

SAINT JOHN'S ABBEY

BOX 2015

COLLEGEVILLE, MINNESOTA 56321-2015

OFFICE OF THE ABBOT

December 28, 1998

Most Reverend Harry J. Flynn, D.D.
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
226 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55102-2197

Dear Archbishop Flynn:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the letter I have written to [REDACTED] in response to a letter he sent to me and was copied to you.

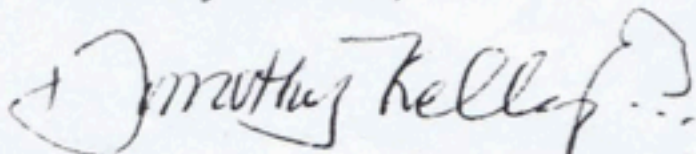
I have great sympathy for the trauma he has gone through and applaud the efforts he is making to work through the problem. I agree that this should not be costing him and that he should be getting financial help in covering the expenses of counselling.

At the time of the alleged incidents Michael Bik was a layman employed by an archdiocesan parish. The first I or anyone here became aware of any such allegations against Michael was when [REDACTED] came forward. I am truly grateful that I now have this information. With his monastic vows, of course, Fr. Michael has no independent income and is unable to pay anything. This would leave it up to the abbey to cover costs which, I believe, rightly belong to the parish in which he was employed and/or by the archdiocese.

As I told [REDACTED] in my letter to him, I am willing to cooperate with you in whatever ways possible. I would appreciate knowing your thinking on this matter before I make a final response to [REDACTED]. The last thing in the world I would want is to have him end up in the center, being tugged from two directions. I honestly do not believe the abbey has any obligation to pay for his counselling and yet strictly from a charitable viewpoint I would rather help than allow him to be victimized once again.

A blessed season of Christmas be yours, Archbishop Flynn, and may you always have the consolation of the Divine presence with you.

Sincerely in Christ,



Abbot Timothy Kelly, OSB

TK/kr