


Archdiocese of Boston  
Assistant to the Secretary for Ministerial Personnel

**PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL**

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: File  
FROM: Rev. Brian M. Flatley   
DATE: January 5, 1996  
RE: Rev. Real Bourque, O.M.I.

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On Tuesday, June 20, 1995 at the invitation of Rev. Paul Ouellette, O.M.I., the Delegate of the Oblate Provincial for cases of clergy sexual misconduct, I met with Rev. George Capen, O.M.I., the Provincial of the Oblate Missionaries, Father Ouellette, Father Real Bourque and the Oblate Provincial Sexual Misconduct Advisory Board, to discuss the possibility of ministry for Father Bourque. Unfortunately, I did not document the meeting that day, so I am reconstructing the meeting from memory at a later date.

I arrived at the meeting late, having lost my way. I was greeted cordially. Father Bourque outlined his situation. Without going into all the details it is sufficient to record that he has admitted sexual misconduct with a minor, an adolescent. He has been assessed appropriately and has been in residential treatment at Saint Luke Institute. He and his Board wanted to be clear about the possibilities for his ministry within the Archdiocese of Boston. He is believed to be of little risk for repeat offenses.

I pointed out to them that the Policy of the Archdiocese precludes parish ministry or ministry that involves young people for a priest who has been involved in sexual misconduct with a minor. Their repeated questions made it clear that this prohibition is absolute.

Father Bourque has been involved in television ministry. The fact that this ministry had continued after the allegation was made was upsetting to one of his victims. The Archdiocese had requested that his television ministry cease. I explained to Father Bourque and the Oblates that public ministry such as retreat work could be interpreted by a victim as a sign that the Church did not take his abuse seriously.

Father Bourque voiced his feeling that his life might as well be over. We discussed the possibility of finding new ways of ministering. We agree that there is no question that he can never minister in the same way, but that there are and can be other ways to serve God and the people of God.

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On January 4, 1996 Father Ouellette called to update me on Father Bourque's situation. He is working at Mother Angelica's Network, EWTN. He is working behind the scenes, serving the people involved in ministry and being helpful in any ways he can. The Bishop of the place is aware of his situation, as are the people at EWTN. Father Ouellette reports that Father Bourque is doing well and enjoying the work.