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From: XXXXXXXX@cox.net [mailto:xxxxxxx@cox.net]

Sent: January 15, 2008 11:35 PM

To: padurocher@alexandria-cornwall.ca

Subject: \*\*XXXX\*\* \*\*XXXX XXXXX ID#XXXXXXXX-XX\*\* Father David Ostler

Bishop Paul Andre Durocher

Dear Sir:

I am a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Sun City West, Arizona. Our Pastor is Father David Ostler and he came to us about a year and a half ago. We have been reading on Google.com some disturbing news about your problems and the court cases in your Diocese and Father Davids name is on the list of abusers. Father David admitted to our Parish that he was an alcoholic several years ago and he went into the treatment center for that problem. I am aware that this is often used as a cover for those admitted for sexual problems. Those who molest also have a drinking problem so it is a hard one to refute. Will you give me your solemn word That Father David Ostler was admitted for alcohol related and there was no issues with "psychosexual immaturity" etc

Respectfully Yours

XXXXXX XXXXXX

From: "Paul Andre Durocher"

<paul-andre.durocher@alexandria-cornwall.ca>

To: <xxxxxxx@cox.net>

Subject: RE: \*\*XXXX\*\* \*\*XXXX XXXXX ID#XXXXXXXX-XX\*\* Father David Ostler

Date: Wed, 16 Jan 2008 09:49:18 -0500

Mr. Xxxxxx,

I understand your concern. I have never met Father Ostler, as I came to this diocese as bishop a few years after he had left. But I can give you my solemn word that, according to our diocesan records and all the reports I have from people who should know, Father Ostler was treated for alcohol dependancy only. Your diocese reviewed his file before accepting him for ministry and made sure that this was so.

Allow me to explain the allegation concerning Father Ostler. In the early 1990's, a policeman of the City of Cornwall, Mr. Perry Dunlop, became convinced that there had been many unreported cases of sexual abuse committed by priests in our diocese. (Our diocesan records do not support Mr. Dunlop's suspicions.) As I understand it, he undertook a personal and private investigation that strayed from established police procedures and eventually led to his retirement from the force and his move away from the area.

He did find one person, a Mr. Ron Leroux, who fed into his theory. Mr. Leroux signed an affidavit on November, 13, 1996, in which he claims a "clan of pedophiles" was operative in our area, and that this clan included nearly a third of all the priests of our diocese, which he then proceeded to name.

In this list could be found the name of Reverend David Ostler.

Two separate police investigations, one by the City of Cornwall Police and a second by the Ontario Provincial Police, determined that there was no credible basis to these allegations.

Nevertheless, because of continuing concern, the provincial government decided to launch a public inquiry to investigate all the issues surrounding these and other allegations of institutional neglect in responding to historical cases of sexual abuse. The mandate is quite broad, which explains why, though it was launched in October of 2005, the inquiry continues to this day.

In June of 2007, in a highly anticipated appearance, Mr. Ron Leroux took the stand. He basically recanted his whole story: there was no clan of pedophiles and he had never witnessed all these priests abusing young people. He suggested that Mr. Dunlop, the police officer, had written up the affidavit which he, Mr. Leroux, had then signed. (The relationship between Mr. Leroux and Mr. Dunlop is quite convoluted and will probably never be completely understood. Mr. Dunlop refuses to testify at the inquiry.)

You can find a transcript of Mr. Leroux's testimony of Thursday, June 28th at <http://cornwallinquiry.irri.net/Jun-28-07/cornwall122june2807.pdf>. It shows the commission's counsel, Mr. Peter Engelmann, leading Mr. Leroux's testimony. Mr. Englemann has been going through each of the names that Mr. Leroux had listed in his affidavit, asking if he had ever seen these priests abusing young people. Time and again, Mr. Leroux admits that he had not.

On page 149, we see Mr. Engelmann come to Fr. David Ostler particularly. He asks if Mr. Leroux had seen Fr. Ostler participating in acts of sexual abuse of minors. Mr. Leroux replies "No." Mr. Englemann asks again: "No allegation of sexual impropriety, sir, of any sort?" And again, Mr. Leroux answers: "No."

Unfortunately, some unscrupulous people continue to publish Mr. Leroux's fraudulent affidavit on their web-sites. So googling Father David Ostler's name brings it up, along with these allegations that have been recanted in sworn testimony by their author.

I hope this explains the situation, and the great injustice that continues to be done to people like Father Ostler. I trust you will share this information with anyone who has any doubts about Father Ostler's reputation, particularly anyone with whom you might have shared your own doubts. Thank you.

Yours in Christ,

+ Paul-André Durocher  
Current Bishop of the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall