

FILE

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Bishop Malooly
From: Msgr. J. Thomas Cini
Subject: Letter from Vicar General Mallet, Diocese of Lafayette
Gerard C. Smit
Date: September 9, 2010

This is the follow up information I promised regarding Gerard Smit about whom you received a copy of a letter to Smit from the Vicar General of the Diocese of Lafayette advising Smit that their Diocese had received information amounting to a serious allegation of sexual abuse against a minor.

A review of the file reveals that in May of 1987 the then Bishop of Lake Charles, Jude Speyrer, wrote to Bishop Mulvee advising him that "Gerard C. Smit, a priest of the Diocese of Lake Charles in semi-retirement and residing in the Diocese (of Wilmington), is in good standing and would like to be of some assistance ministerially ... I would appreciate anything you could do for him ..."

There are notes from Msgr. Lemon as Vicar for Priests advising Fr. Smit that the matter is being looked into and that there would be some follow up discussion with Bishop Speyrer and interviews of the Personnel Committee. In December of 1987 a memorandum from Msgr. Lemon to Msgr. Rebman advises that Fr. Smit is in retirement and had been cleared for part time pastoral work by the Personnel Committee of the Diocese.

In a memorandum to file dated 10/16/96 Msgr. Lemon writes that a fellow by the name of [redacted] (later turned out to be a man by the name of [redacted]) showed up at the rectory in Elkton to say that he had been abused by Gerard Smit in Louisiana. According to [redacted] he was told that Smit would never function as a priest again, but having stopped off at a truck stop in Elkton he finds that Smit's name appears in the parish bulletin for the Parish of Immaculate Conception in Elkton.

Msgr. Lemon's notes continue that he met with Smit and also with [redacted] contacted Dioceses in Louisiana, and took the matter up with our attorney, Jim Collins. It appears from my brief review of the file there was an agreement between Smit and [redacted] to pay him a certain sum of money as compensation. It appears [redacted] had an attorney to assist him in the matter. Of course, after all of this [redacted] was advised that Smit could not function as a priest in our

Diocese and Smit's faculties were lifted. This information was sent on to Louisiana. Despite his being barred from ministry, Smith remained a resident of our Diocese.

We, of course, could not remove him from ministry, that being the responsibility of the Bishop(s) in Louisiana. We advised them of what we did and suggested they act.

Somewhere in 2003 the matter came up again and my notes indicate a call from [redacted] in February of 2007.

Smit was one of the priests identified by Bishop Saltarelli in November of 2006 as having credible accusations of child abuse. We explained at the time that he had functioned for a short period of time in the Diocese, but when his past came to light he was required not to function anymore.

Smit continues to reside in this area. According to the letter from the Vicar General, he lives in Newark.