

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON  
RECEIVED

SEP 13 2002

OFFICE OF  
MINISTERIAL PERSONNEL

TELEPHONE (508) 580-1600  
FACSIMILE (508) 580-5439

SORRENTI & DELANO  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION  
23 NORTH PEARL STREET  
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02301

DAVID P. SORRENTI  
STUART P. DELANO

September 12, 2002

Father Sean Connor  
Boston Archdiocese  
2121 Commonwealth Avenue  
Brighton, MA 02135

Dear Father Connor:

Let me first say that as these months have passed us by, I have been less than impressed with the way you, and the Archdiocese, have handled this matter. Your handling of this investigation has been less than responsive and professional. It is obvious to me that somewhere along the way you, and the Church, have forgotten that a man's reputation and career is being held in the balance. A man that has served the Church with distinction and without incident, for over 40 years. I hope that you will continue to remember that as the days continue to pass.

From the beginning, neither Father McDonough nor I have asked for much. Certainly not more than we were entitled to, given the nature of the allegations. Indeed, nothing more than you would have requested or been entitled to had this baseless allegation been made against you.

Since my very first telephone discussion with you, you have been resistant to my simple requests. You have refused to provide me with insight into the process or a timetable of events. In addition, you have referred me to the "Rogers Law Firm" for documents which were in your direct possession, including the letter of allegation and transcribed witness interviews and have failed to give me the courtesy of a response to any of my letters.

Imagine my surprise when I contacted the Rogers Law Firm only to find out that they had not opened a file in the matter, and that this case was an internal Church matter only.

From day one, I have asked only that you provide my client with the common courtesy and respect that he deserves, and you have failed to do so. I am sure that you have read the same Boston Globe Article I read last week entitled, *Archdiocese's Commission to Urge Protection of Accused Priests*. What I found most interesting is that "the Commission" "will recommend stronger protections for accused priests" as well as policies to protect children from abuse. Maureen Bateman, the chairwoman of the Commission went on to say, what I have argued to you since the inception of my representation of Father McDonough, that is, that Father McDonough's rights be respected and that the Church not "throw the baby out with the bath water." "The

McDONAGH-2 187

Father Sean Connor  
September 12, 2002  
Page Two

Commission recognizes that every one has civil rights, and we want to make sure they're respected," Bateman said.

However, the lack of respect and courtesy shown Father McDonough pales in comparison to the double standard the Church has exhibited as to the various investigations into allegations of child abuse. I am specifically referring to the Foster/Cummings investigation. The Church conducted and completed its investigation in a week, and reinstated Monsignor Foster without the prolonged agony that my client has continued to experience during this process. Proof positive that where there is a will to expedite an investigation, there is a way,

There is certainly no excuse or explanation for treating these men differently. Why was the Foster investigation able to be completed within a week while Father McDonough's investigation continues to drag on? How is Monsignor Foster able to avoid review by the same Board that you claim Father McDonough must see before his reinstatement, and if not, why wasn't Father McDonough's case presented at the same sitting? Why didn't the Church require Monsignor Foster to journey to Toronto for testing and examination. There is no good reason for treating these men differently.

The allegations in both cases are without merit. Indeed, one could certainly argue that the allegations made against Foster and Cummings, regardless of the fact that they were later recanted, were more credible than the allegation made against Father McDonough. The former allegation was at least made by an individual that is alive, the latter was not. I am certain of one thing, on October 7, 2002 when the Commission releases its policy recommendations and defines the term "credible complaint", the allegations made against Father McDonough will fail to meet that standard. If I am correct, he should be reinstated forthwith and without the need for presentation to the Board. Regardless, you should not continue to delay this matter.

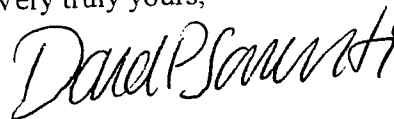
I again ask that you respect Father McDonough's rights and provide me with the information I have requested, or the name of someone I can speak with who has the authority and courtesy to provide me this documentation. Fundamental fairness requires that we be provided this documentation. The Archdiocese has withheld this information for far too long, without good reason. Again, the only way Father McDonough will be able to defend himself, as Monsignor Foster did, is with detailed information as to the allegation and information as to the accuser. The Foster case is a great illustration of why we need the information we are seeking. It is only with this information that we can establish the falsity of the allegations and thereby return Father McDonough to his rightful position within the Church.

Father Sean Connór  
September 12, 2002  
Page Three

I am also requesting that you provide me with the status of the investigation and a date when the Commission will examine the allegations made against Father McDonough. Again, if there is a collective will to resolve this matter, there is a way to do so.

I look forward to your response, or the name of the individual I can speak with regarding my concerns.

Very truly yours,



David P. Sorrenti

DPS/im  
CC: Father Edward McDonough  
DS91002F

**McDONAGH-2 189**