



May 9, 2014

Archdiocesan Statement regarding Harry Quigg

In 2004, Archbishop Alex J. Brunett asked the the Archdiocesan Case Review Board to review the cases of 13 accused priests, including Father Harry Quigg. The board concluded that Quigg had engaged in sexual contact with a 17 year old in 1980. Subsequent to 1980, Quigg and the complainant engaged in a 15-year relationship. Because the age of consent under canon law was 16, the board concluded that the contact did not constitute sexual abuse of a minor under canon law. There are no other known allegations against Harry Quigg.

Because the Archdiocesan Case Review Board considered Quigg's violation egregious, it recommended to Archbishop Brunett that he was not suitable for priestly ministry. The board also recommended public notification of the decision. Because the determination was made that Quigg's behavior was not sexual abuse of a minor, according to canon law, but serious sexual misconduct, the Archbishop determined that his situation should be under the purview of the archdiocesan Vicar for Clergy Office. For the same reason, the Archbishop decided the information would not be made public.

Archbishop Brunett then informed Quigg, in person and in writing, that he was not eligible to participate in any public priestly ministry, present himself publicly as a priest, or wear clerical garb. Quigg agreed to the restrictions placed upon him and committed to participate in the Archdiocesan Relapse Prevention Program, which included monitoring by a qualified third-party monitor with experience supervising sexual offenders. Later in 2004, the Archbishop learned Quigg had violated his restrictions by celebrating a Mass publicly. He then informed Quigg that he would be laicized if there were any further violations. Quigg responded in writing, asking for forgiveness and pledging his adherence to the restrictions.

It is evident from what the Archdiocese has learned recently that Harry Quigg has not complied with the terms of his ministry restrictions. Moreover, parish leadership at parishes where Quigg had served was unaware of Quigg's restrictions. It is also clear, given this information, that the steps taken by the Archdiocese were not sufficient to alert us of Quigg's violations of the restrictions on the celebration of the sacraments. The Archdiocese will make changes to minimize the chances of this type of situation from occurring again, including alerting parish leadership when ministerial restrictions are put in place. In consultation with the current Archdiocesan Review Board, the Archdiocese also will review our monitoring systems, especially those related to priests who have abused minors, and the issue of public notification in cases of adult sexual misconduct.

The Archdiocese of Seattle takes the abuse of power and exploitation of the vulnerable, whether minors or adults, very seriously. This type of behavior is the opposite of what the Church stands for as Christ's instrument in society. Any violation of trust on the part of those serving in ministry is sinful and unacceptable. We promise to learn from this experience and continue to improve our policies and practices so that priests who are not qualified to serve in ministry or present themselves publicly as priests are prevented from doing so to the greatest extent possible.

Anyone who has knowledge of sexual abuse or misconduct by Harry Quigg, or any member of the clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Archdiocese of Seattle is urged to call the archdiocesan hotline at 1-800-446-7762.