

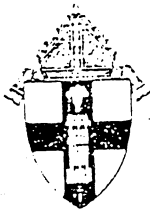
CONFIDENTIAL

6/2/80

FATHER JOHN POIRIER

1978

Will be going to Londonderry. Bishop Mulvee tells me that you are very happy with the assignment. We are grateful for all that you have done at Franklin where you have served for some years. I am delighted that the problem that materialized two years ago has now been solved, and that you are proceeding very well in this area. There is a lot of work to be done at Londonderry by a young man with your enthusiasm, and I know that you and Father Donnelly will get along very well.



SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND CANONICAL AFFAIRS

Diocese of Manchester, 153 Ash Street, P.O. Box 310, Manchester, NH 03105-0310 603-669-3100

December 29, 1988

PERSONAL/CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Henry P. Ouellette, Ph.D.
Director, Consultation Service for
Clergy and Religious
282 Concord Street
Manchester, NH 03104

Dear Dr. Ouellette:

On December 28, 1988, I had a very constructive although, I am sure, painful for him, meeting with Father John Poirier. Father Poirier revealed to me that he has been in counseling with you for a number of years, and has requested that I share with you the information I discussed with him so that the Diocese can assist you in providing him the best assistance possible. In the productive and cooperative meeting that we had, I shared the following with Father Poirier:

- a. that I had recently become aware of his compulsive homosexual lifestyle;
- b. that the area of his activity is normally Worcester, where he frequently has picked up other males of various ages;
- c. that he normally engages in oral sex with these people;
- d. that he has had himself checked for AIDS and, thankfully, has tested negative for this disease.

Father Poirier has freely admitted to the substantial truth of these facts and recognizes his compulsive behavior poses a serious legal threat to him as well as, should some sort of scandal occur, a threat to his ability to continue functioning as a priest. As a result, Father Poirier wants to do whatever is necessary to confront and control his problem in a more direct fashion. He recognizes that it may not be possible for him to stay in the Marlborough area because of his lack of control at this time, given the other recent problems of a similar nature which have surfaced in that part of the state.

He also shared with me, however, some feeling that maybe it would be better for him in any case to take a sick leave so that he could give the time and energy needed to truly come to grips with this problem. No final decisions have been made in this regard, as he wants to discuss these questions with you. He seems open to the possibility of some form of inpatient care, should you and he deem that appropriate. He plans to discuss the contents of this letter with you at the meeting you have scheduled for Wednesday, January 4th, 1989.

I told Father Poirier that the Diocese recognizes his disorder as a compulsive and addictive problem which we want him to control so that he can continue to be an effective priest. I shared with him our belief that he has many gifts to offer the Church, and that, in spite of his problem, he has done a great deal of good in his priestly ministry. We want to help him bring the problem under control so that he can be even more happy and effective as a priest. Thankfully, the people who have revealed his problem to me have the same desire, i.e., they are not vindictive and wish him no harm. Rather, they only want his good.

I suggested that after you discussed these matters with him it might be good for the three of us to meet to decide what the next step should be. Hopefully, within the next two or three weeks we could have an agreed upon plan of action. I will wait to hear from you in this regard, and wish to assure you of my willingness to be of whatever help to Father Poirier I can in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

TR Down Paul

701

May 3, 1989

Rev. Donald R. Hands, Ph.D.
Primary Therapist
Saint Barnabas Center
34810 Pabst Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Dear Rev. Hands:

Thank you for your letter of April 26 in reference to Father John Poirier. The Diocese of Manchester is most grateful to you for all you are doing for John, and are hopeful that his therapy will be beneficial and enable him to gain control of his addictive behavior. We certainly look forward to having an updated report in regard to him at the appropriate time.

I had suggested to Father Poirier before he left that it would be most helpful for him to discuss with you at the proper moment during treatment two questions: First of all, whether he should return to priestly ministry given the state of his control over his problem; and secondly, if it is his decision with your encouragement to do that, what sort of ministry would be most helpful to him. Insofar as our personnel situation permits, the Bishop is certainly open to assigning John to whatever ministry will be most supportive and helpful to him. I would look forward to discussing these questions with him and you or a member of your staff when you deem it appropriate to do so.

Thank you again for your assistance to him.

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

May 31, 1989

CONFIDENTIAL

Very Rev. Daniel O. Lamothe, V.F.
St. Joseph Rectory
150 Central Avenue
Dover, New Hampshire 03820

Dear Father Lamothe:

I write in reference to our recent telephone conversation regarding Father John Poirier who has been assigned Associate Pastor of St. Joseph in Dover effective June 15, 1989.

As you know, Father Poirier has been in treatment at St. Barnabas Center in Milwaukee. I have recently received a written evaluation from this Center, and I wish to quote from it for your information. "It is our staff's consensus that John could return to general parish work and that this would preferably be in or near an urban area. We also recommend strongly that he work with another priest and not live alone. He has made very good progress in his recovery, ... We do not regard him as a danger or liability to individuals or to the Diocese as long as he continues his good progress and recovery." The report does indicate one area of ministry that Father Poirier should not immediately engage in. Again I quote. "It is our recommendation that John be allowed to do youth ministry as part of a general parish work assignment after he has his support group and peer relationships in order. This may take a couple of months. In other words, he should not do youth work unless he has a sound system of peer support and adult relationships established.

As his Pastor, I would ask you to take this recommendation regarding youth work into consideration, and to be sure that the substance of the St. Barnabas Center is met prior to John doing any youth ministry. If you have any further questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

November 8, 1989

Reverend John H. Peterson
Aftercare Director
Saint Barnabas Center
34810 Pabst Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53006

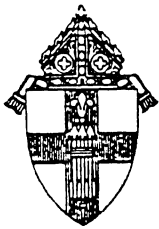
Dear Reverend Peterson:

Thank you for your letter of October 30th in reference to Father John Poirier. I have spoken with John on the subject of attending the first Aftercare workshop and have asked him to call you to discuss this matter directly. John assures me that he will be in touch with you in the near future.

Thanking you for bringing this matter to my attention and for all the assistance you and your staff at Saint Barnabas have given to John, I am,

Cordially in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor



Secretariat for Pastoral Services
Diocese of Manchester

June 16, 1993

Rev. John R. Poirier
St. Joseph Rectory
150 Central Avenue
Dover, N.H. 03820

Dear John:

I am just cleaning a few things off my desk before leaving for a week's vacation.

Just a reminder that I have not yet received your letter about the matters we discussed in a recent telephone conversation. Would you please put in writing the details of the time and place of the various meetings you are attending so that I can have that for the sake of the record.

Thanking you for your attention to this matter, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

150 CENTRAL AVENUE

DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03820

(603) 742-4837

June 18, 1993

MEMO TO: Msgr. Francis J. Christian

FROM: Rev. John R. Poirier

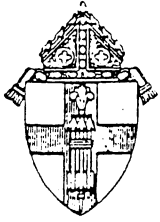
FOR THE RECORD

I am presently attending at least one S.L.A.A. (Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous) meeting from Noon to One P.M. at the Unitarian Universalist Church on State Street in Portsmouth, N.H. The meetings are held at that time on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.

I have also obtained the advise of a sponsor in the program.

SINCERELY,

John R. Poirier



Secretariat for Pastoral Services
Diocese of Manchester

October 13, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: FILE

RE: Father John R. Poirier

I spoke on October 11th with Father John Poirier, to discuss his ongoing recovery.

He reports that he continues to be in recovery with no slips of any sort for four years. He continues to go to a weekly SLAA meeting in one of the group meetings in the seacoast area. Usually, that is in Portsmouth or Newbury. Occasionally he goes to Concord. He continues to meet with Dr. Lanes about twice a year for the monitoring of his medications. He also has met fairly regularly with Dr. Michael Noonan. Recently he felt that he and Dr. Noonan had finished making progress, and so he has now switched to Dr. Joel Klein. He is seeing him weekly for a period of ten weeks, then will see him regularly several times a year.

Father Poirier is happy in his parish ministry, and feels that he is doing good and productive work. He feels, in summary, that he is in as good a place in every way as he has been for many years.

Francis J. Christian

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

CONFIDENTIAL

January 17, 1991

RE: Rev. John R. Poirier

On January 10th, 1991, I met with Father Daniel Lamothe, Pastor of Saint Joseph Church in Dover. He met with me because of his growing concern and fear that Father John Poirier's recovery from sexual addiction was in peril. Father Lamothe reported 3 concerns: (1) that for the last six months Father Poirier has not attended any of his Sexual Addiction Support Group meetings or the Priest Support Group meetings; (2) Father Poirier has admitted to him that in this time he has slipped on several occasions (Father Lamothe indicates that he believes that there have been at least six such slips, some of them in the Concord and Manchester area; at least one or two where Father Poirier was lucky not to be picked by up the law); (3) Father Poirier has developed some close friendships with two teenage boys in his parish which he is afraid might lead to some problems. Father Lamothe indicated that he had accompanied Father Poirier on two occasions to his counseling sessions with Dr. Ouellette to express these concerns, and that Dr. Ouellette also was concerned about them. He indicated to me that he did not want to be responsible for Father Poirier any longer, unless Father Poirier did something to get back on track. He was willing to have Father Poirier stay at Saint Joseph's only if he dealt in a serious way with the problems which have surfaced.

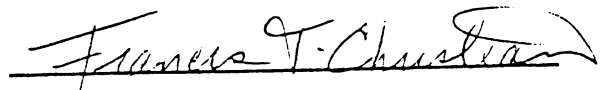
Subsequent to my meeting with Father Lamothe I spoke with Dr. Ouellelte. He was relieved that Father Lamothe had come to see me, and

-2-

readily agreed to all of the points Father Lamothe had made. In discussion, we agreed that the best course of action at present would be for Father Poirier to return to Saint Barnabas for inpatient therapy.

I met with Father Poirier on January 16, 1991. It was a cordial meeting, and Father Poirier seemed relieved that the Diocese once again was aware of his problem and wanted to help him. He admitted that his recovery had been side-tracked, and that something needed to be done. After some discussion about options, he agreed that the wisest thing was for him to return to Saint Barnabas, which he was willing to do. He was relieved to hear that he could remain at Saint Joseph's if he got his recovery back on track. As part of our discussions I once again reminded Father Poirier that any public notoriety involved with his compulsive behavior would be the end of his priestly ministry here in the Diocese of Manchester. I expressed concern about this and about the disease factor, and explained to him that while I understood the compulsive nature of his problems, he really needed to get them under control for the sake of the reasons mentioned above.

After my meeting with Father Poirier I spoke again with Dr. Ouellette. He was happy to hear about Father Poirier's willingness to return to Saint Barnabas, and was willing to make the necessary arrangements as soon as it was possible for him to do so.



(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

May 4, 1993

CONFIDENTIAL

Rev. John R. Poirier
St. Joseph Rectory
150 Central Avenue
Dover, NH 03820

Dear John:

I am grateful to you and Dan Lamothe for meeting with me on May 3rd. I think it was a very productive discussion, and am very pleased that you continue to be in a good position in regard to your recovery. The aftercare workshop at St. Barnabas certainly seems to have been a good experience for you.

For the sake of the record I want to remind you that we have agreed that you need to make participation in some form of twelve-step group a priority. Please be in touch with me, in writing, by the end of May to give me the specifics of what you have decided upon in this regard. Also, as we discussed, for the sake of your own safety please avoid socializing with anyone under twenty-one years of age. It would be preferable in those situations to not place yourself in a position where you are alone with someone insofar as that is possible.

In conclusion, John, please know the Diocese values your ministry which, as Dan indicates, has been progressively fruitful and productive over the last several years. It is for this reason we are so concerned that you do everything possible to make sure you continue in recovery. Please call upon me at any time if I can be of any assistance to you.

In closing, since we have agreed that you will stay at least one more year in Dover, may I suggest that sometime within the next six months we meet again, perhaps with Bishop O'Neil, to discuss the appropriate future directions for your ministry.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

cc: Very Rev. Daniel O. Lamothe, V.F.

FEBRUARY 13, 2002

CONFIDENTIAL FOR THE FILE

Recollections of information on molestation of a minor by Father John Poirier in the absence of any written records in the Diocesan archives including the secret archives. I wish to detail here my recollections of one incident known to me of inappropriate behavior with a minor by Father John Poirier. I came to know of this incident, which occurred sometime between the years of 1970-75(?) while he was Associate Pastor in Franklin. I learned of the incident when I first began working in the Chancery Office in February or March of 1975. I have substantiated the main details of this incident in recent conversations with Bishop Robert E. Mulvee, presently Bishop of Providence who at the time was Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester.

Father Poirier was bringing the weekly collection deposit to a bank in the area when he picked up a young man who was hitchhiking. Once in his car Father Poirier solicited the young man. The young man jumped out of the car and Father Poirier continued on his errand. On his way back from the bank the young man was in the road accompanied at that time by his older brother who was in the Armed Forces and was home on leave. When the young man pointed out Father Poirier's car to his brother this man tried to get Father Poirier to stop to the point even of draping himself on the hood. When Father Poirier refused to do so the young man and the brother wrote down his license plate number.

A week or so later Father Poirier was visited by the local police – Franklin or Tilton. The local police told him that they were aware of this incident from discussion with the family (name). They told him that they were not going to pursue any legal action but that they would report the incident to the local dean. (All of what follows is based on conversations with Father Poirier who was very forthcoming in regard to this incidents). Father Poirier was very much shaken and it forced him to recognize that he might have a problem. On his own initiative he immediately came to visit with Bishop Mulvee asking whether or not he should begin counseling in an in-treatment facility. Bishop Mulvee told him that treatment would be necessary but preferred to make a decision on it only after visiting with the family. Bishop Mulvee accompanied by Father Robert Boisvert, the pastor of the family who resided in Our Lady of the Lakes Parish in Lakeport visited with the family within the next few days. It was a good and constructive visit that the family very much appreciated. They were assured that Father Poirier would be required to get appropriate treatment assured Bishop Mulvee in return that they was nothing that their son or they required in the way of treatment or other considerations. Soon after the visit with the family Father Poirier began treatment with Father Norman Tousignant, OMI, a licensed psychologist who was employed by the Diocese to assist priests with emotional difficulties. Father Poirier counseled with him for many months and also participated in group counseling. Father Tousignant is since deceased and there is no

access to any records that he had. There is no indication that Father Poirier ever again had any improper sexual abuse with a minor. He did self-report to the Diocese in 1989(?) while he was stationed in Sacred Heart Parish in Marlboro that he believed that he had a sexual addiction to young men (men in their early to mid-20's). As a result of this Father Poirier was sent for a complete evaluation to the House of Affirmation in Whitinsville, MA and then entered in-patient therapy at St. Barnabas Center outside Milwaukee, WI where he remained for a number of months. The results of this evaluation and the therapy can be found in the Diocesan files.

TO: FILE
FROM: Paul E. Brodeur, Inv.
RE: DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
Complaints re: Priest
DATE: 4 March, 02 1515 hrs.

This date received call: [REDACTED]

moving to Hampton NH within week or so. He will have his cell phone operational.

[REDACTED] advised that he and his brother, [REDACTED] dob [REDACTED] were altar boys at St. Catherine's Church. The Priest was a Fr. POIRIER.

[REDACTED] believes it was sometime between 1982 to 1984 during the summer. The parents of [REDACTED] trusted POIRIER and POIRIER asked the boys to go swimming. The parents allowed the boys to go with POIRIER.

[REDACTED] advised that POIRIER and the two boys went swimming at Glenn Lake in Goffstown, NH. [REDACTED] advised that while swimming POIRIER put his hand down the swim trunks and fondled his genitals.

[REDACTED] believes this also happened to his brother but does not know whether he wants to come forth.

[REDACTED] advised that he has attempted to find POIRIER by calling and sending emails to St. Catherine's but has not been able to locate.

[REDACTED] advised that he has told his girl friend about the incident and she encouraged him to look into the possibility of prosecution. [REDACTED] advised that he has not notified anyone else in the church etc.

Advised [REDACTED] about the services of Victim/Witness if needed. He advised that he has resolved in his mind that he did nothing wrong he appreciates the information.

FILE SUMMARY

Name	John R. Poirier
Date of Birth	04/28/45
Date Ordained	05/15/71
Service	06/08/71 : Our Lady of Mercy, Merrimack
	09/05/73 : St. Rose of Lima, Littleton
	06/11/75 : St. Paul, Franklin
	06/18/80 : St. Jude, Londonderry
	10/31/80 : Diocesan Office of Communications, part-time
	06/15/82 : St. Edmund, Manchester, Part-time Associate and Part-time Diocesan Office of Communications
	01/17/84 : St. Catherine, Manchester and one day a week @ Office of Communications
	01/01/85 : St. Catherine, Manchester, full time ministry
	06/11/86 : Sacred Heart, Marlborough and St. Denis, Harrisville
	02/06/89 : Resigned Pastorate
	02/06/89 : Leave of Absence, Reasons of Health
	06/16/89 : St. Joseph, Dover
	12/03/01- Holy Family, Gorham
	02/27/02
Date and Nature of Complaint	The complaint against John Poirier was apparently reported verbally in 1978, concerning an alleged solicitation of a minor for sexual activity while riding in a car. The minor left the car in which he and Poirier were riding without anything occurring and notified the Tilton Police who contacted the Diocese. There are no records of the identity of the complainant.
Response Action Taken	Poirier was referred to Dr. Henry P. Ouellette, Ph.D., the Director for Consultation Service for Clergy and Religious and he treated Poirier. Poirier was sent to the House of Affirmation in Wintonsville, Massachusetts, where he underwent a battery of psychological tests. He was sent to St. Barnabas Center in Wisconsin for residential treatment. On the basis of the discharge findings, he was returned to parish work. Poirer returned to St. Barnabas on one additional occasion in 1991 for additional follow-up therapy.
Additional Complaints	None

W. J. ...

FINANCIAL AGREEMENT

1091

In consideration for the service rendered or to be rendered to [redacted], (hereinafter "Patient") I agree to pay the expenses and charges for these services to [redacted], according to its regular rates and terms.

I acknowledge that payment for the services rendered hereunder is a "family purpose" obligation.

Any amount not paid by an Insurance Carrier or deemed by the hospital not to be payable by an Insurance Carrier is due upon receipt of a statement from the hospital. Statements will be sent at the end of each calendar month while the patient is in the hospital, and at the time of discharge. Amounts unpaid or denied by an Insurance Carrier are payable in full upon notice to the patient. Any patient overpayments will be refunded promptly. The undersigned further agrees, that he/she assumes responsibility for all hospital charges regardless of insurance carrier coverage and any legal requirements or agreements related to financial responsibility, for the patient.

The undersigned further agrees that if this account becomes delinquent, he/she will pay all costs of collecting the same including court costs, reasonable attorney fees and/or collection agency commissions or charges.

The undersigned certifies that he/she has read and understands the foregoing, agrees to the foregoing and assumes the full financial responsibility for payment of the patient charges to [redacted]. The undersigned further certifies that he/she has received a copy thereof, and is the patient or is duly authorized by the patient or is the legal guardian of the patient, and is personally assuming full financial responsibility of charges incurred by the patient.

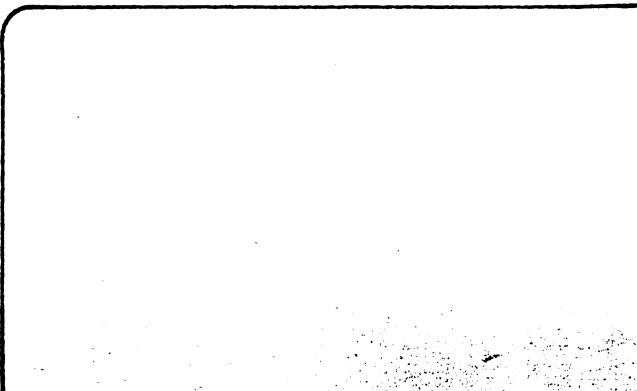
James T. Chester (M.D.) 4/1/81
Person responsible Date
for payment*

Director Administration
Relationship to
Patient

Witness

A PHOTOCOPY OF THIS AGREEMENT SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS VALID AS THE ORIGINAL.

* Same as on Pre-Admission Checklist



March 30, 1989

Ms. Betty L. Bauer
Insurance Coordinator
Rogers Memorial Hospital
34810 Pabst Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53066-4599

Dear Ms. Bauer:

In response to your letter of March 23rd, I am pleased to inform you that the Diocese of Manchester will assume financial responsibility for those fees not covered by insurance for Father John R. Poirier, a priest of the Diocese of Manchester.

If you have any further questions or any other concerns with regard to Father Poirier and his treatment please feel free to call upon me.

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

ROGERS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

34810 PABST ROAD • OCONOMOWOC, WISCONSIN 53066-4599
(414) 567-5535



March 23, 1989

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rev. Monsignor Francis J. Christian
Diocese of Manchester
153 Ash Street
Manchester, N.H. 03102

Dear Monsignor: Re: Admission of Father John R. Poirier

During a phone conversation with Father Poirier yesterday, he mentioned that the Diocese would be responsible for the balance of his hospital stay (in our St. Barnabas Unit) not covered by insurance and that the billing should be sent to you.

To give you an idea of what the approximate charges will be for the hospital, I have outlined them below:

Charges for 30-day stay	\$10,380
" " 60 " "	20,760

Balance remaining on insurance coverage \$5,000

(Actual charges may vary depending on the individual)

M.D. charges for a 30-day stay are estimated at \$1,200 and are billed separately from the hospital

A confirmation of this would be appreciated either by phone or letter. I can be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M. at the number listed above, or you can use the St. Barnabas number 1-800-346-5690. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely

Betty L. Bauer
Insurance Coordinator

