

Greensburg Priest #1

Biographical Information

Omitted

Employment/Assignment History

Omitted

Summary

In November 1962, Bishop William Connare wrote a memorandum to Monsignors Cyril Vogel and Norbert Gaughan regarding allegations involving a priest then serving in the Diocese of Greensburg "Greensburg Priest #1"⁹ and an unnamed victim who was a seminarian. While the nature of the allegation and age of victim were not specified, Connare consistently referred to the victim as a "boy."

In the letter, Connare acknowledged that only Vogel, Gaughan, Father Leonard Sanesi, and the "Father's pastor" (meaning the pastor of the father of victim) knew of the situation. Connare expressed that he "*sincerely hopes that we can contain the whole matter within this circle.*" Connare consistently conveyed his concern should this knowledge become public, so much so that he agreed not to confront Greensburg Priest #1 with the accusation. Connare did not reassign the accused priest out of fear that "*too many would connect the two incidents, the dismissal of the seminarian and the removal of a priest.*" Furthermore, Connare expressed concern that the victim's family would find out, while then reassuring himself that the family would only know if the victim told them. Connare ended the memorandum by instructing those "*in the circle*" to keep an eye on Greensburg Priest #1 and to send him to Via Coeli if the incident was made public until "*the whole thing could be resolved.*" Via Coeli was a treatment facility where the church would send priests known to have engaged in, among other aberrant behaviors, sexual abuse.

Greensburg Priest #1 was not made aware of the 1962 accusation until 2002, when he was questioned regarding the incident during a Diocesan file review. When questioned about the matter, he stated the incident was not previously brought to his attention, that he knew nothing about the accusation, and did not know who the seminarian could be.

⁹ Consistent with the Grand Jury's methodology used to determine which clergy members to identify and describe in its Report, the Grand Jury finds the allegation against "Greensburg Priest #1" were insufficient to warrant naming him in its Report. The Diocese of Greensburg's response to the complaint made against Greensburg Priest #1 was relevant to the Report, however, so the Grand Jury has decided to include the above information with respect to the allegation made against this Priest.