

**Mother Butler Center** - St. Isaac Jogues Church  
BOX 1304 RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57709

March 18, 1994

Fr. Michael B. Woster, JCL  
Vicar General  
Diocese of Rapid City  
Rapid City, S.D.

Dear Father Woster:

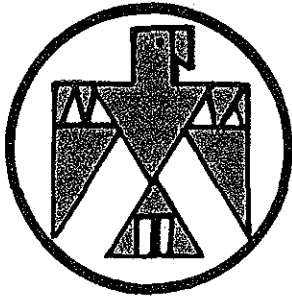
On March 18, 1994, we discussed the Background Questionnaire concerning Sexual Abuse for Current Employees and Volunteers which I have been requested to complete as a priest doing pastoral work in the Diocese of Rapid City.

Our discussion centered on Question 4: " Have you ever been directed to receive medical or psychological treatment, including counseling, involving sexual abuse, sexual harassment or sexual exploitation of other persons ? " I have never been involved in sexual abuse or sexual harassment . We discussed whether certain events in my past life should require me to answer Yes to Question 4 due to sexual exploitation.

I described to you these events of my past life and will repeat this description now. While I was Director of St. Francis Mission in the late 1970's, I began to experience sexual temptations in a way that had never occurred to me in more than thirty five previous years as a Jesuit. It began with viewing pornography, went on to masturbation, and even to sexual activity with Native American girls. This occurred around eighteen times in a period of four years, 1977-1980. About twelve girls were involved in unrelated events. There was nothing like an ongoing affair. They were one on one occasions and never in a party type situation. I would judge that there was not a lot of sharing of my activity among them. At least four of the girls did not know me. All of them were of the type who had a reputation for drinking and promiscuity. Frequently I would drink with them, not to excess, but to lead to the sexual advancements. Usually I would give them money. Almost always, with those who knew me, I would mention that what I was doing was not right but due to my human weakness.

During all of this, I regularly used the Sacrament of Reconciliation and would never celebrate the Eucharist, which I did daily, without confessing the serious sins of viewing pornography, masturbation, or sexually acting out. I was also very open in discussing my sexual problems with my superior, spiritual director, and provincial. I was

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deeply ashamed of my behavior, especially in taking advantage of vulnerable persons, and prayed for the grace to remove it from my life. I was very much aware of the danger of scandal which would occur if the situation became public. To my knowledge, it never did become public in any noticeable degree. Only once was it broprught up to me by the sister of one of the girls with whom I was involved in a single occurrence.

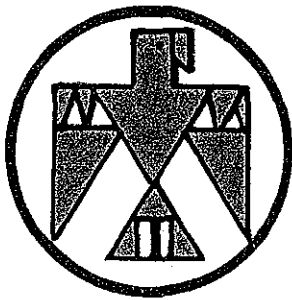
I took a sabbatical year in 1980/81 and the same behavior pattern continued. The girls were prostitutes who I would pick up along the streets in Milwaukee and South Bend. I'm sure that none of these knew me nor that I was a priest.

After the sabbatical year, I was stationed at St. Isaac Jogues for 1981-1982. The same pattern continued involving Native American girls I would pick up along the streets. This happened about six times with different girls each time who, I am rather sure, did not know me nor that I was a priest. I was still using the Sacrament of Reconciliation and being open with my superiors and spiritual director. In the Fall of 1982, they decided I needed some professional help and decided that I should go to a House of Affirmation for treatment. I was at the House of Affirmation from about November 1982 to March 1983.

Then I was re-assigned to St. Francis Mission. A couple of relapses with Indian girls, who I picked up along the streets in the Winner area and did not know me, prompted my superiors to arrange for me to see a behavioral psychologist who was connected with the Family Services of the Sioux Falls Diocese. My superior also directed me to go through the Addiction Recovery Program here in Rapid City which centered on alcoholism but also dealt with recovering from other addictive behavior through the 12 Step Program. At the time, most Jesuits at St. Francis were going through this program, not necessarily because of their own personal problems, but so they would have a better understanding of the addictive behavior so common on the reservation. It was about this time that my provincial told me there was danger of my being expelled from the Jesuit Order if any more sexual activity with other persons occurred. Around 1987, the behavioral psychologist thought I no longer was in need of after care as regards sexual acting out.

I am grateful to God that no sexual acting out has occurred since 1983. I am also grateful that, to my personal knowledge, there was no public notice of my previous sexual acting out on the Rosebud Reservation. In

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no way did I experience any ill effects on my ministry due to these past occurrences. I am grateful to God that my ministry from 1983 to 1992 seemed quite fruitful.

Since being assigned here to St. Isaac Jogues in the summer of 1992, there has been no sexual acting out with others. There have been a couple of incidents of pornography and masturbation. But I am grateful to God that these problems have been almost non-existent for the past year.

I am deeply sorry for the sins of my past, especially as they may have scandalized vulnerable persons. But I do pray that the Lord will look with special love upon these persons. I do feel that He has forgiven me and that He is blessing my ministry now at St. Isaac Jogues Parish.

This letter explains why I answered Yes to Question 4 on the Sexual Misconduct questionnaire. Please feel free to contact me if further discussion is needed.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernard D. Fagan, S.J.". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bernard D. Fagan, S.J.