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ST. LOUIS ROMAN CATHOLIC  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

September 19, 1996

TO: Archbishop Rigali

FROM: Msgr. George Lucas *GL*

RE: Father Norman Christian

The Advisory Committee, constituted to give you advice about cases where a priest has been accused of sexual abuse of a minor, met on September 19, 1996. At the meeting we discussed the case of Father Norman Christian. It is our recommendation that Father Christian not be returned to ministry. We think it would be good for him to remain at Wounded Brothers, if possible, and with their assistance seek some kind of secular employment for his support. We recommend that Fr. Christian not be given priestly faculties to minister in any kind of public setting. We suggest that he follow the recommendations made by the St. Louis Consultation Center for his ongoing recovery at the time of his completion of their intensive program, including the follow-up session in January, 1997.

We do not think that it will be advisable to assign Fr. Christian to any kind of priestly ministry in the foreseeable future. We base this on his history of acting out sexually and on the judgement of the professionals at the Consultation Center. While they think that some very limited ministry might be possible where he would have no contact with minors, we do not think that a ministry which would be restrictive enough exists in the Archdiocese. Fr. Christian is seen as too great a risk for acting out, and if he were to minister in any capacity as a priest in good standing, we are afraid that you could not really give him your full confidence, which the people have a right to expect in any of our priests. As a practical matter, it is not really possible to restrict a priest's contact with young people, if they seek him out or he seeks them out. Since that is the reality, we think it is better not to put Fr. Christian or any one else in jeopardy.