

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF WICHITA



CHANCERY OFFICE
424 North Broadway, Wichita, KS 67202
316-269-3900

CONFIDENTIAL

20 April 1995


Mr. Roy L. Albert
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

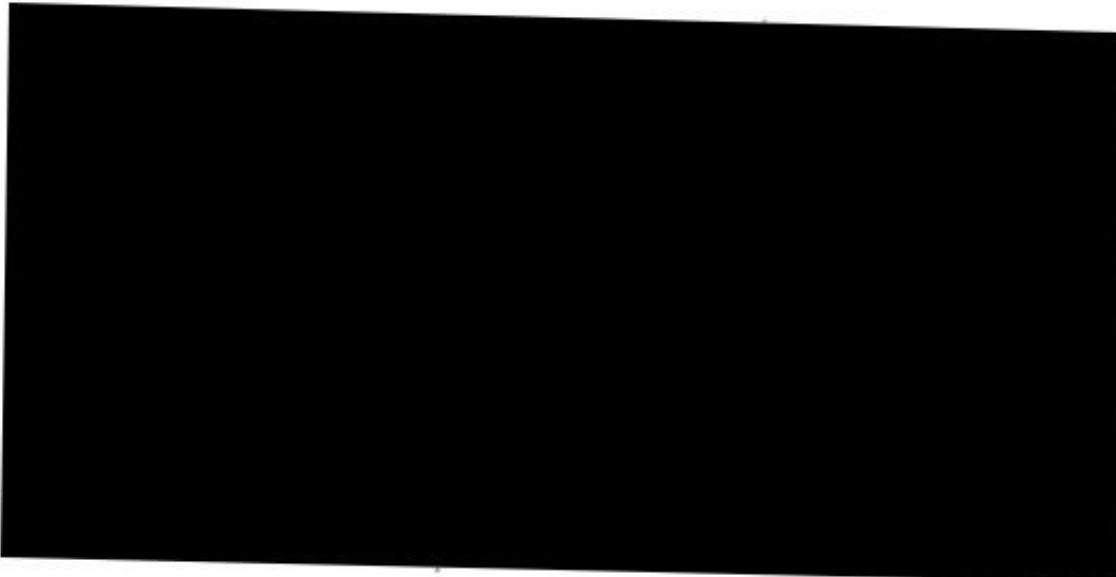
Dear Mr. Albert:

Too much time has passed since you and I began our conversations a year ago now. But you and I know that you presented a complicated story of pain, an extraordinary collection of cases, stretching over so many people, as it does, and especially over so many years. I have done my best to absorb what you told me, to analyze what you told me, and to seek advice about what you told me. May I give you my reading of it all now: to tell you what I see in it, and why I see it?

First, WHAT are we prepared to do for you? We are prepared to stand the cost of a formal psychiatric evaluation for you, Eugene, and Donald (up to \$1,000 for each of you). Depending on the recommendations coming out of those evaluations, we are prepared to discuss the provision of regular therapy for a determined period. How much of that cost we would stand, and even whether we would stand that cost, depends on the nature of the recommendations. Bishop Gerber has been kept apprised of this investigation throughout, and he understands what I am now writing to you.

Second, WHY have we reached these conclusions? I want to share these reasons with you as fully as I can, for I want you to know that we have spared no effort to get to the bottom of the claims you and your brothers have made. In essence, I shall be reviewing the steps I have taken over the year.







* With respect to the three brothers: it is beyond doubt that each claims molestation by Father Wheeler on at least two occasions; and that two of you claim molestation during that trip to Boys Town in July 1957.

Father Wheeler, before he died, flatly denied all these allegations. Further, there is nothing in Father Wheeler's file or in his history that would suggest any such problem. The burden of proof remains on you, therefore. And what you offer as proof is nothing more than your word against his. I am reduced to weighing a "they said" against a "he said."

My legal advisors tell me there is nothing here. My mental health advisors tell me there could be some possibility to the story. I simply cannot reach a proper conclusion under these conditions. Hence, the offer of formal evaluation for the three of you; hence, the willingness to consider a reputable therapist's findings.





* With respect to some nagging questions: when I think over our conversations of these past twelve months, I am struck by a couple of things that have always aroused my suspicions: a couple of things that always led me to wonder about your own motives.

I know, from conversations with the three of you, that a good long time passed after you found [REDACTED] materials before you ever approached the Church with your complaints. And that "good long time" was filled with conversations with attorneys in California and in Kansas. My experience has been that most people, devastated by such a discovery, go first to the supposed source of the problem. You did not, apparently, until you had explored all your legal options.

I know, from conversations with the three of you, that a hint of threat has been present in nearly every exchange. You have hinted at how terrible this would be if it ever became public. You have hinted that you had been contacted by three major newspapers wanting the story. You have hinted that some in the family want to contact Father Greeley and have him write a book. You have hinted that all of you are positively driven to get [REDACTED] story out. Someone in the family (I presume) dropped such a hint, in fact, to the WICHITA EAGLE's Opinion Line early in January. My experience has been that most people, carrying

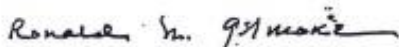
such a burden, want relief from it first and foremost, and thus they want professional therapy above all. You reach for it in a most curious fashion.

You know, and the three of you should know, again from our various conversations, that my overriding concern has been with the truth of your claims, and not with publicity or the lack of it. Indeed I have told you on several occasions that I did not care who knew about it: if we have done something wrong, we will move heaven and earth to make it right.

You know, and I know too from reviewing your histories, that life has not been altogether kind to you. I am keenly sensitive to that fact. And I shrink from adding unkindness to unkindness. But I can go no further than my perception of the truth takes me.

Hence, my expression of that perception, Roy, and the reasons for it. As you know, I shall be happy to discuss any part of this letter with you, and particularly so if you have additional evidence to suggest. I await your reply.

Sincerely yours,


Rev. Ronald M. Gilmore
Vicar General