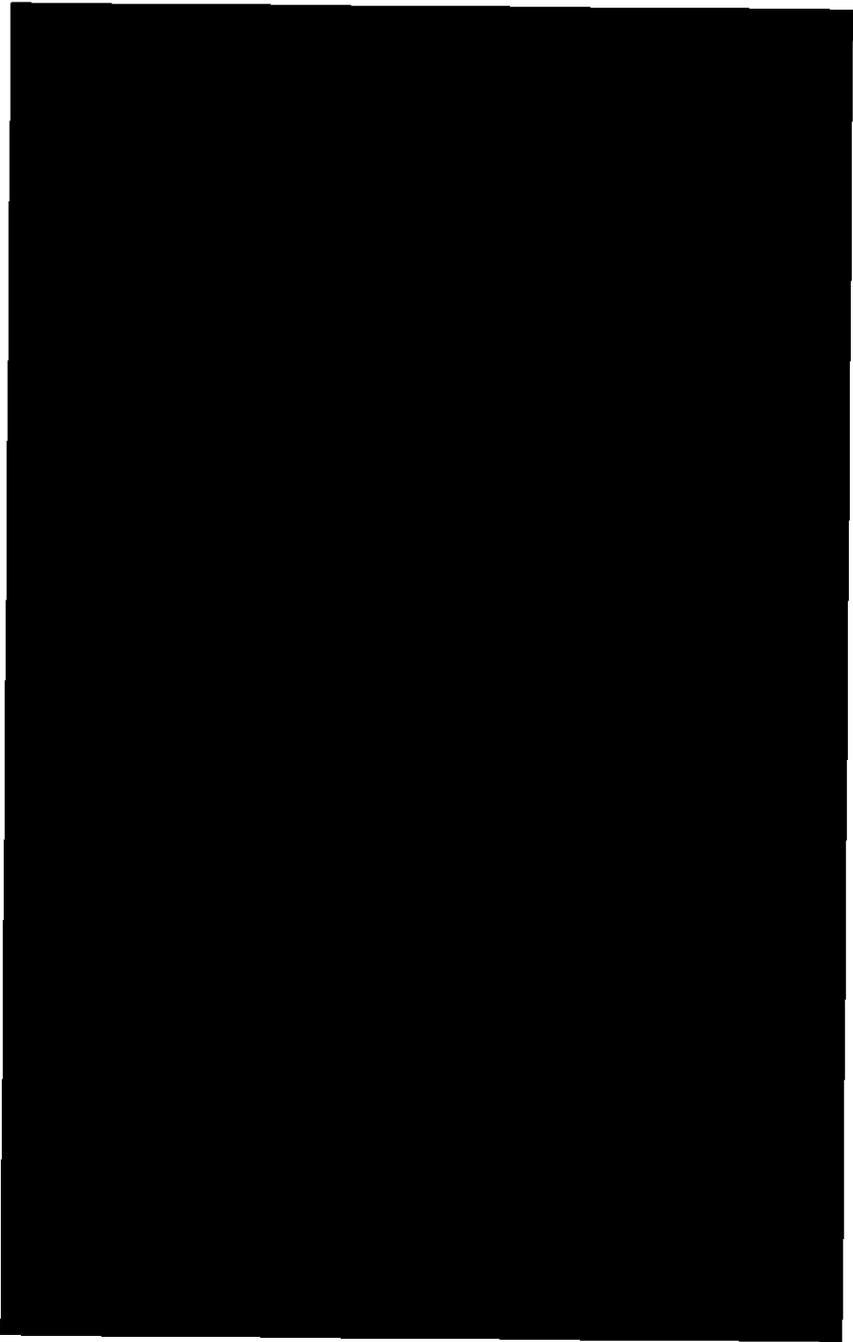
g.

h.

i.

5-7-68-13K  
#57

Item 2



Item 3



IV: Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

*I-135-  
68  
5-7-  
#52*

*File*

ARCHDIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD

MINUTES  
MEETING NUMBER 102

Meeting: May 12, 1969

Place: Personnel Board Office

Time: 11:00 A.M.

Present: All except E. Roche, F. Byrne. R. Vanecko arrived late.

I. Minutes - Approved.

II. Approval of the Agenda - Minor Changes

III. Reports -

1.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2.

3.

4.

5.

[REDACTED]

*I-243*

6. W. Goedert reported that at the meeting with J. Owens, Joe was informed that his appointment would not be announced, that the new pastor would be informed of the fact that Joe had difficulty but had been [REDACTED] and that if the assignment was a source of bizarre behavior, the next alternative would be serious consideration of laicization.

7.

8.

9.

10.

IV. Agenda -

Item 1

Item 2

V. Adjournment at 4:00 P.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

E-244

*file*

ARCHDIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD

MINUTES

MEETING NUMBER 53

Meeting: May 10, 1968

Place: Personnel Office

Time: 10:45 A.M.

Present: All present

I. Minutes Approved

II. Approval of Agenda Approved with changes.

III. Agenda

Item 1

Reports:

a.

b.

c. Joe Owens will be assigned, if possible, as a resident on sick leave with close supervision preferably on the North side.

d.

e.

f.

g.

h.

i.

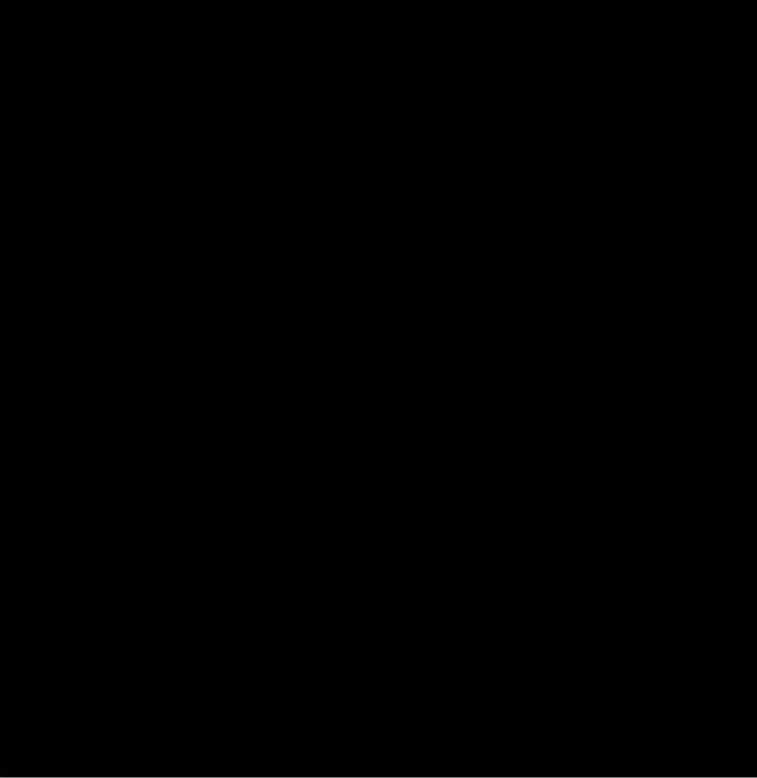
*I-136-*

Item 2

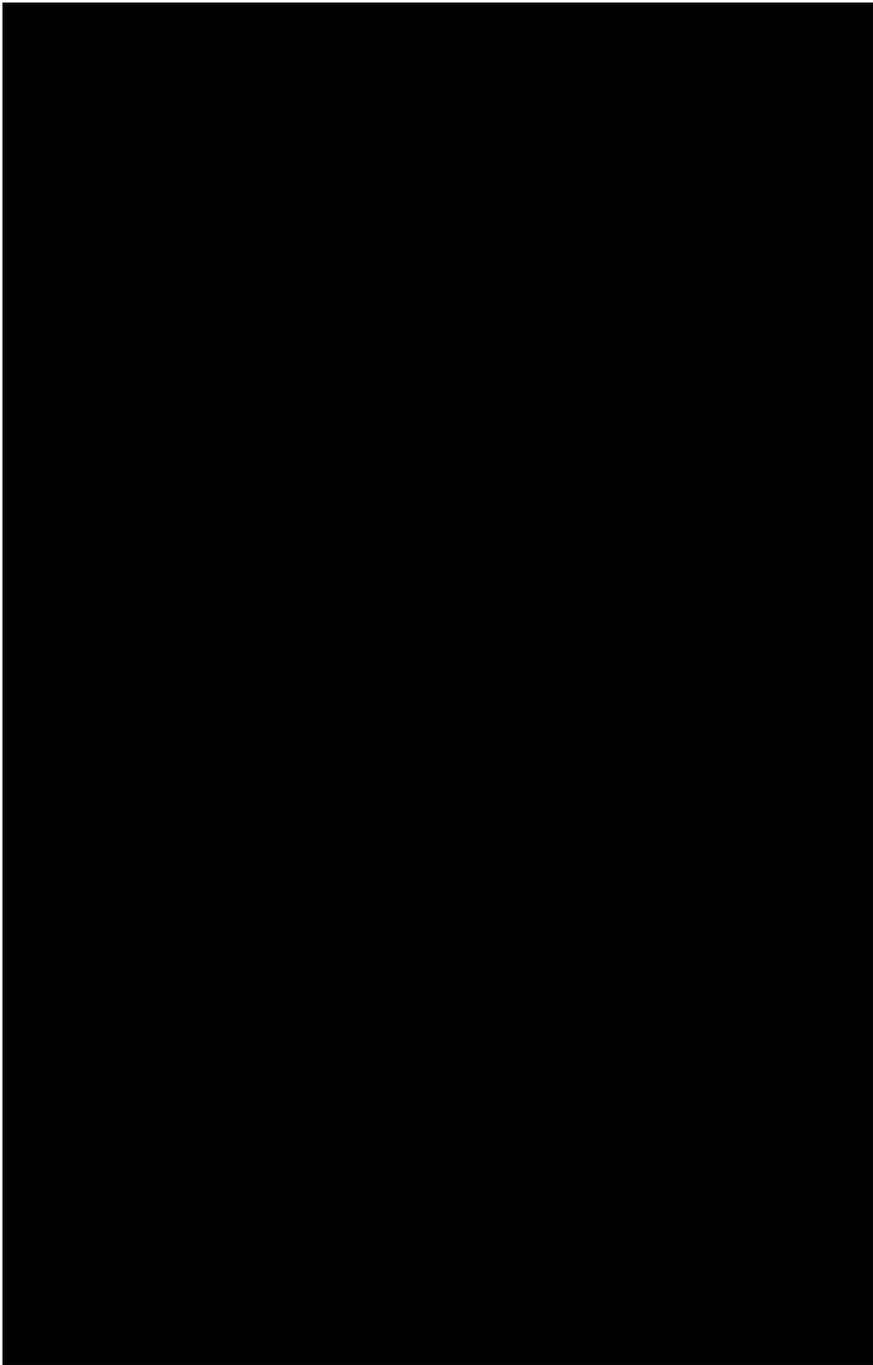
Item 3

Item 4

Item 5



*I-137-*



\*\*\*\*\*

I-138-

Week of May 13, 1968

(Confidential)

ARCHDIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD  
WEEKLY STATUS REPORT



-100-

*1/6/68*  
*1/6/68*  
*1/6/68*

*file*

ARCHDIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD

MINUTES

MEETING NUMBER 55

Meeting: May 27, 1968  
Place: Personnel Office  
Time: 10:45 A.M.  
Present: All except F. Byrne.

- I. Minutes and Weekly Status Report      Approved.
- II. Approval of the Agenda                      Approved.

III. Agenda

Item 1 [REDACTED]

Item 2 [REDACTED]

Item 3 [REDACTED]

Item 4 [REDACTED]

Item 6 [REDACTED]

Item 7      J. Owens.  
              St. Martha's is unwilling to take this man.  
              St. James (Highwood) is unwilling to take him.

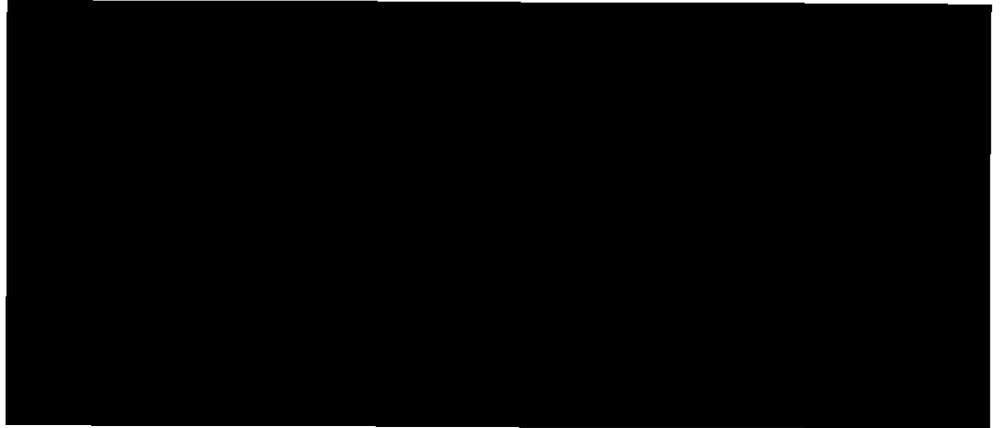
*I-141-*  
*5-27-68*  
*(55)*

Item 8



Item 9

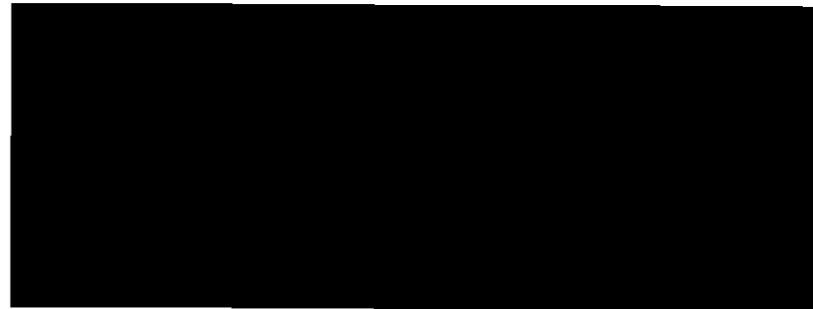
Item 10



Item 11

Item 12

Item 13



Item 14



\*\*\*\*\*

I-142-  
5/27/68  
(55)

*file*

ARCHDIOCESAN PERSONNEL BOARD

MINUTES  
MEETING NUMBER 106

Meeting: June 2, 1969  
Place: Personnel Board Office  
Time: 11:00 A.M.  
Present: All but Goedert, and Vanecko came late.

- I. Minutes - Approved.
- II. Approval of the Agenda - Approved.

III. Reports:

a. [Redacted]

[Large Redacted Block]

b. Other Reports

1. [Redacted]

2. [Redacted]

3. S. Ryzner does not want J. Owens.

4. [Redacted]

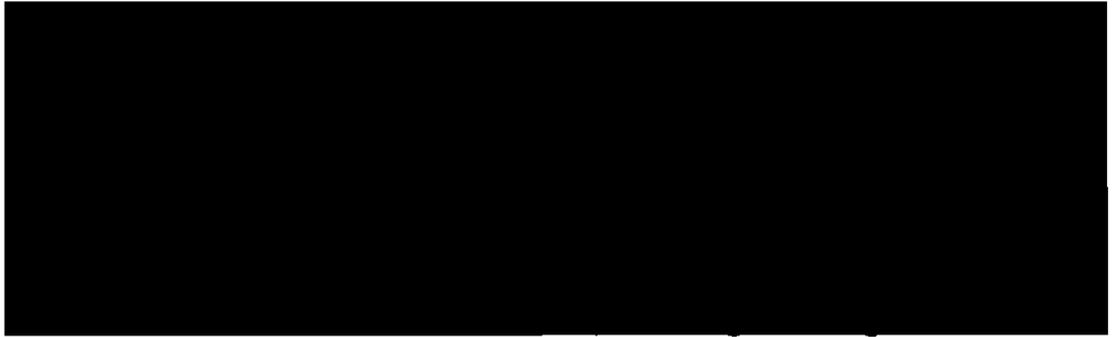
5. [Redacted]

6. [Redacted]

7. [Redacted]

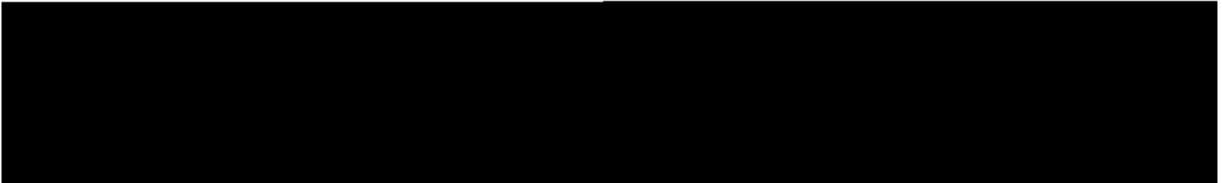
*I-281-  
62-11-1*

- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

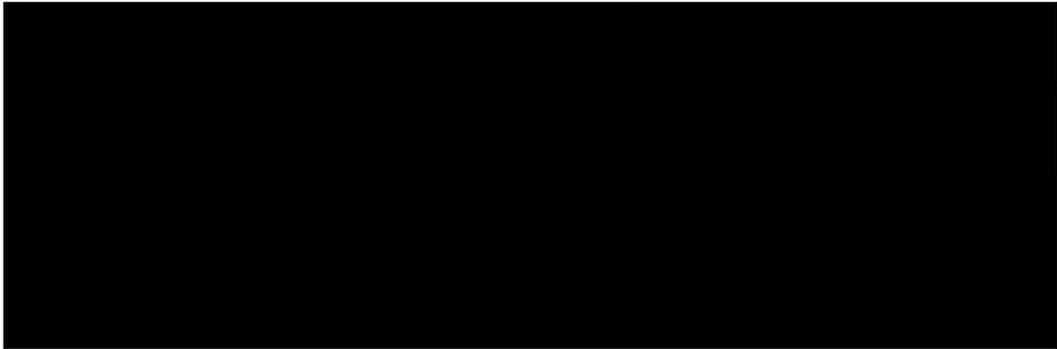


IV. THE BIG CHANGE

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.



J. Owens from leave of absence to St. Mary (Evanston).



V.



VI.



I-252-  
11  
12

VII.



VIII. Adjournment - 4:00 P.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

*I-253-  
-61  
6-2 (100)*

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop



155 E Superior St  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

September 5, 2006

Ms. Leah McCluskey  
Office of Professional Responsibility  
676 N. St. Clair St.  
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Ms. McCluskey,

I am writing to you in order to formalize my handwritten note of August 25, 2006 in response to your letter of August 22, 2006, regarding the matter of **Joseph Owens**, who had been ordained for the Archdiocese of Chicago, but who has since been laicized, and the allegations of sexual misconduct that were made against him by [REDACTED]. This matter was discussed in a Review for Cause by the Professional Responsibility Review Board at their meeting of August 19, 2006.

I accept the Review Board's determination that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred. Since Joseph Owens has been laicized, there is no further action to be taken, other than to offer appropriate outreach and care to those affected.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis Cardinal George".

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name.

Ecclesiastical Notary

cc: Very Reverend John F. Canary, Vicar General  
Rev. Daniel A. Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate  
Rev. Patrick R. Lagges, Judicial Vicar/Vicar for Canonical Services  
Reverend Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests  
Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Minister  
Mr. Jimmy Lago, Chancellor  
Mr. John C. O'Malley, Director of Legal Services

AOC 004409

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office of Professional Responsibility

Leah R. McCluskey, MSW, LSW  
Administrator  
312-751-5205  
lmcccluskey@archchicago.org

Patricia J. Zacharias, LCPC, CADC, CEAP  
Assistant Administrator  
312-867-8793  
pzacharias@archchicago.org

Post Office Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979  
1-800-994-6200  
312-751-5279 (fax)

## Memorandum

To: File: PFR-31

From: Patricia Zacharias, Professional Responsibility Assistant Administrator PZ

Re: Owens, Rev. Joseph (Resigned/Laicized) [REDACTED]

Date: August 18, 2006

---

On August 11, 2006, PRAA spoke with [REDACTED] who is the principal of the North Side Catholic Academy. PRAA asked if she had any record there of a teacher by the name of [REDACTED] who would have taught at St. Gertrude's Grammar School – now the North Side Catholic Academy. [REDACTED] checked her records and said she did not have any record of [REDACTED]. She said she believed that the majority of records from the time period described might be housed within the Archdiocesan Archives.

PRAA emailed [REDACTED] of the Archdiocesan Archives office and asked him to forward to her attention any contact information he may have on [REDACTED] from the files archived from St Gertrude's Grammar School. [REDACTED] responded and suggested PRAA contact [REDACTED] of the schools office.

PRAA contacted [REDACTED] who forwarded a Teacher Termination Maintenance Form for [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said that all paper files prior to 1980 have been destroyed. She also said that [REDACTED] did not teach long enough to qualify for a pension, so she cannot be tracked through that system.

The Teacher Termination Maintenance Form lists [REDACTED]'s last employment site for AOC as Gordon Tech from 9/84 until 6/87. There is no contact information listed for her. It confirms her as working at St. Gertrude's from 9/64 until 6/67.

On August 16, 2006, PRAA spoke with Fr. Kenelley, the former pastor of St. Gertrude's Parish. Fr. Kenelley said he did not know Fr. Owens and that Fr. Owens had been

there before he (Fr. Kenelley) had arrived there. He suggested PRAA contact Fr. Flavin (██████████) who currently is the Pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Glenview, IL. He said he believes that Fr. Flavin may have known Fr. Owens during the time he taught at Quigley. PRAA left a voicemail message for Fr. Flavin and requested he return her call.

On August 18, 2006, PRAA spoke with Fr. Flavin. He said he did not remember much about Fr. Owens. He does not know if Fr. Owens was in charge of the altar boys while he was at St. Gertrude's. He recalls observing children (probably boys) being allowed to go into his bedroom. He recalls observing this a few times. He does not remember anything else. He said most of the priests who had also been at St. Gertrude's when Fr. Owens was there are now deceased. Fr. Flavin also recalled that Fr. Owens seemed to be a private person who kept to himself in his bedroom frequently. When asked if he could think of anyone else PRAA could contact regarding Fr. Owens, He suggested PRAA speak with Fr. Tom Healy who had also been at St. Gertrude's around the mid 1960's.

PRAA contacted Fr. Healy (██████████). He said that he left St. Gertrude's in 1964. He recalls the pastor who he still talked to after he left being very upset with Fr. Owens. He recalls Fr. Owens being described as being very difficult to work with and trying to organize parishioners against the pastor. He does not remember hearing any concerns or observing anything unusual with Fr. Owens in regards to children.

He said he might know of someone who may remember if Fr. Owens was in charge of the altar boys. He asked for PRAA's contact information and said he would call her if he were able to gather any more information. PRAA thanked him for his help and said she would also be happy to contact anyone he thought could be helpful if that would be easier for him. He said he would keep that in mind.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205  
Fax: (312) 751-5279  
www.archchicago.org

## MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-31

From: Review Board Meeting

Re: Owens, Rev. Joseph (Resigned), [REDACTED]

Date: March 18, 2006

---

A summary of the discussion from the Review Board Meeting on March 18, 2006

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review of the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The allegation is as follows: inappropriate language [swearing], talk of description of male and female genitalia to Mr. [REDACTED]; Fr. Owens exposed himself to Mr. [REDACTED] and verbally described the male genitalia to him; Fr. Owens then directed Mr. [REDACTED] to drop his own pants; Fr. Owens fondled Mr. [REDACTED] genitals while verbally describing the minor's own genitalia to him.

In a 6-0 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board requested the following:

- That PRA attempt to determine if Fr. Owens was in charge of the altar boys
- That PRA attempt to locate and speak with Miss Casey

AOC 004412

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205  
Fax: (312) 751-5279  
www.archchicago.org

## MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-31

From: Review Board Meeting

Re: Owens, Rev. Joseph (Resigned) [REDACTED]

Date: March 18, 2006

---

A summary of the discussion from the Review Board Meeting on March 18, 2006

The Review Board conducted a Review for Cause of the allegation made by [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The allegation is as follows: one incident of Fr. Owens taking Mr. [REDACTED] with him on a retreat to St. Mary's of the Lake; Fr. Owens touched Mr. [REDACTED] under his clothing; Fr. Owens also touched himself.

In a 5-2 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that there is insufficient information to make a finding of reasonable cause.

AOC 004413

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility

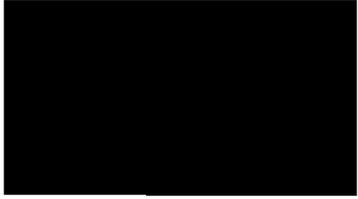


P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690 1979

(312) 751-5205  
Fax (312) 751-5279  
www.archchicago.org

January 10, 2006

*Joe Owens  
File*



Dear Mr. [Redacted]

I hope that this letter finds you doing well.

Enclosed you will find a final report of your allegation of sexual misconduct against the former Rev. Joseph Owens. The report is based upon your revisions you returned to me. Thank you so much for your additions and changes.

Upon your review of the report, please provide your signature and date and return the document in the envelope provided.

Mr. [Redacted] in the interest of continuing to expedite this process, I ask that you return the enclosed report to me by January 24, 2006. In the event that I do not receive any response from you by January 24<sup>th</sup>, I will assume that the final report is accurate and I will continue to proceed forward with this matter.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

*Leah McCluskey*  
Leah McCluskey  
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Enclosure

*2/6/06  
Victim report  
not returned -  
distributed as  
is.*

### Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim U's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey on September 21, 2005, formalizing his allegation of abuse against Rev. Joseph Owens. According to Victim U the abuse consisted of Fr. Owens discussing sexuality and profanity with Victim U, as well as one incident of fondling at St. Gertrude's Parish when he was in sixth grade. Victim U also reported that Fr. Owens had taken Victim U out of class to go to the rectory. Victim U also reported that Fr. Owens took him and other boys shopping.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205  
Fax: (312) 751-5279  
www.archchicago.org

## MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-31  
From: Review Board Meeting .  
Re: Owens, Rev. Joseph (Resigned)/ [REDACTED]  
Date: October 15, 2005

---

The Review Board conducted an Initial Review of the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The allegation is as follows: one incident of Fr. Owens taking Mr. [REDACTED] with him on a retreat to St. Mary's of the Lake. Fr. Owens touched Mr. [REDACTED] under his clothing; Fr. Owens also touched himself.

In a 6-1 vote in light of the information presented, the Review Board recommended that this matter warrants additional investigation. The Board also directed PRA to do the following:

- Attempt to determine Mr. [REDACTED] medical history and /or if he is under current medical care.
- Obtain Mr. [REDACTED] records from St. Gertrude.
- Write a letter to Mr. Owens inviting him to present Mr. [REDACTED] allegation to him, as well as to provide a response.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205  
Fax (312) 751-5279  
www.archchicago.org

October 15, 2005

Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.  
Archbishop of Chicago  
155 E. Superior Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Cardinal George,

Please be advised that the Professional Responsibility Review Board met on October 15, 2005 and conducted an Initial Review of [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against the former Rev. Joseph Owens pursuant to Article §1104.8 of the Review Process for Continuation of Ministry. Mr. Owens is a resigned priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The Board made the recommendation that in light of the information presented, this matter warrants additional investigation. The additional information obtained will be presented to the Board along with all other information regarding this matter for a Review for Cause.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [312] 751-5205.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leah McCluskey".

Leah McCluskey  
Professional Responsibility Administrator

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests

AOC 004417

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205  
Fax: (312) 751-5279  
www.archchicago.org

## MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-31

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Owens, Rev. Joseph [Resigned] 

Date: September 26, 2005

---

Mr.  allegation of sexual misconduct made against the former Rev. Joseph Owens will not be able to be read to the accused.

PRA's last contact with Mr. Owens was via phone with Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests in September 2004 regarding a different matter. During the aforementioned phone call, Mr. Owens informed Fr. Grace and PRA that he did not want any further or future contact from either party and/or the Archdiocese of Chicago. Mr. Owens also stated that after the conclusion of the aforementioned phone call he intended to change his telephone number.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests

AOC 004418

ARCHDIOCESE OF C

Office of Professional Responsibility



Owens, Joseph '65  
Red folder

7

MEMORANDUM

(I thought we did a folder on Owens, but I can't find it.)

To: File - PFR-31  
From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Respons  
Re: Owens, Rev. Joseph [Resigned] [REDACTED]  
Date: May 25, 2004

PRA received messages from Mr. [REDACTED] on May 21, 24, and 25, 2004 regarding an allegation of sexual misconduct concerning a priest at St. Gertrude's [Rev. Joseph Owens] that took place between 1966 and 1967.

PRA attempted to reach Mr. [REDACTED] on May 25, 2004 at the contact number that he had left: [REDACTED] When PRA called the aforementioned number, a woman answered who stated that no one by the name [REDACTED] lived there.

PRA then attempted to reach attorney [REDACTED], who is representing Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was unavailable, but PRA spoke with a female assistant in the attorney's office. She was able to locate Mr. [REDACTED] phone number, which is the same number that PRA was given via messages from Mr. [REDACTED] PRA explained to [REDACTED] assistant the difficulty experienced in reaching Mr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] assistant stated that she would inform [REDACTED] of the issue identified by PRA.

It was agreed that [REDACTED] would attempt to contact Mr [REDACTED] and then follow up with PRA.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Rev. James Kaczorowski, Vicar for Priests  
Rev. Thomas Tivy, Vicar for Priests  
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

### Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim V's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey on March 29, 2005, formalizing his allegation of abuse against Rev. Joseph Owens. The alleged abuse consisted of Fr. Owens discussing sexuality and profanity with Victim V, as well as one incident of fondling under Victim V's clothing when he was in the sixth or seventh grade. The alleged abuse occurred during a retreat to St. Mary's of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois. Victim V reported accompanying Owens on out-of-state trips, but indicates that he was not abused during these trips.

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690 1979

(312) 751-5205  
Fax (312) 751 5279  
www.archchicago.org

**MEMORANDUM**

To: File – PFR-31  
From: Review Board Meeting  
Re: Owens, Joseph (Resigned) [REDACTED]  
Date: April 9, 2005

---

A summary of the conversation from the Professional Responsibility Review Board Meeting on April 9, 2005:

The Review Board conducted a Review for Cause regarding the allegation made by [REDACTED]. The claim is as follows: fondling penis and genitals under clothing.

In a 6-0 vote, in light of the information presented, the Board determined that there is reasonable cause to suspect that the alleged misconduct occurred. The Board also recommended that no further action be taken because the accused priest is resigned, except to provide appropriate outreach to those affected by the alleged misconduct.

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690 1979

(312) 751 5205  
Fax (312) 751 5279

## MEMORANDUM

To: File – PFR-31

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator (C)

Re: Owens, Rev. Joseph [Resigned/Laicized], [REDACTED]

Date: February 7, 2005

---

PRA received a phone call today from [REDACTED] at attorney [REDACTED] office regarding a new client, Mr. [REDACTED]. As per [REDACTED], Mr. [REDACTED] has an allegation of sexual abuse against the former Rev. Joseph Owens. When asked by PRA, [REDACTED] read from [REDACTED] notes that Mr. [REDACTED] alleges that Fr. Owens abused him sometime in the late 1960s while a student at St. Gertrude. [REDACTED] also stated that Mr. [REDACTED] alleges that Fr. Owens abused him between sixth and eighth grades and that he graduated from the grammar school in June 1967. She was unable to locate a birth date for Mr. [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] notes, but stated that he is currently 51 years old.

[REDACTED] stated that Mr. [REDACTED] currently resides in an area north of [REDACTED]. Therefore, [REDACTED] was calling to ask on behalf of [REDACTED] where to proceed from here with the Archdiocese of Chicago. PRA informed [REDACTED] of the preference to meet with [REDACTED] face to face, if that was a meeting that he would be interested in scheduling. [REDACTED] was also informed that a representative from Assistance Ministry would be present with PRA. [REDACTED] informed PRA that Mr. [REDACTED] does not have the financial means to travel to Chicago. PRA then asked that [REDACTED] determine if Mr. [REDACTED] would be interested in meeting. If so, the financial cost could be discussed to be covered by the Archdiocese of Chicago.

[REDACTED] appreciated the information from PRA and stated that she would discuss the matter with [REDACTED]. It was agreed that PRA would wait to hear from [REDACTED] on how to move forward with Mr. [REDACTED] allegation against Fr. Owens.

AOC 004422

### Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim W's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey on June 30, 2004, formalizing his allegation of sexual abuse against Fr. Joseph Owens. According to Victim W's report, the abuse consisted of Fr. Owens discussing sexuality and profanity with Victim W. Fr. Owens also had Victim undress and fondled Victim W's genitals following a confession, Fr. Owens instructed Victim W that what had occurred was strictly confidential and part of his penance.

BURKE, WARREN, MACKAY & SERRITELLA, P.C.

22ND FLOOR IBM PLAZA  
330 NORTH WABASH AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-3607  
TELEPHONE (312) 840-7000  
FACSIMILE (312) 840-7900  
www.burkelaw.com

JAMES A. SERRITELLA  
DIRECT DIAL NUMBER  
(312) 840-7040  
jserritella@burkelaw.com

January 28, 2005

VIA FACSIMILE [REDACTED] & U.S. MAIL

[REDACTED]

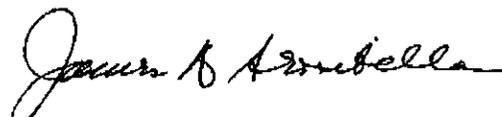
Re: [REDACTED] Father Joseph Owens

Dear [REDACTED]:

I am following up on your letter of January 18, 2005 regarding the above matter. I have passed your correspondence on to Ms. Leah McCluskey, the Professional Responsibility Administrator of the Archdiocese of Chicago. It is my understanding that someone from her office has been in contact with you about this matter. As you know, either you or your client can contact Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi (312-751-8267), Assistance Minister of the Archdiocese, for pastoral assistance or therapy at the Archdiocese's expense from a licensed therapist of your client's choice.

Please direct your communications about this matter to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

  
James A. Serritella

lj

cc: Leah McCluskey (via facsimile)  
Ralph Bonaccorsi (via facsimile)

1/28/2005/11:35 AM/09891/00485/343105/1

AOC 004424

  
January 28, 2005  
Page 2

**bcc:** Reverend James Kaczorowski (via facsimile)  
Reverend Edward Grace (via facsimile)  
John O'Malley (via facsimile)

1/28/2005 11:35 AM/09891/00485/343105/1

**AOC 004425**

**BURKE, WARREN, MACKAY & SERRITELLA, P.C.**

22ND FLOOR IBM PLAZA  
330 NORTH WABASH AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-3607  
TELEPHONE (312) 840-7000  
FACSIMILE (312) 840-7900  
www.burkelaw.com

JAMES A. SERRITELLA  
DIRECT DIAL NUMBER  
(312) 840-7040  
jserritella@burkelaw.com

January 28, 2005

**VIA FACSIMILE [REDACTED] & U.S. MAIL**

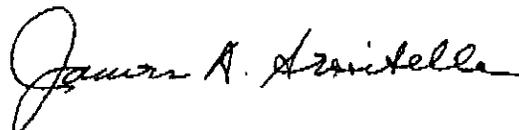
Re: [REDACTED] Father Joseph Owens

Dear [REDACTED]:

I am following up on your letter of January 18, 2005 regarding the above matter. I have passed your correspondence on to Ms. Leah McCluskey, the Professional Responsibility Administrator of the Archdiocese of Chicago. It is my understanding that someone from her office has been in contact with you about this matter. As you know, either you or your client can contact Mr. Ralph Bonaccorsi (312-751-8267), Assistance Minister of the Archdiocese, for pastoral assistance or therapy at the Archdiocese's expense from a licensed therapist of your client's choice.

Please direct your communications about this matter to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



James A. Serritella

lj

cc: Leah McCluskey (via facsimile)  
Ralph Bonaccorsi (via facsimile)

1/28/2005/11:42 AM/09891/00486/343131/1

AOC 004426

January 28, 2005  
Page 2

bcc: Reverend James Kaczorowski (via facsimile)  
Reverend Edward Grace (via facsimile)  
John O'Malley (via facsimile)

1/28/2005/11.42 AM/09891/00486/343131/1

AOC 004427

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205  
Fax: (312) 751-5279

## MEMORANDUM

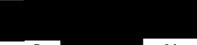
To: File – PFR-31

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Owens, Rev. Joseph [Resigned/Laicized] 

Date: January 13, 2005

---

PRA spoke with Rev. John E. Flavin via phone today regarding the confidential investigation of Mr.  allegation of sexual misconduct against the former Rev. Joseph Owens. Mr.  allegation against Fr. Owens is one of two current allegations against him. Fr. Flavin's assignment to St. Gertrude's included 1967 when Fr. Owens was assigned there as well. He is currently assigned to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and may be reached at .

PRA began by informing Fr. Flavin that he was contacted in connection with a confidential investigation of an allegation of sexual misconduct against Fr. Owens. Fr. Flavin did not immediately respond to PRA, but did finally agree that he had some time to speak on the phone regarding this matter.

PRA was able to confirm with Fr. Flavin that he was assigned to St. Gertrude's in the late 1960s, which is where Fr. Owens was assigned for a short period of time as well. When asked by Fr. Flavin, PRA was able to confirm for him that Fr. Owens was assigned to St. Gertrude's from May 1966 through May 1967. PRA was also able to confirm Fr. Flavin's memory that Fr. Owens resigned from the priesthood shortly after leaving St. Gertrude's [1970].

Fr. Flavin stated that he did not know Fr. Owens very well nor did he spend much time with him. During the aforementioned time period, Fr. Flavin was living at St. Gertrude's, but was also teaching at Quigley. Therefore, Fr. Flavin spent most of his time during the weekdays at Quigley and was not around St. Gertrude's. When asked by PRA, Fr. Flavin did confirm that he was around St. Gertrude's on the weekends.

During the phone call with PRA, the only information that Fr. Flavin volunteered [without being asked by PRA first] was that he does not believe that Fr. Owens was happy at St. Gertrude's. When asked later in the phone conversation by PRA, Fr. Flavin

AOC 004428

agreed with PRA's suggestion that Fr. Owens was not happy with his assignment at St. Gertrude's.

PRA asked Fr. Flavin if he recalls any inappropriate behavior on the part of Fr. Owens and/or if he recalls the cleric spending any inappropriate amounts of time with minors. As per Fr. Flavin, considering the combination of the amount of time that has passed since being assigned to St. Gertrude's, not knowing Fr. Owens well, and not being able to recall, he would not be able to say for certain one way or another if Fr. Owens had children in his room or not.

PRA then asked specifically if Fr. Flavin recalled/observed any inappropriate behavior on the part of Fr. Owens. Fr. Flavin seemed irritated with the question and again sighted the amount of time that has passed and his unfamiliarity with Fr. Owens, but stated that he does not recall seeing any inappropriate behavior on the part of the accused.

PRA did not reveal the name of Mr. [REDACTED] or the other alleged victim of Fr. Owens to Fr. Flavin.

Almost immediately after PRA thanked Fr. Flavin for his time, the cleric seemingly abruptly ended the phone call.

Cc: Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests  
Ralph Bonaccorsi, Assistance Ministry

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



COPY P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

of an original document from the files of  
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY  
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO  
This is a red ink stamp!  
DO NOT COPY

MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-31  
From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator  
Re: JOSEPH OWENS' [RESIGNED] RESPONSE TO ALLEGATION  
OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT MADE BY [REDACTED]  
Date: October 13, 2004

Date of Meeting: September 29, 2004

Time of Meeting: 11:00am

Present at Meeting

- Mr Joseph Owens
- Ms. Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator
- Rev. Edward Grace, Vicar for Priests

Conference Call

This meeting took place entirely via conference call. PRA arrived at the Vicar for Priests' Office for the 11:00am scheduled meeting. PRA and Rev. Edward Grace then contacted Mr. Joseph Owens via phone.

When asked by PRA, Mr. Owens stated that he did not have any initial questions or concerns prior to hearing the allegation. PRA provided Mr. Owens with basic information regarding the Office of Professional Responsibility and its role in receiving allegations of sexual misconduct of minors by clerics of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Both PRA and Fr. Grace noted [upon ending the phone call] that Mr. Owens was extremely well spoken. He also appropriately participated in all conversations that took place during the September 29, 2004 phone call.

Mr. [REDACTED] allegation of sexual misconduct against Mr. Owens was the second of two allegations to be read to him during the scheduled meeting [refer to Mr. Owens' response to Mr. [REDACTED] allegation]. When asked by PRA, Mr. Owens stated that it was not necessary to send him a copy of Mr. [REDACTED] allegation against him.

PRA then read Mr. [redacted] allegation of sexual misconduct against the former Rev. Joseph Owens without interruption

Upon the conclusion of PRA reading the allegation, Mr. Owens stated, "I must say, I am astonished [I was] not a perfect priest, but I didn't [abuse any minors] " In reference to Mr. [redacted] allegation, Mr. Owens stated that the first floor of St. Gertrude's rectory consisted of a sitting room and two offices, none of which had any books in them. Mr. Owens also stated that the "...the timing is wrong ." in regards to Mr. [redacted] statement of when confession took place at St. Gertrude's. He referred to the other priests who were assigned to St. Gertrude's at the time and stated that he is "...shocked at the length of time of the incidents [as alleged by Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] "

Mr. Owens stated, "I had nothing to do with either incident [of alleged abuse by Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] respectively]." He continued by stating, "I won't call them [Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] liars, but [he would call the alleged victims] confused . I suspect that the two [Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted] came forward together "

Mr. Owens stated that he would pray for both Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted]. He then stated that there is no veracity to either allegation presented to him on September 29, 2004. Referring to a past statement of his own, Mr. Owens again stated that he " particularly doesn't like the allegation of lifting the curtain [in the confessional]. " as alleged by Mr. [redacted]

When PRA indicated his right to have copies of both allegations forwarded to him, Mr. Owens stated that he intended to change his phone number after the September 29, 2004 meeting. He continued by stating that he " does not want any part of this process past this point [and that he] wants nothing [allegations or a copy of §1100 Sexual Abuse of Minors: Policies for Education, Prevention, Assistance to Victims and Procedures for Determination of Fitness for Ministry] forwarded to me "

PRA thanked Mr. Owens for his response to Mr. [redacted] allegation. Both Fr. Grace and PRA thanked Mr. Owens for his time

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Owens

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leah McCluskey, Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
10/14/04  
Date

Rev. Edward D. Grace  
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests

10/15/04  
Date

Cc: Review Board Members  
Rev. Daniel Smilanic, Cardinal's Delegate to the Review Board  
Rev. Edward D. Grace, Vicar for Priests

# ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of Professional Responsibility



P.O. Box 1979  
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1979

(312) 751-5205  
Fax: (312) 751-5279

## MEMORANDUM

To: File - PFR-31

From: Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator 

Re: Owens, Joseph [Laicized] 

Date: May 5, 2004

---

PRA spoke with attorney  via phone today regarding two new clients, both "elderly" men and victims of Joseph Owens. According to Archdiocesan records, Mr. Owens is a resigned and laicized priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

 stated that [the former] Rev. Joseph Owens abused his client Mr.  at St. Gertrude parish. According to Archdiocesan Archives, Fr. Owens was assigned to St. Gertrude's from May 10, 1966 through May 22, 1967.

 stated that he provided Mr.  with PRA's name and phone number. It was agreed that  would contact Mr.  and determine if he [Mr. ] would like to contact PRA or if he would like for PRA to contact him.  also noted that he would like to "get him [Mr. ] some help." It was clarified that  was interested in connecting Mr.  with a therapist. It was agreed that  would contact Dr. Michael Bland in the Office of Assistance Ministry to address the matter of Mr.  beginning therapy.

AOC 004433

### Victim Statement Abstract

This abstract replaces the summary prepared by Leah McCluskey, Professional Responsibility Administrator for the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office of Professional Responsibility, of Victim X's statement, given to Ms. McCluskey on May 17, 2004, formalizing his allegation of sexual abuse against Fr. Joseph Owens. According to Victim X's statement, the abuse, when he was 10 years old and a parishioner at St. Gertrude Parish, consisted of Fr. Owens discussing sexuality and profanity with Victim X. Fr. Owens also had Victim X undress and fondled Victim W's genitals following a confession. Fr. Owens told Victim X that what had taken place was part of confession.