

HOOVER, WILLIAM  
7-7-95

880  
HOOVER 07-07 0293

HOOVER July 7, 1995 (320 words) 303XN

FORT WORTH PRIEST RESIGNS AS CATHEDRAL PASTOR AFTER ABUSE ADMITTED

By Catholic News Service

FORT WORTH, Texas (CNS) — The pastor of St. Patrick Cathedral Parish in the Fort Worth Diocese has resigned after admitting to a sexual abuse incident involving a minor boy dating back nearly 40 years ago.

Father William Hoover resigned after being confronted with the accusations, according to a July 2 statement by Fort Worth Bishop Joseph P. Delaney. The priest is on an indefinite leave of absence from active ministry, he added.

Since the diocese made the resignation public, it has received further reports alleging abuse by Father Hoover, which date back to the years 1957-59.

The diocese had not released the sex of the victim who came forward because its policy states that it will not release any such identifying information unless that individual makes it public.

But July 6, in a broadcast on KXAS-TV in Fort Worth, the victim discussed the incident. The man, who is now 50, said that he had been abused in 1957 by Father Hoover when he was age 12.

Diocesan officials only learned of the abuse in mid-June when the victim came to them, according to Bishop Delaney.

"In accord with diocesan guidelines, a committee was appointed to meet with that person and with Father Hoover," the bishop said.

"When he was presented with this accusation, Father Hoover acknowledged that it was true.

"The standard of this nature is found to be true, the care of the Catholic community requires that a full disclosure be made.

After resigning his post Father Hoover was put into a four-week program for evaluation as per the diocesan guidelines.

"He will be undergoing an extensive psychological and spiritual evaluation and, if indicated, further therapy," Bishop Delaney said.

The bishop met with 500 members of the St. Patrick Cathedral Parish July 2 to talk about the issues surrounding the abuse case and Father Hoover's resignation.

END

10-04-04 Order  
0095

COPIED  
ORIGINAL  
DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED

**Diocese of Fort Worth**  
Bishop's Office

Hoover, William  
7-8-95

July 8, 1995

Most Reverend Charles V. Grahmann  
P. O. Box 190507  
Dallas, Texas 75219

Dear Charlie,

This has been a difficult time for both our dioceses. I tried to reach you last week as the affair with Bill Hoover was about to break, but you were out of town. I spoke with Duffy Gardner and got the information he had and told him what our plans were to make a public announcement. I am sure that he kept you informed.

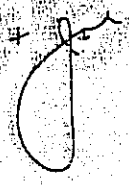
The decision to go public was a very difficult but as it turned out, a very necessary one. Not only did it keep faith with our pledge to disclose sexual abuse fully, but it also elicited calls so far from six other people who had been molested at [redacted] and [redacted] by Bill during the same years. So far no one has come forward with any complaints after 1959. My prayer is that, as Bill has stated, he was never involved in any more abuse after that time.

I tried to reach you on Thursday, but you had already left so I talked to Duffy again to fill him in on how things were going. Bob Wilson has also been in touch with him and the two of them are making arrangements for any of the victims who may want counseling.

Bill is still [redacted] for assessment right now. I don't know what the future holds for him, but he has a lot of support from the laity. If in fact all this ended more than 35 years ago, it may be possible, if he wishes, for him to return to ministry. I would like very much to see that.

I will be leaving on vacation in a few days. Let's touch base when we both get back.

In Christ,



**CONFIDENTIAL**

10-04-04 Order  
0096

The Catholic Center  
800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • 817/560-3300 • Fax 817/244-8839

PER COURT ORDER - DOCUMENT NOT TO BE DISCLOSED TO ANYONE NOT IDENTIFIED IN SUCH ORDER AND INFORMATION IN DOCUMENT ONLY TO BE USED IN CAUSE NO. 147-198356-03, TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS. THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED. DOCUMENT TO BE RETURNED TO COUNSEL FOR FORT WORTH DIOCESE AT CONCLUSION OF SUCH CAUSE. ANY VIOLATION WILL BE TREATED AS CONTEMPT OF COURT.

AM

In re: Hoover, William  
Date: July 10, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delancy  
Date: July 10, 1995  
In re: Father William Hoover - Call from

called this noon time to report that he had been abused by WH when he was an altar boy at Church in Fort Worth. It occurred sometime between the years [redacted] and [redacted] was [redacted] years old. It happened at least twice in the church building. [redacted] told no one about it at the time. When asked to describe the abuse, [redacted] said "it was the same as with the other man," meaning the one who was on TV. I did not press for further description, but later asked him if he would describe it as fondling, and he agreed that was close enough.

[redacted] also spoke at some length about WH's drinking problem. He said that he, as a young child, was very aware that WH had something wrong with him when he was at the altar and in the pulpit. He said it was common talk around that parish that WH had a serious drinking problem, and that the people joked about it.

[redacted] described a little of his own life. He [redacted] degree from [redacted] and was about to be commissioned as an [redacted] officer when he "got into some trouble" and [redacted].

[redacted] He has never recovered from the trauma of the year in prison and now finds life difficult because although he has credentials for good work, his record is keeping him from advancing.

He readily accepted the offer of counseling. (In my opinion, he badly needs some help, whether it is in response to the abuse or not.) I promised that Father Wilson would be in touch with him in two or three days.

CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order  
0100

July 10, 1995

Memo to Files  
from Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover -- returned call to

As Bishop Delaney promised I would do, I followed up with [redacted] I reached him on Friday, July 7. The bishop had spoken with him the day before. Since he had just come home from the hospital where [redacted] I agreed to call him the next day.

I reached him the second time on July 8. We had a good conversation. He seems to hold no bitterness toward the Church. He mentioned a good experience with a priest a few years after the Hoover experience, a Vincentian named [redacted] at [redacted] in Dallas. [redacted] mentioned that he received the Serra Club award for altar boys while at [redacted]

As he told the bishop previously, he would be glad to receive counseling. Again he requested it for [redacted] who are upset about the publicity. He said that it would probably be short term, at least for them. I told him that Father Gardner of Dallas had promised him counseling, and gave him the Dallas diocesan number, explaining that the reason was that the Diocese of Fort Worth did not exist at the time of the incident. He understood. I also told him that I had spoken with Father Gardner about the short term counseling for [redacted] since he had mentioned that to the bishop, [redacted] was not so sure about that I told [redacted] that the Diocese of Fort Worth would provide short term counseling for [redacted] if the Diocese of Dallas did not.

DG had told me that Dallas prefers that victims choose their own counselor, and not one picked by the diocese. [redacted] told [redacted] about this. He said that he knew no one. I suggested that he consult his family physician for a referral. I also mentioned the Pastoral Counseling Center in Dallas, sponsored by the Dallas Council of Churches (at least a few years ago), as a possibility for [redacted]. I suggested that he might need counseling from a psychiatrist or a clinical psychologist.

July 10, 1995

Memo to File  
from: Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover -- Follow up call to

was incorrectly identified in Bishop Delaney's July 3 memo to the file as  
first verified that he was the [redacted] that had called the bishop. He is the same, and even  
is middle name is not [redacted] I reached him at work, an

After not reaching [redacted] on July 7 or 8 I was able to talk to him by phone on July 10.

He said that WH always "tried to get the boys alone in the rectory" and that he, [redacted] avoiding  
him.

He said that he is doing well in his personal life. His marriage of many years, I presume his  
first, is good. [redacted] I got the impression that he told  
me of the bad things done to him as a child more to explain his reasons for not attending  
church any more than because he thought it messed him up.

I apologized for the Church, as I did in back of the ball, backs to victims, and offered  
counseling. He declined. I asked him to give me a call if he changes his mind.

10-04-04 Order  
0102

July 10, 1995

Memo to File  
from Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover - Follow up call to

Bishop Delaney spoke with [redacted] July 5, 1995. I attempted to reach him Friday, July 7, but did not reach him. I left a message on his answering machine at work. I tried his home number over the weekend, obtained from one of the [redacted] in the office, but did not reach him. I finally got him at work Monday, July 10.

He spoke of his anger, and said that he was the second person to come forward to the media, in his case to the Dallas Morning News. His name was not printed in the July 8 news story. He did not seem angry to me. Rather, he was most cordial. I apologize for Father Hoover and for the Church, as I have done with each of the victims. He said that it was not my fault.

He had two reasons for coming forward:

1. He wanted to let us know that there was more than one boy as alleged by Hoover.
2. Working in an [redacted] He knows that the statute of limitations has expired, and he is aware that it is Dallas' problem, not ours. Nevertheless, he feels that the Church owes him and the other victims monetary compensation and not just counseling.

The last was in response to my offering counseling. We never got back to it, and I take it that he does not want it.

He feels pain at having the abuse brought up again after all these years. He is in a second marriage for about a year.

The worst incident happened to [redacted] on a rainy evening when the boy scouts came back in from a camping trip rather than stay in the rain. They "camped out" on the floor of an old rectory which was due to be torn down to make way for a new convent. WH called him out and abused him. When he went back to the others he was very sensitive because of the way that boys can be cruel to someone different like a homosexual. He feels that if Monsignor Becker had heard of this he would have taken disciplinary action against WH, though perhaps not as today when we have learned so much.

He was angry at WH when he sent him, [redacted] a graduation gift, a lives of the saints, even though he did not get an invitation. [redacted] graduated from [redacted] in [redacted]

[redacted] has been trying to reach the Dallas attorney, [redacted] without success. He has only gotten voice mail. I suggested he call Father [redacted] whom he knows as a classmate of nine years in school. He seems to have known that DG is the Vicar General of Dallas, but not that he speaks for Dallas in these matters. I never agreed that he should receive compensation, but did not expressly disagree.

10-04-04 Order  
0103

Page 2 - Telephone Conversation of Father Robert Wilson with

He requested that I give the first person who reported abuse his name and phone number, asking that he call him if he would like to do so. I did not agree or disagree to do so. The conversation was terminated by [redacted] who said he had other phone calls coming in.

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED.

CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order  
0104

July 10, 1995

Memo to File

From: Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover - Follow up call to

Bishop Delaney spoke with \_\_\_\_\_ on Thursday, July 6. I reached him on July 7.

He stated "that he wanted no compensation or that he would have come forward much sooner." He tried to contact some of his classmates from those days, but has not succeeded in reaching anyone.

He is still a practicing Catholic and does not feel that the incident scared him or life attends] \_\_\_\_\_ School in Dallas, and he hopes to have him attend High School.

The bishop did not offer him counseling. I did with specifics about our (of Dallas) willingness to pay for it. He declined. I requested that he call me if he should change his mind.

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED.

10-04-04 Order  
0105



July 13, 1995

Memo to Confidential File  
from: Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover, Complaint of

Bishop Delaney first received a call from [redacted] on July 5. He told him that he would be back in contact. This was the reason for my call. I missed him for several days, and assume that he was out of town. I finally reached him on the above date.

I used the word "victim." He immediately said that he did not feel victimized as he understood was the case for the first caller. It happened when he was an altar boy. He was about 11 or 12 and it happened on at least two occasions. He would serve early morning mass and then stay for school.

I asked him if it was fondling. He said that it was nothing like that. Rather it was sitting on Father Hoover's lap and being kissed passionately. He was upset and told his mother about it. He solved the problem by no longer serving mass.

He is not sure that anyone believed him back then. He feels better having reported it to officials in the Church, and thinks this has probably helped him, although he does not think of it except when there is a story in the paper about abuse. Even so he does not think it affected him.

He declined counseling. I asked him to call me back if he changed his mind.

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED.

10-04-04 Order  
0106

July 13, 1995

Memo to Confidential File  
from Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover, Accusation by

Bishop Delaney first spoke to [redacted] on July 10. He made the notes in this file, and then called him a second time in my presence to discuss a conflict in dates. He promised to follow through and get back to the bishop. He had not by the time the bishop left on vacation. Thus I called him today.

He had told the bishop that he would go to his mother's house to check out a picture of him and [redacted] making their first holy communion. They are pictured with the priest, and she believes the date is on it. His mother is on vacation, but he promised to do so as soon as she returned, and to call me.

We went into great detail about chronology. [redacted] was born [redacted] when he was little. He attended kindergarten there. He began 1st grade at [redacted] School. We determined that this was in the fall of [redacted]. He had just turned six August 16 of that year. At first he said that he moved with his family to [redacted] in either the 4th or 5th grade. As we talked more he flashed back to the name of his 3rd grade teacher, [redacted], who impressed him. From this he was able to remember that his family left for [redacted] in the middle of his [redacted] grade year. This would have him leaving [redacted] School at the end of [redacted].

He asked about Father [redacted] I explained that Father [redacted] was pastor [redacted] until he died in 1965. [redacted] was pastored by Father Hoover in November of 1966.

He began to question the dates himself at that point. He remembers the name Hoover well, but says that they often returned to Fort Worth, and would attend mass with [redacted] who lived in [redacted]. She was the one who mentioned Father [redacted] name to him.

He spoke at length of Father "Hoover's" alcoholism, saying that it was common knowledge in the parish and that people joked about it making fun of him. His specific words were "they made a comedy of it."

[redacted] complaint is that when he was an altar boy, the priest fondled him through the cassock (he did not remember the name of the garment) on two occasions. He was very upset about it. He wonders if this was the blame for his father having to send him to the base psychiatrist when they were [redacted] at a later time. He did not do well in school and leaving [redacted].

I reiterated the bishop's offer of counseling. I suggested that he contact his family physician for a referral, but he "does not want anyone to know anything about this." He agreed that he might go to Catholic Charities. He will call me after checking his mother's picture.

Based on the chronology above, I believe he has the wrong priest. I have no doubt about his story.

10-04-04 Order  
0107

July 24, 1995

Memo to Confidential File  
from Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover's Testing at

I traveled to [redacted] today to attend with WH the feedback session of his week of testing. Five therapists gave the report. A written report will be sent within two weeks to WH and Bishop Delaney. [redacted] was the committee head.

[redacted] he will discuss this with Bishop Delaney when both have received the report.

In the meantime WH will return to the Cathedral rectory. Hundreds of letters of support have been sent in his name to the chancery. They have been forwarded to [redacted]. He will spend some time in San Antonio and some time with his mother. He will then stay in seclusion, possibly at Father Breedlove's lake house.

When I told WH that many of the letters are calling for his reappointment to St. Patrick's he said that it would be impossible for him to return there. He wishes to wait until after spending time at [redacted] or elsewhere to decide about returning to ministry. His original plan was to retire at age 70 and to be available for weekend help after that.

He agreed with [redacted] commendation that he should not read the notes of the bishop and myself on the calls we have received from those abused until he is able to be with someone for support, a close friend or a therapist. He will call me for the reports upon his return to Fort Worth.

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED.

CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order  
0108

MEMORANDUM  
Confidential

TO: Diocesan Files  
FROM: Fr. Joseph Schumacher  
DATE: July 31, 1995, 7:30 p.m.  
SUBJECT: Meeting with

We talked for about 15 minutes. He did not go into any detail about being abused by W.H. He said that he had gone to school at [redacted] for 3 years (3-5 grades), then [redacted] for one year, back to [redacted] through the 8th grade. [redacted] family was in [redacted] parish by that time. It was [redacted] that he was abused. He said he knew of others who had talked of being abused. He had never told anyone, though his mother had asked him "indirectly" about it once, and he denied it to her. [redacted] married; he has [redacted] by this first marriage: [redacted]

DOC

D.

After counseling, [redacted] and [redacted] are doing all right now. Though [redacted] intimated that [redacted] was involved in [redacted] [redacted] did not bring this up. I told [redacted] that I would write a letter to the counsellor advising him to send the bills to Dallas Diocese and that we as Church would see that the bills were paid. I said I imagined the counseling would be once a week and that our psychologist would contact [redacted]

[redacted] to [redacted] the counselling was progressing, some 5 or 6 months after it begins. I said that this would be the usual time the psychologist would probably want to meet with him. I apologized for what had happened, told him the Church was sorry it happened. [redacted] said "at one time he had wanted to be a priest, that he had quit the Catholic Church some years ago, and that he and his present wife did not go to any church." He wanted to go to this counselor, since he had gone before. I assured him that if he wanted to go there or to another counselor, it was agreeable to the Church. [redacted] and [redacted] live in [redacted] (.); he works in the [redacted]

Fr. Joe Disk - AT

10-04-04 Order  
0110

August 1, 1995

Memo to Files  
from: Father Robert Wilson

Concern: Father William Hoover, Complainant

I spoke with [redacted] by phone first yesterday and then again today. He had called for Bishop Delaney July 27. My return phone call July 31 was the first response to his call. I reached him on first try.

He was calling for two reasons. He has decided that he would like counseling, and would like it from [redacted]. He is traveling to [redacted] with his wife during August, and will be available for counseling after Labor Day. He told me that his legal problems are over, but that [redacted] are still wanting him to not live in the same house as [redacted].

It was for this last reason that he requested help with someplace to stay. I heard sounds in the background and surmise that he is staying at home [redacted] afraid of being caught. I told him that I would have to check with Bishop Delaney about any help beyond counseling.

Later in the day July 31 Father Joe Schumacher and I spoke to Father Duffy Gardner, Vicar General of Dallas, in a conference call. Father Gardner agreed to pay for the counseling for [redacted] even up to two years. I said that I would prefer to give him six months and ask him to check back with us at that time. DG told us that [redacted] had called Father John Bell of Dallas for help with housing as well. DG agreed to this and asked me to have [redacted] call JB again.

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED.

On August 1 I spoke by phone with [redacted] and explained the arrangements outlined above. I gave her a summary of [redacted]'s background, and DG's address for billing. She is assigning the case to [redacted] who will call [redacted] to set up appointments for after Labor Day. [redacted] says that [redacted] will want permission from [redacted] to have [redacted] send them his record.

Later on August 1 I spoke with [redacted] relating all the above. He was grateful, and said he would call JB on Thursday when he is back in the office at the Diocese of Dallas.

CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order  
0111



1-56

August 11, 1995

Very Rev. Glenn Duff Gardner, V.G.  
Diocese of Dallas  
P.O. Box 190507  
Dallas, TX 75219

Dear Duffy:

As I promised I am sending you the complete file of notes taken by Bishop Delaney and myself as complainants called in about Father Bill Hoover. The only one I am not enclosing is the one that I mentioned on the phone who decided after talking to me that it was a case of mistaken identity. His family moved from [redacted] in Fort Worth before Hoover was appointed pastor there.

I reached [redacted] on the phone today, and have arranged for him to receive counseling from [redacted] one of our counselors, will call him to set up appointments beginning after Labor Day. I told [redacted] that you had agreed to pay, and asked that the bills be sent to you per your instructions to me. I also asked that they report back to me after six months about how it is going. Will let you know of course, but you may wish to do the same.

Finally, I told [redacted] that you told me of his call to Father John Bell last Friday. I also told him that you had agreed to work out some thing for temporary housing for him, and requested that he call Bell upon his return to the office Thursday.

He seemed grateful to both of us for the assistance.

Please let me know of any new developments. I thought things were becoming quiet here until the call from [redacted] came in. Father Joe Schumacher interviewed him last night, and extended your offer for counseling. He will be sending you a summary of the interview and what he said. That will complete our file here. Hopefully, there will be no more calls. Let us pray that this too will pass.

Fraternaly yours in Christ,

Rev. Robert W. Wilson  
Chancellor, Moderator of the Curia

cc: Rev. Joseph A. Schumacher, V.G.

10-04-04 Order  
0112

The Catholic Center  
800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • 817/560-3300 • Fax 817/244-8839

August 11, 1995

Dear

I am enclosing the memorandum of Father Joseph Schumacher, our Vicar General concerning his meeting with \_\_\_\_\_ is the latest complainant we have concerning Father William Hoover. His was the only call that came several weeks after the initial publicity. \_\_\_\_\_ was sent the memoranda in three, eight in number, including the original complainant. I have given Father Hoover a copy of this memorandum as well as the other eight. You will note that no complainant has come forward alleging misconduct after 1960.

Also, I am enclosing a copy of Father Hoover's itinerary which indicates that he will arrive at

I understand that you are sending Father Hoover's acceptance to his temporary address. He is staying with his mother at \_\_\_\_\_ If you need to call him the number is \_\_\_\_\_

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Robert W. Wilson  
Chancellor, Moderator of the Curia

Enc. 1

10-04-04 Order  
0113

The Catholic Center  
800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • 817/560-3300 • Fax 817/244-8839

An re: Hoover, William

Date: July 3, 1995

August 11, 1995

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney

Date: July 5, 1995

In re: Father William Hoover - Summary of events to this date

1. Friday, June 30: I met with the Division Directors and \_\_\_\_\_ to read the public statement to them and to discuss how we would handle the phones and other inquiries on Monday.
2. Saturday, July 1: I mailed a letter to the priests of the diocese with a copy of the statement.
3. Sunday, July 2: Kevin Levy, president of the parish council, read a statement from me at the end of each morning Mass at the Cathedral (Fr. Smith read it at the 5 p.m.) telling the people that Father Hoover had resigned and inviting them to a 7 p.m. meeting with me for an explanation.
4. Sunday evening at 6:15: I met with parish council members and parish staff people to read the statement and answer their questions and to encourage them in dealing with the parishioners.
5. Sunday evening at 7:00: There were about 50 people in church. They were praying the rosary and I waited until the decade had ended. I thanked them for coming, read the statement (I read the first paragraph twice) and then spoke for a few minutes. Although I could not accept questions from such a large group, I did have the questions that the parish council had asked, and I used them as the framework for my further remarks. I ended the meeting with a reading from Romans, 8, vv. 28-39, and the recitation of one decade of the rosary. The meeting lasted about 30 minutes. I talked with a number of people in the parking lot afterwards. To a person they expressed sorrow but also support of WH.
6. Immediately following the meetings, Jeff faxed copies of my statement to the major TV stations and to the Star Telegram. In fact there were two reporters in the Cathedral at the meeting and I spoke briefly with one of them afterwards.
7. Monday, July 3: I gave interviews to the following media: Channels 4, 5 and 11, and station KRLD, and by telephone to the Dallas Morning News and the Star Telegram.
8. In the evening I spoke with WH and told him how the events of the day went.
9. Tuesday, July 4: I spoke with Fr. Larry Breedlove this morning. He called to tell me about \_\_\_\_\_ confusion about the story in the DMN. He wanted my o.k. to explain to her that there may be other victims besides the original person and that was the reason for inviting people to come forward. I urged him to call her.
10. I called \_\_\_\_\_ today. See memo.

10-04-04 Order  
0114



11. Wednesday, July 5: I had a call on Monday evening from \_\_\_\_\_, and today from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Each said that they had been abused by WH. See memos on each call.

12. I spoke with \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ about arrangements for WH. They are expecting him. She will wait for my mailing of info and get back to me if necessary. WH called later in the day and I gave him \_\_\_\_\_ number and asked him to call her for further instructions.

*Update as of August 14, 1995:* -- A total of 9 persons came forward with complaints about having been abused by WH, all of the before 1960 (see file). (A tenth complaint was judged to be a case of mistaken identity, since given the details it could not have been WH involved.) WH went to \_\_\_\_\_ in mid-July for evaluation (results in file). He came back to Fort Worth and has been living with his mother or with \_\_\_\_\_. He will return to \_\_\_\_\_ on August 23 for extensive therapy. I have announced today that the priest personnel board is soliciting bids for the Cathedral. I will have a letter in the parish bulletin on Sunday with this information (see file).

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED.

CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order  
0115

August 11, 1995

Memo to Diocesan Priests  
from Father Joseph Scantlin, Chairman, Clergy Personnel Board

Concern: St. Patrick's Cathedral

Although hundreds of letters of support for Father Hoover came to the chancery, many of them requesting that he be reassigned to the Cathedral, he and the Bishop have decided that it would be best for him not to return. Bishop Delaney has sent a letter to the Cathedral parishioners explaining this to them. He told them that even after all the publicity there have been no further accusations of misconduct by Father Hoover and none occurring after 1960. Nevertheless the harm done sometimes lingers for decades, and so counseling is being provided those who requested it. He asked the parishioners to pray for those who were hurt, some of whom are still hurting, and for Father Hoover who assuredly has been hurt by all this. He will be receiving counseling, and catching up on rest, and rehabilitation for the next few months. He will then dialog with the bishop about reassignment to ministry.

Therefore, if you are interested, you may request assignment as pastor of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Those who have already indicated an interest in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller are not prohibited from volunteering for the Cathedral.

It will be difficult to provide a profile since Father Hoover is no longer at the Cathedral. Therefore, I will list several pertinent facts. St. Patrick's has a mass attendance of 2250, with 1500 registered households. It also provides mass for San Mateo which has an attendance of 220. One of the masses at San Mateo's is celebrated in Spanish, or is bilingual. Many St. Patrick's parishioners pride themselves in being more traditional in their practice of the faith than some suburban churches. Members are registered from all over Tarrant County. There are five Sunday masses at St. Patrick's, and a Saturday vigil mass and a Sunday mass at San Mateo's. There are two daily masses, with the noon mass usually crowded with downtown business people. Fathers Dennis Smith and Albert Tyl serve as associate pastors.

The Cathedral has a Savings of \$165,000, with weekly income of \$13,500. The last fiscal year its income exceeded its \$593,300 budget by \$66,000. A multimillion dollar renovation project has been in the planning stage for some time. A project architect has outlined the needs and estimated costs, and a capital drive was scheduled for the fall. It has been put on hold until the new pastor is assigned.

In addition to the three priests there is a parish staff of eight full time and twenty part time. The religious education program has 500 children enrolled. There were 158 infant baptisms last year, 10 adult baptisms and 12 adults received into full communion with the Church. There were 104 first communions, 112 confirmations, 62 marriages and 48 funerals.

There is a personnel board meeting August 23. If you would like to be considered for this position please write me at 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth, TX 76107, or FAX me at 737-6876 by August 22, 1995.

The Catholic Center  
800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • 817/560-3300 • Fax 817/244-8839

10-04-04 Order  
0116



Diocese of Fort Worth

Bishop's Office

Hoover, W

August 12, 1995

Dear Parishioners of Saint Patrick's Cathedral:

I want to express to you my deep gratitude and admiration for the way in which you have dealt with the difficult situation involving Father William Hoover's resignation as pastor of Saint Patrick's last month. In spite of the pain and disappointment you experienced, you have been a model of Christian dignity and compassion for all to see.

I am also grateful to you for the many letters I have received from members of the parish sharing your sorrow with me and telling me of your prayers and support. I have been especially moved by your love for Father Hoover and your willingness to forgive what happened so long ago. He has received all your letters and they have been a great comfort to him at this very difficult time in his life.

Many of you urged me to consider asking Father Hoover to return to Saint Patrick's. I have discussed this with him and we have concluded together that at this time it would not be in the best interest of either Saint Patrick's or of Father Hoover himself. Therefore, I am about to begin the process of selecting a new pastor in the usual way, by inviting interested priests to apply. I hope that I can announce the assignment within several weeks.

Please continue to keep Father Hoover in your prayers. He will be away from the diocese in a counseling program for the next few months. When he and I first discussed the accusations against him, he admitted immediately to me that they were true and that several young men were involved, but that nothing happened again after that time. Now, in spite of all the publicity, there have been no further accusations of misconduct by Father Hoover and none occurring after 1960. It is clear that this problem was said to rest a long time ago. Unfortunately, the results of our misdeeds often last far longer than we can foresee. Several innocent and vulnerable persons were deeply affected by that misconduct. They need our prayers and support. Those who have requested help are receiving it.

I will continue to keep your parish community in my prayers. May the Lord Jesus fill your lives with peace and joy.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Joseph P. Delaney*  
Bishop of Fort Worth

10-04-04 Order  
0117

The Catholic Center

800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • 817/560-3300 • Fax 817/244-8839

In re: Hoover, William  
Date: January 17, 1996

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney  
Date: November 28, 1995  
In re: Father William Hoover

I met this morning with Father Hoover and the staff at [redacted] to discuss WH's progress in therapy and his plans for the future.

First, a report on how he is doing: [redacted]

He would like to come home in a couple of weeks [redacted]

He will be working on his after-care contract during the next couple of weeks. I have offered to have him live with me for temporarily while he waits for an opening at SPV, or even permanently. He will call me and tell me his wishes.

We discussed possible ministry. [redacted] has no reservations about WH returning to ministry, but WH feels that he needs time to see what he is able to do. He will probably be "retired" but active: possibilities include, representative to priests, helping Spanish ministry at Holy Name, Chap. of Faith, etc. After he is back and settled and has got his psychological & physical needs met, we will be able to discern better.

I met with [redacted] and the medical director/psychiatrist, Dr. [redacted]

Again all I did not learn much new, but was able to affirm all that WH is doing.

10-04-04 Order  
0118

In re: Hoover, William  
Date: February 7, 1996

CONFIDENTIAL FILES

MEMORANDUM

From: Bishop Delaney  
Date: November 28, 1995  
In re: Father William Hoover

from \_\_\_\_\_ called this afternoon to talk about W.H. He has  
agreed to stay on at \_\_\_\_\_ until March 20.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DOC \_\_\_\_\_ ADVISED.

CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order  
0119

In re: William Hoover

December 14, 1995

1. I spoke with WH. He is feeling well enough,

2. I spoke with his mother about her trip and reassured her that WH was doing fine and improving.

3. I spoke with \_\_\_\_\_ in the clinic department at \_\_\_\_\_ to express Bill's concern about how he would be able to function when he gets back there. She in touch with WH and the doctors and was fully aware of his condition.

12/19/95

I spoke w. WH the morning. He is doing well (both) and will be going back to the afternoon.

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED

1/2/96

I spoke w. \_\_\_\_\_ He is still confined to his room with short walks. The concern \_\_\_\_\_ otherwise, it's fine.

1/12/96

called yesterday to correct my report because the hospital in DC. I spoke w. WH. He is about the same. I will \_\_\_\_\_

10-04-04 Order  
0120

MEMORANDUM

Confidential

TO: Bishop Delaney

FROM: Fr. Joseph Schumacher

SUBJECT: Conversation with Hoover+ concerning Fr. William Hoover+

DATE: 25 April 1997, 9:30 a.m.

I received a call at St. Matthew parish from [redacted] while [redacted] was at DPAC. I returned the call on Monday, since it was an office number and I had returned "after" office hours. He asked if I would be the one to contact about a situation in which he and Fr. Hoover had been involved. I acknowledged I would be the one. He wanted to come to see and talk to me. I made an appointment today, at this hour. He wanted to see me at the parish and not at the Catholic Center, since he thought he might meet someone at the latter place, and he didn't want to be recognized.

In brief, he has in the last year come to remember and agonize over a sexual incident he had with Fr. Hoover in either [redacted]. He was either 10 or 12 years of age. His [redacted] was being married at [redacted] Church. [redacted] was to witness the ceremony. The night before the wedding, he and [redacted] (about 2 years older than he) were at the rehearsal. Following the rehearsal, [redacted] went to a rehearsal dinner. Fr. Bill Hoover, pastor, who had helped with the rehearsal, asked him to stay behind so he could show him where the different items were for the wedding. The sanctuary area was smaller than now; the vesting sacristy was off to the side and quite small. While the two of them were alone in the sacristy, Fr. Bill showing him things like the chalice, wine, etc., Bill began talking about masturbation. Bill touched him sexually. [redacted] couldn't/didn't say if he reached inside his trousers. He did say that Bill did not engage in oral sex nor in sodomy with him. After a while, Bill quit, and then took [redacted] to the place of rehearsal dinner. [redacted] was so upset about this, he forced himself [redacted] think it so deeply that he forgot it, until the news of Fr. Hoover's death was made public, recently.

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED

[redacted] is the middle of [redacted] children, Catholic parents - among the siblings. [redacted] is related to all the [redacted] nephew of [redacted], and also related to the [redacted] - a cousin to [redacted], and also related to the [redacted] - a cousin to [redacted]. He was born or [redacted] Upon finishing high school he [redacted] in the [redacted], attended school with them, [redacted]. He returned to Texas and entered [redacted], was majoring in [redacted] and with the [redacted].

10-04-04 Order  
0126

encouragement of his [redacted] professor changed to [redacted] though still taking elective courses which he could use if he decided to apply for [redacted]. He graduated with a degree in [redacted]. He has worked for [redacted] since then, some 24 years, where he is now a supervisor. His office is in [redacted]

[redacted]

They were married by [redacted]. His wife became a Catholic after their marriage. He is a [redacted]. In short he is acquainted with and close to many priests. He has had [redacted] and has received counseling for it. His [redacted] would not go with him, saying he had the problem. His [redacted] though nothing of the incident described with Fr. Hoover has ever come up.

[redacted] said he had so hidden the incident described above, involving him and Fr. Hoover, that he did not remember it until he read about Fr. Hoover's death in the newspaper. Since then it has caused him deep, traumatic grief. He can hardly talk about it to himself. He has not discussed this, he says, with anyone, including his [redacted]. But it is causing him deep anxiety; he knows he must get counseling to "get through this psychological trauma." He doesn't want to go to his own therapist; he wants someone who would know how to help him deal with this sexual abuse which is now causing him so much grief. He is asking for recommendations from us. I believe, since he mentioned that he isn't highly paid in his work, that he is also asking us for help in paying for such counseling. He did not ask for us to pay; he made no threats of any kind. He cried when speaking of the incident. He could not at the beginning verbalize it; he was silent for as long as 3 minutes when he tried to tell me about it. [redacted] began with his family then; he spoke more freely, worked into his education and work, then into his marital difficulties, and finally he got to the incident with Fr. Hoover mentioned earlier. [redacted]

DOCUMENT NOT TO BE REPRODUCED



[redacted]



seems to be a honest, truthful person, deeply disturbed psychologically, who wants to put closure to his present remembrances of what happened in 1960 or 1962. I told him that I would tell you and Fr. Wilson about what we had discussed. I told him that Fr. Wilson had his graduate degree in psychology and would be able to suggest a therapist to work with him. I said I would be in contact with him the end of next week, since Fr. Wilson was out of town at this time.

When he tried to talk to me at the beginning, tears would well up in his eyes.

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED.  
(I can get the exact date of the marriage of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ to ascertain if  
this initial information is correct.)

CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order  
0128

The Catholic Center  
800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, Texas 76108-2919 • 817/560-3300 • Fax 817/244-8839

Memorandum to the Files

From JAS

Concerning

May 15, 1997

I talked to Duffy Gardner and told him about \_\_\_\_\_ and his conversation with me last April. I told Duffy we would be willing to work with \_\_\_\_\_ since it seemed that what \_\_\_\_\_ needed was counseling. Duffy said that would be okay with Dallas, that they had enough problems already with their very public case of Kos. Duffy said they would be willing to talk to \_\_\_\_\_ if he wanted it to see if they could come to a settlement which would help him. I told him that \_\_\_\_\_ hadn't even told his wife and wanted to keep it confidential. We will contact a counselor here and see if that is what will help.

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED.

10-04-04 Order  
0129

Hoover, Wm

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fr. Bob Wilson and Bishop Joe Delaney  
FROM: JAS  
SUBJECT:  
DATE: September 17, 1997

My machine and the "network" locked up. I couldn't send this following message by E-Mail, so here goes a rewrite

I got a call from [redacted] and told him that the person from whom we first heard about W. H. has not revealed his name to the public nor was he seen or identified precisely on television (It was a blacken image.) When he gave an interview.

For this reason, I told [redacted] that we would need to get in touch with this gentleman and get his permission to pass on his name and phone number to

I believe you have that information, Bob -- or perhaps the bishop does??

At the time that first individual came to us, he was living away from his [redacted]

[redacted] I don't know if he and his [redacted] reconciled or not or what happened to him. I do believe we paid for some counseling for him.

Let me know and I'll call back to [redacted] number with [redacted] doesn't know of any of this.

leaves his work [redacted], since [redacted]

10-04-04 Order  
0130

Hoover, Wm  
9-24-97

Joe Schumacher

From: Joe Schumacher  
Sent: Wednesday, September 24, 1997 10:22 AM  
To: Robert Wilson  
Cc: Bishop Delaney

I talked to [redacted] this morning. I told him that the individual to whom he wished to talk had never gone public, that he did not give his name to the newspaper people nor to the TV reporter, that he had his face shielded out when he appeared only in profile for the latter interview. I also told him that the man was separated from his wife when he talked to me and as far as I knew did not get back with her, so I wouldn't know his address nor phone number, and that he quite probably wouldn't want to have his name or whereabouts made public now. [redacted] said he was disappointed but he understood. I then answered my enquiry as to when the incident happened by saying he didn't remember exactly but it was when [redacted] got married at [redacted] about 1961. I then [redacted] and asked for a copy of that marriage record to be sent me to the C.C. I then [redacted] to [redacted] that Ft. Worth was in Dallas-Ft. Worth Diocese then and he acknowledged he knew [redacted] was all in that Dallas Diocese then. I asked him how the counseling was coming along, he said, "Okay." I said I had heard on [redacted] in general that he was doing fine with it and of course we knew it because we had offered to bear the cost. I told [redacted] also, that we would do this for anyone who needed counseling but couldn't afford it; he said he knew that.

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED.

Dear Fr. Schumacher,

Please refer to the attached letter. I am asking the person I read about in the paper to contact me. I am assuming you have an address for him. Please forward my letter to him. Please advise me if you are willing and able to do this. Thank you.

DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED.

CONFIDENTIAL

10-04-04 Order  
0132