
Confidential Memorandum

To: Most Reverend William Murphy

From: Reverend William F. Murphy

Date: September 10, 1998

Re: potential publicity on Fr. Robert Burns

John Walsh has informed me that The Boston Globe may run a story tomorrow on Fr. Robert Burns. Fr. Burns came to Boston in 1982 to pursue graduate study at BC. He is a priest of Youngstown, Ohio. Documents show that Fr. Burns was assessed at the House of Affirmation *prior* to his assignment in Boston. The assessment clearly indicated that Fr. Burns should not be assigned to ministry in which he would come in contact with minors, especially grade school children. ||

Despite this, Fr. Burns was then assigned by Cardinal Medeiros as a Part-Time Parochial Vicar to St. Thomas Parish in Jamaica Plain in 1992. The Pastor was not informed that there were any restrictions or concerns.

In 1986, Fr. Burns was transferred to St. Mary Parish in Charlestown. Again, no mention of past problems was made. ||

In 1991 the first Boston-based accusation against Fr. Burns was received at Chancery. Fr. Burns' assignment was ended immediately. |

Five cases have come to the attention of this office. |

Fr. Burns is now in prison in New Hampshire for child molestation crimes he committed there after he left Boston. |

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