

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 30, 2013
To: The Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt
From: Jennifer Haselberger
Re: Resignation

Archbishop,

As you will recall, beginning with my Employee Self-Assessment of July of 2012, I identified several areas of grave concern to me. Specifically, I stated as the primary obstacle to accomplishing my job responsibilities:

“I do not feel the canonical issues have been adequately addressed or adhered to in addressing issues of clerical sexual misconduct. I have also encountered resistance regarding financial issues, and administrative issues regarding the creation of the computer database, which I do not feel was given proper priority. In all of these matters, I feel that the institutional needs have been given priority over what ought to be done. This is a source of frustration for me.”

When I indicated my goals for the upcoming year, I stated:

“To do the job that I was hired to do, within the moral, legal, and ethical framework of the Catholic Church, while at the same time complying with all of the civil laws of the United States and the State of Minnesota”.

Finally, when asked what support I needed to accomplish these goals, I stated:

“I need the support of the administration in adequately addressing the matters identified above and in upholding the proper canonical processes, especially regarding matters involving clergy and financial matters.”

Between the submission of my Self-Assessment and December of 2012, rather than receiving the support that I requested, my working conditions deteriorated to the point that I wrote to you and brought these and other matters to your attention, including the extremely poor treatment I have been subjected to by Father Laird and the discriminatory treatment that I faced based on my gender. Within days of making that report to you, I was suspended by Father Laird. While I was reinstated to my position following the intervention of my attorney, to date the matter of my suspension has not been resolved, nor has my vacation time been restored, nor have any other matters that I identified as concerns been meaningfully addressed.

In February 2013, when these concerns still had not been addressed, and after repeatedly requesting that the Archdiocese report the issues involving Father Jon Shelley to the civil authorities, to no avail, I made a report to the Saint Paul Police department regarding the possible possession of child pornography by Father Shelley. I informed Father Laird that I had made the report on the same day. I did not receive the support of this organization in making this report.

Since that time, my work situation has continued to deteriorate, and my ability to achieve my stated goals and to accomplish my work has been further compromised. Specifically, in the last several weeks the following matters have come to my attention:

- 1). The likely concealing of information related to the Stitts litigation. On March 18, 2010, at Father Laird's request, I reviewed the files at Meier, Kennedy, and Quinn and reported back to him that, according to my review, not all of the material in the personnel file had been disclosed. Specifically, accounts of a 1973 conversation between the Archbishop and the Doughertys, facilitated by a counselor from Catholic Charities, in which they informed him that their son had been abused, and possibly the reports of Father Kevin Clinton, including his 'Chronological Presentation of Some Events'. On March 19, 2010, the Archdiocese released a statement denying 'a cover up' and also denying that information had been concealed. While I completed the review of the file in 2010, it is only recently that I became aware that my memo was disregarded as a result of my review of the outcome of the cases in light of the statute of limitations and the anticipated oral arguments (sometime in May) of the last of the four suits introduced in 2010.
- 2). Father Laird's memo of February 22, 2013, regarding his involvement in the Shelley and Wehmeyer matters. While the contents of this memo were troubling enough, I responded to this memo on April 16, 2013 and have not yet received a response from you nor has any further action been taken.
- 3). The situation regarding Father Stanley Maslowski, his history of sexual and financial misconduct, and our failure to properly disclose this critical information to the parish communities where he lives and serves. While I brought this matter to your attention on April 20, 2013, again I have yet to receive a response nor have I seen any suggestion of further action being taken.

However, last Thursday, I discovered four 'restricted' files on Father James Porter, which included a 1974 'Stipulation to the Execution of Rescript' which required Porter to receive the permission of the Archbishop in order to enter into marriage because of 'past problems in sexual orientation' that 'might jeopardize a possible future marriage', and a statement from the Archdiocese in the 1990s indicating that 'there was no information trail that led from Porter's abusive past to the decisions made about his marriage' (a clearly false and deceptive statement). This, in combination with the other issues addressed above have led me to conclude that it is impossible for me to continue in my position given my personal ethics, religious convictions, and sense of integrity.

Therefore, I am informing you that I am resigning my position, effective immediately. I request to be compensated for my unused vacation time, which as of my last pay check (April 25, 2013) was 217 hours *plus the 80 hours that I was erroneously docked during my suspension*. In accord with Article II.4 of the Archdiocesan Central Corporation Personnel Policies, I request that this payment be made according to the current payroll schedule, meaning that it would be included in my payroll check of May 9, 2013.

In addition, when recently contacted by Officer Gillette of the Saint Paul Police Department regarding the Shelley investigation, I alerted him to the fact that relevant information to his investigation was on the laptop computer assigned to me (W3096). It is my expectation that the Archdiocese cooperate in making this information available to Officer Gillette and his colleagues conducting this investigation.

Finally, I ask, on behalf of all the members of the faithful of this Archdiocese, that you take your responsibilities towards the protection of the young and vulnerable seriously, and that you allow an independent review of all clergy files, and that you publish the list of all known offenders.