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September 3, 1973

Conversation with Fr. Rolland Glass

From Paul Esser

Fr. Glass' comments on Fr. Siegfried Widera:

1. He was always in bed or sitting--literally. Not very ambitious.
2. He drank a lot. The police brought him home on at least one occasion in an-intoxicated state. He would leave the bottles laying around his room.

He was a "loner." He had difficulty relating with adults. He had instant rapport with young boys and spent a lot of time with them.

4. His family seemed normal.. His father was a very strict German. His three brothers and sisters lost their German accent. Fr. Siegfried did not.

5. He would do what he was directed to do, but no more. Would not really move in and take over with a job. He needs a programmed situation--possibly in education.

6. He did not take care of his person. He smelled.

7. A male grade school teacher saw Fr. Siegfried fooling around with the boys of another teacher. He said to father that if he fooled around in the same way with his students, he would punch Father in the face.

8. Fr. Glass had reports for some time from within and without the parish that something was wrong.

9. He coached the boys in basketball. He would be in the shower with the boys--all in the nude. When an adult male entered the shower, Fr. Siegfried covered himself with a towel.

10. Fr. Siegfried took boys swimming at a motel in Milwaukee. Father knew the owner and could use the pool. This happened over a period of time.

11. Parishioners came forward after the fact and indicated incidents they had noticed and warnings they had given their own children about not letting Father touch them.

Fr. Glass' mother told Glass that Fr. Siegfried on at least one occasion had a boy ~~he~~ sleep with him overnight in the rectory.

13. Fr. Glass did confront Fr. Siegfried: "Circumstances are forcing me to draw certain conclusions about you and your conduct with little boys." Fr. Siegfried stopped seeing boys for a time but then went back to it.

14. There was a pattern of contact with small boys.

15. At the trial, the D.A.' office asked for the full five years in jail. The D.A. is a "good Catholic."

PME