

**CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS CONCERNING
THE SUSPENSION OF FATHER EDMUND PENISTEN
NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2010**

Friday, November 12, 2010: Robbie Izzard, Diocesan Safe Environment and Child Protection Coordinator, receives messages from Covenant Eyes monitoring program, indicating that pornographic websites might have been accessed from Saint Gregory Nazianzen Parish computers in Sitka. She consults with Father Pat Travers, diocesan canon lawyer and vicar general. Bishop Edward Burns is on the East Coast for the meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Saturday, November 13, 2010: Father Travers telephones Bishop Burns, who asks Father Travers to travel to Sitka the next day to confront Father Penisten, inform Father Penisten that he is indefinitely suspended from public ministry, help Father Penisten to wrap up his affairs in Sitka, and accompany Father Penisten from Sitka to Juneau.

Sunday, November 14, 2010: Father Travers flies from Juneau to Sitka in the morning, and encounters Father Penisten immediately after the last Sunday morning Mass at Saint Gregory's. He presents the Covenant Eyes information to Father Penisten, who acknowledges that he viewed the identified websites. Father Travers then informs Father Penisten of Father Penisten's immediate suspension from public priestly ministry, and of the requirement that he accompany Father Travers that evening to Juneau, where Father Penisten will await further developments. They then telephone Bishop Burns, who confirms these actions, and informs Father Penisten that he may not wear clerical dress and may celebrate Mass only in private. He also confirms that, in accordance with diocesan policy, the Diocese will inform civil law enforcement authorities of what has happened. That night, Fathers Travers and Penisten travel by air to Juneau, where Father Penisten takes up residence in the Saint Paul Parish rectory.

Monday, November 15, 2010: Father Penisten informs the other priests of the Diocese of his situation during their weekly conference call. Bishop Burns confirms and elaborates on what has happened and its immediate implications. Civil law enforcement authorities are contacted. Fr. Penisten was put into contact with a local psychologist for assistance until extensive evaluation could take place out of state.

Tuesday, November 16, 2010: Sitka Police obtain the Saint Gregory's Parish office computers. They are sent to a special unit in Anchorage for examination. Bishop Burns is kept informed by telephone and email, and asks Father Jim Blaney, O.M.I., the Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Haines and Skagway, to serve Saint Gregory's the following weekend.

Wednesday-Friday, November 17-19, 2010: Bishop Burns, assisted by Father Travers, prepares a statement on Father Penisten's situation to be presented that weekend to the parishioners of Saint Gregory's. He confirms that he will be at Saint Gregory's in person the following two weekends, and that he will hold a town hall meeting for all parishioners when he arrives on the evening of Saturday, November 27.

Saturday-Sunday, November 20-21, 2010: Bishop Burns' statement is presented by Father Blaney at all weekend Masses at Saint Gregory's, as well as in the Parish bulletin.

Monday-Wednesday, November 22-24, 2010: Bishop Burns' statement and an additional message from him are placed on the Diocese of Juneau website. Initial inquiries about the situation are received by Father Travers from public radio journalists in Sitka and Petersburg, and a story is broadcast on the Petersburg public radio station, appearing also on its website.

Friday, November 26, 2010: Bishop Burns calls for a meeting of the Diocesan Review Board on the Protection of Children and Young People for early the following week after his arrival into Juneau.

Saturday, November 27, 2010: Bishop Burns arrives in Sitka in the early evening, and immediately meets with the Parish Council of Saint Gregory's. He then meets at length with about 100 parishioners in the town hall meeting, listening to and addressing their concerns and suggestions. The meeting is followed by Eucharistic Adoration.

Sunday, November 28, 2010: Bishop Burns celebrates the annual Saint Gregory's Centennial Hall Mass. He meets with individual staff members and parishioners, and with the detective assigned to the case involving Father Penisten. He arrives in Juneau that evening.

Monday, November 29, 2010: Bishop Burns meets with Fr. Penisten, discusses the implications of his actions and asks for his formal resignation as pastor of St. Gregory's.

Monday-Tuesday, November 29-30, 2010: Bishop Burns, Robbie Izzard, and Father Travers continue to consult on matters such as press inquiries and contacts with civil law enforcement authorities. An article on the situation appears in the *Sitka Sentinel* newspaper. With clearance from the Sitka Assistant District Attorney and Police Department, Bishop Burns decides to send Father Penisten for an assessment at an institution outside the state.

Wednesday, December 1, 2010: In the morning, Bishop Burns meets with staff of the Diocese and of the two Juneau Parishes to inform and discuss with them the latest developments concerning Father Penisten. That evening, he meets with the Diocesan Review Board for the same purpose, and to elicit any recommendations that they might have.

Thursday, December 2, 2010: Bishop Burns spends the afternoon with Fr. Penisten and the two of them celebrate Mass privately at the Shrine of St. Therese. An extensive article on the situation appears in the *Ketchikan Daily News*.

Friday, December 3, 2010: Bishop Burns schedules a town hall meeting the following Monday at Holy Name Parish in Ketchikan where Father Penisten had recently been pastor. He agrees with Father Travers to have another town hall meeting the following Tuesday at Saint Paul's Parish in Juneau, open to parishioners of both Juneau Parishes.

Saturday, December 4, 2010: Bishop Burns arrives in Sitka and meets with the accountant and the Parish Council of St. Gregory's. He celebrates the weekend Masses at Saint Gregory's, and meets with parishioners individually.

Sunday, December 5, 2010: Bishop Burns celebrates the Sunday Masses, had a town hall meeting with the youth of the parish, visited the sick, hosted an open house for the parishioners in the rectory and met with the Jesuit Volunteers in the evening.

Monday, December 6, 2010: Bishop Burns met with the Assistant District Attorney and the detective from the Sitka Police Department. Bishop Burns conducts an interview for the local public radio station. He then travels to the town hall meeting at Holy Name Parish in Ketchikan.

Tuesday, December 7, 2010: Bishop Burns conducts a town hall meeting for the Catholic Community in Juneau.

Wednesday, December 8, 2010: Bishop Burns meets with Fr. Penisten and his father who traveled to Juneau to be with his son.

Thursday, December 9, 2010: Bishop Burns writes to the parents of Holy Name School community in order to assure complete communication with them. The Diocese continues to wait for the report from law enforcement agencies.

Friday, December 10, 2010: Bishop Burns meets with Fr. Penisten to celebrate Mass privately and later pray the Liturgy of the Hours in the evening with the priests stationed in Juneau prior to Fr. Penisten's departure.

Saturday, December 11, 2010: Fr. Penisten leaves for evaluation and assessment.

Thursday, December 16, 2010: Bishop Burns calls the law enforcement regarding the outcome of their inquiry and learns that there is nothing to report as of yet.

Friday, December 17, 2010: Bishop Burns and Fr. Travers are part of a conference call with the support team of professionals as well as Fr. Penisten to review his evaluation. It was recommended that Fr. Penisten enter into further assessment and treatment in a residential program. Bishop Burns agrees and supports Fr. Penisten's participation in this program. The length of time of participation is undetermined and pending further reports.