



ARCHDIOCESE
OF PORTLAND
IN OREGON

Vicar For Clergy

MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Father Charles Lienert

SUBJECT: Conversation with Senko concerning Father Senko

DATE: January 19, 1993

called me last week and asked about Fr. Senko. We set up a meeting on January 18.

She was a student at North Catholic H.S. between 1965 and 1969. During that period of time Fr. Senko was first a teacher and then the principal. During this time he sexually abused her. She talked to a couple of priests about it, but it continued until she graduated. She has had a lot of guilt about it and blamed herself because she needed the attention. It's only in recent years that she has come to realize through therapy that it was not her fault, although she still has a lot of emotion about it. It was very hard for her to speak about it, but she was encouraged to come forward because of the possibility and indeed the great likelihood that he has abused other women. There was some talk about it and innuendoes when she was in school.

She felt she was trapped at the time and that her only escape was graduation, although Fr. Senko made it difficult for her to get into college because of the recommendation she needed from the school to get a scholarship.

Over the years he has frequently tried to make contact with her. She finally told him in no uncertain terms that she wanted no contact with him. Right before Christmas he wrote her a letter, seemingly an apology; however, most of the letter is about his needs and how he would love to be able to share with her. This letter made her angry.

She has been able to work through a lot of her own problems and continues to do so. She does not want anything from the Archdiocese and doesn't want to get Fr. Senko into trouble. On

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REDACTED

PD 0201

MEMORANDUM

RE: Conversation with
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the other hand, she came forward because she thought her information might be useful in getting him help.

She would greatly prefer that her name not be used with Fr. Senko. If it became absolutely necessary, she would consider it. She does not want any contact with him. If he denies it, she would be willing to disclose the name of the priests she had talked to when she was in high school. They would be able to verify her story.

I assured her that I would not use her name and I doubted that it would be necessary. I told her I appreciated very much her coming forward with this information and it indeed would assist us greatly in forcing Fr. Senko to be evaluated psychologically and get some help based on that evaluation. I told her that I did not think that it would be necessary to verify her story. I thought we would be able to proceed on the basis of the evaluation.1

CJL:gg

REDACTED

PD 0202



ARCHDIOCESE
OF PORTLAND
IN OREGON

COPY

Vicar For Clergy

MEMORANDUM

TO: Archbishop Levada
FROM: Father Charles Lienert
SUBJECT: Father Martin Senko
DATE: February 2, 1993

Chris Eskeli and I met with Father Senko Friday afternoon. We spent over an hour with him. In the end he agreed that there was no other alternative than for him to go to Cottonwood. He admitted the relationship he had with a high school student many years ago at North Catholic High School. He stated that the abuse consisted of touching. He was more ready to admit that he needed to go to treatment because of this rather than the other problems that he has experienced at St. Peter and other parishes.

I had the sense when I took him to the airport on Saturday that he was in fact relieved for a way out of the stress he had been experiencing at St. Peter. He said during the intervention that he did not know whether he could go back to St. Peter. I told him that we would discuss that after he had finished the treatment program. It certainly would be possible that he not return to St. Peter.

Father Mayo will celebrate Mass and hear Confessions on the weekends. He will also celebrate daily Mass on Wednesday and respond to any emergencies that occur. Father Senko asked Laura McMahon to be responsible for the day by day workings of the parish during his absence. She did this while Father Rock was away from the parish so she knows what to do.

I think a supportive note from you would be very helpful to Father Senko if you could find the time to send him one.

CJL:gg

COPY

Vicar For Clergy



January 27, 1994

Reverend Martin Senko
20964 S.W. Rock Road
Aloha, OR 97006

Dear Marty:

I have spoken with Chris Eskeli and Archbishop Levada about your doing some weekend assistance and possibly receiving a permanent assignment in July. They both seem to be in general agreement with this plan. Archbishop Levada, however, would like to meet with you before you begin any active service. I believe that he wants to talk with you about your therapy. I think that he wishes to be personally assured that you have worked through any problems with celibacy.

You can make arrangements to meet with him through Carol O'Brien.

Sincerely yours,

Reverend Charles J. Lienert
Vicar for Clergy

CJL:gg

COPY

Vicar For Clergy



ARCHDIOCESE
OF PORTLAND
IN OREGON

April 5, 1994

Most Reverend Thomas J. Murphy
Archbishop of Seattle
910 Marion Street
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Archbishop Murphy:

I have enclosed a testimonial letter of permission for Father Martin Senko to work at St. Joseph Parish in Vancouver until July 1, 1994.

I wanted to give you some additional information about his background. We asked him to enter a treatment program a year ago because of a history of conflicts which he had with parishioners in the parishes in which he had served. His manner was often abrasive and unbending.

In addition to this overriding problem, we had a complaint from a woman who was a student at North Catholic High School where he was principal in the late 1960's. He had formed a friendship with her and had touched her improperly on more than one occasion. This issue was also addressed in treatment. The conclusion of the therapist at Cottonwood as well as Dr. Eskeli with whom he has continued therapy is that he is not an ephebophile. He has in the past had sexual relationships with adult women who were no way connected with the parishes in which he served. The evaluation of his therapist indicates that he has addressed this issue and is committed to live a celibate life. Upon the recommendation of the therapist, Archbishop Levada has permitted him to assist in parishes on a temporary basis until July 1, 1994, when he intends to assign him permanently.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Reverend Charles J. Lienert
Vicar for Clergy

CJL:gg

Enclosures - TESTIMONIAL
PROFILE

2838 E. Burnside Street, Portland, Oregon 97214-1895 503/234-5334

PD 0205

TESTIMONIAL LETTER OF PERMISSION

Most Reverend Thomas J. Murphy
Archbishop of Seattle
910 Marion Street
Seattle, Washington 98104

Dear Archbishop Murphy:

I am writing to certify the suitability of Rev. Martin Senko, a cleric in good standing in this (Arch)/diocese/religious institute for an assignment in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

He has permission to serve from 4/5/94 to 7/1/94.

Furthermore, I have carefully reviewed our personnel records which we maintain, and I have consulted with some who served with him in the works he has been assigned under our authority. Based on these inquiries, I testify to the best of my ability and assure you that Fr. Senko is a person of good moral character and reputation, and is qualified to serve in an effective and suitable manner in your Archdiocese. In addition, also based on inquiry and to the best of my knowledge, I assure you that nothing in his background would limit or disqualify him from assignment or cause serious scandal. (This would include such improper behaviors as: untreated problems with substance abuse, violations of celibacy, sexual impropriety, physical abuse, and/or financial impropriety.)

I hereby grant him permission to minister in your Archdiocese under your authorization.

A curriculum vitae including name, date of birth, place and date of profession of vows/ordination, seminary/formation, and previous assignments is enclosed.

Date April 5, 1994



(signature)

Vicar for Clergy

(title)



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE
910 MARION STREET
SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98104-1299
(206) 382-4375
FAX (206) 382-3495

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

April 8, 1994

Reverend Charles Lienert
Vicar for Clergy
Archdiocese of Portland
2838 E. Burnside Street
Portland, Oregon 97214-5334

Dear Father Lienert,

I am writing in reference to your letter to Archbishop Thomas Murphy, in which you provided confidential information concerning the Reverend Martin Senko. The Archbishop asked me to convey his appreciation for all you have done to help in this matter. The reason for my letter is to ask your further assistance concerning the potential placement of Father Senko at St. Joseph's Parish, Vancouver.

It is my understanding that Father Martin Senko has the support and permission of his Archbishop to minister within the Archdiocese of Seattle on a temporary basis. I also understand that Fr. Senko's therapist has indicated that he has addressed those issues which previously impeded his ministry, and the therapist has testified to Father Senko's suitability for pastoral ministry.

Before providing assignment for a priest who has had the kind of difficulties described in your letter, we feel obligated to place to several important values in the balance--the good name of the priest and his right to privacy, along with the community's right to quality ministry and safety. In order to provide for these values, and to minimize opportunities for recidivism, our community advisors have recommended that background information concerning the priest is provided to the priest's immediate supervisor.


In this instance, I believe that the information contained in your letter would be discreetly shared with Father Tuan Nguen, who is charged with the pastoral and administrative responsibilities in the absence of the pastor. This action would help ensure that the Archdiocese has administered a reasonable standard of care for the community, while taking steps to preserve the good name and reputation of the priest.

PD 0207

However, before this action is taken, I believe that it is important that you seek the permission of Father Senko, and explain the rationale for this recommendation. His cooperation and understanding would be necessary elements before an assignment is finalized by the Archbishop.

Again, we are deeply grateful for all you are doing to assist in this matter. Please do not hesitate to call or write if more information is necessary.

Fraternally yours in Christ,


(Very Rev.) George L. Thomas
Episcopal Vicar

COPY

Office of the Archbishop



ARCHDIOCESE
OF PORTLAND
IN OREGON

June 15, 1994

Reverend Martin Senko
20964 S.W. Rock Road
Aloha, OR 97006

Dear Father Senko:

With this letter, I am pleased to notify you of your appointment as administrator of St. Alexander Parish, Cornelius, Oregon. This appointment is effective July 1, 1994, for a period of one year.

I commit to you the full care of souls in the above stated parish and I grant you all the faculties necessary for you to fulfill this office. Enclosed, then, you will find the faculties of the Archdiocese for Pastors and Parochial Vicars.

You will bear the duties and responsibilities and enjoy the rights and the privileges accorded to administrators, in accordance with the prescriptions of the Code of Canon Law, official letters and approved custom.

You will find enclosed forms for your Profession of Faith and Oath of Office. At your early convenience you should make your Profession of Faith and take the Oath of Office in the presence of any priest enjoying the faculties of the Archdiocese. The forms should then be forwarded to the Clergy Personnel office for filing.

To facilitate the substitution of your signature for that of the outgoing pastor, I am enclosing a letter certifying to the bank that you are the duly authorized, newly appointed administrator.

Praying God's blessings upon you and your work in your new assignment, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William J. Levada
Archbishop of Portland

WJL: gg

Enclosures



ARCHDIOCESE
OF PORTLAND
IN OREGON

COPY

Office of the Archbishop

June 6, 1995

Reverend Martin Senko
St. Alexander Parish
P.O. Box 644
Cornelius, OR 97113

Dear Father Senko:

With this letter, I am pleased to notify you of your appointment to continue as Administrator of St. Alexander Parish, Cornelius, Oregon. This appointment is effective July 1, 1995.

I have spoken with Father Lienert about your request to develop a longer range plan for your ministry at the end of this coming one year term.

I commit to you the full care of souls in the above stated parish and I grant you all the faculties necessary for you to fulfill this office. Enclosed, then, you will find the faculties of the Archdiocese for Pastors and Parochial Vicars.

You will bear the duties and responsibilities and enjoy the rights and the privileges accorded to administrators, in accordance with the prescriptions of the Code of Canon Law, official letters and approved custom. As you may recall from our conversation, it is my intention to appoint Fr. Erasto Guzman Chavez as co-administrator; you are asked to fulfill the duties of moderator of this pastoral team and be responsible for the parish administration.

Assuring you of my gratitude for your ministry at St. Alexander Parish this past year, and praying God's blessings upon you and your future work at St. Alexander, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend William J. Levada
Archbishop of Portland

Enclosure

cc: Reverend Erasto Guzman Chavez

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