

MEMORANDUM

TO: His Eminence
FROM: Father Graf
DATE: October 31, 1984
RE: Reverend James J. Brzyski (1971)

Your Eminence:

There have been a few events that I would like to bring to your attention concerning the Father Brzyski situation.

On Tuesday, October 25, 1984, Father James Gigliotti, T.O.R., called from Bishop Egan High School. Father had been asked by the Chancery to monitor the young men who were involved in the Brzyski situation, especially and Father, on that day, expressed no undue concern about the present psychological responses. However, Father Gigliotti did share this case with a Dr. Thomas Daniels, who was hired by the Catholic School system to do psychological counseling in our high schools. Father wanted me to know that Dr. Daniels felt that it was important in matters of abuse, physical or sexual, that the victims be confronted openly and that they be allowed to ventilate their fears and feelings. The doctor only wanted us to consider that possibility and offer his assistance.

I expressed to the doctor by phone that I had personally spoken with the boy when the situation first occurred. I told the boy of our concern and offered our help if needed and said that we were aware of the seriousness. To the boy, we made no such contact. I expressed to the doctor that we were grateful for his concern, however because of the sensitivity of the situation, we would ask him to do nothing until we would get back to him and we hoped that he would respect our wishes, especially in regard to the confidentiality of the issue.

In considering Dr. Daniel's request, I called Father Michael Peterson, the director of St. Luke's Institute and expressed the counselor's wishes to speak with the boys. I asked Dr. Peterson if he felt that that kind of approach was necessary. Father speculated that there are occasions when the victim of abuse should be confronted and that it was a difficult judgement to make. However, Father Peterson made a perhaps more important suggestion for us to consider. Father had just been on a workshop in Maryland concerning the subject of sex abuse across the country.

In addition to the above considerations, Your Eminence, on Tuesday, October 30, I received a second call from Father Gigliotti. Father reminded me of another name that was brought up during the initial facts of this case--a boy by the name of . The mother of approached Father Gigliotti with the following information. Her daughter had come home the night before, having run into . The daughter related that told her in conversation that Father Brzyski was indeed a homosexual.

A memo from Assistant Chancellor John Graf to Cardinal Krol regarding Fr. Brzyski. The aide reports telling a psychologist at Bishop Egan High School to avoid counseling one of Fr. Brzyski's victims in order to retain "confidentiality." Part of the memo was whited-out before the Archdiocese turned it over to the Grand Jury. GJ-202

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He said that because of the case which came up at St. Cecelia's investigations were taking place that were traced back to St. John's in Lower Makefield and that these problems involved several boys. At this time, the girl broke down in tears because she knew her brother had been friendly with Father Brzyski.

Father Gigliotti did calm down and told here that some of the information she had was not true. Father Gigliotti said that he felt justified in saying that because the boy's story was not altogether correct. Father Gigliotti's concern at the present time is that these stories somewhat true and somewhat false are beginning to be ventilated by the boy. He wished to make us aware of that situation.

Respectfully submitted,



John W. Gras
Assistant Chancellor

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