

MEMO

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TO: Archbishop Flynn
FROM: Fr. Kevin McDonough
DATE: February 2, 2006
RE: Father Michael Keating

Archbishop, I would like to provide an overall summary of what is happening with Father Keating. I am sorry that the timing of my vacation means that I will be away for two weeks, just as this investigation is really taking shape. I have kept Andy Eisenzimmer fully informed, and he in turn has kept me well informed also. I know that Andy can keep all of this moving in my absence.

I met with [REDACTED] on Monday and Tuesday, January 30 and 31. The first of those meetings was set up by Andy, and he had spoken on at least two occasions with [REDACTED]

Without reciting all of the detail here, let me summarize to say the concerns are as follows.

- 1) Father Keating and [REDACTED] were engaged in a relationship that she found deeply confusing. Father Keating (before he was a priest) spent many many hours in their home and was very attentive to her. When finally she and her husband spoke with Michael Keating about putting their relationship back on a proper footing, he seemed both unaware of any inappropriateness and unwilling to take any responsibility in the relationship.
- 2) While this is of concern, even more challenging is that Michael Keating (before his ordination) had an equally confusing relationship with the young daughter of [REDACTED]. At the time I first visited with the [REDACTED], [REDACTED] was hospitalized in a psychiatric unit, dealing with the trauma of her emotional relationship with Michael Keating. To make matters worse, [REDACTED] has recalled at least one occasion in which Michael's behavior with her may have constituted sexual abuse. At the time I am sending you this memo, we have either already reported this to public safety officials in Chisago County, or are about to do so. She recalls only one such incident, which involved Michael Keating rubbing her chest for a prolonged period of time. She was about thirteen then.
- 3) [REDACTED], with whom I spoke directly on February 1, believes that Michael Keating had very emotionally intense and perhaps physically sexual relationships with two under aged young women. We are currently trying to track down information about

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that. One is named [REDACTED], and she lives in Italy. Michael Keating befriended [REDACTED] when he was a seminarian in Rome. A number of people have commented on the intensely connected emotional relationship that Michael Keating and [REDACTED] had, and a variety of kisses and other embraces that were publicly visible. The other young woman, whose name I do not know, was someone with whose family he lived about fifteen years ago. [REDACTED] reports that this young woman is still carrying a great deal of emotional distress because of the relationship that she had with Michael Keating. [REDACTED] is not in direct contact with this woman but rather with another woman who knows her. I have contacted the other woman, someone living the consecrated life in Michigan, and have asked for her help.

Archbishop, it is not clear at this point where all of this will go. I would suggest that there are one of two outcomes likely. The better of the two, from the point of view of Michael Keating's continuation in priestly ministry is that he has never committed any form of sexual abuse or even improper sexual engagement with an adult, but has a deep inability to understand when a relationship with a woman has crossed emotional boundaries. If this is the case, I will suggest that we have him undergo a psychological assessment and then follow through on the results of that.

Of course, the other possibility is far more painful to imagine. It may be that the Chisago County officials will find that Father Keating's behavior with [REDACTED] constitutes and act of sexual abuse. Or, even if they decline to investigate a matter which is now some years old, it may be that our investigation will come to the same conclusion, either in her regard or in regard to one of these two other young women. If that is so, then we will be required to invoke the provisions of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Since we have turned the only concrete story that we have over to the police, I do not think we should take any steps for limiting his ministry currently. The police will want to perform their investigation unimpeded. When they permit us to move ahead and speak with him, then I believe we will have to ask him to step back from his teaching.

cc: Andy Eisenzimmer