

COMPLAINANT: KYLE [REDACTED] CHANCERY
TUESDAY APRIL 11, 2017
FWD.

Chancery Memorandum

TUESDAY APRIL 25, 2017

TO: For the Record
FROM: Bishop Edward M. Grosz
RE: Chancery meeting with Rev. Robert Yetter relative to complaint of Kyle [REDACTED]
DATE: Tuesday, April 11, 2017

I REVIEWED THE CASE WITH LAWLOR QUINLAN, LEGAL COUNSEL, WHO NOTED THE CASE IS CONSIDERED CLOSED.

ACTION TAKEN:
(1) REVIEWED TYPES OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT
(2) FR. TO SCHEDULE MEETING AT COUNSELING CENTER

CHANCERY MEETING WITH FATHER BOB

On Tuesday, April 11, 2017 from 1:00-1:55 p.m., Bishop Grosz met at the Chancery with Father Bob Yetter to address a complaint of abuse brought to the Diocese of Buffalo by complainant Kyle [REDACTED] (25 years old).

Bishop Grosz indicated that times have changed since the issuance of the Bishop's document "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." Now all of us in ministry must be very careful relative to how we present ourselves, what we say, and how we communicate with others.

Within that context, Bishop Grosz indicated that Kyle [REDACTED] had issued a report of complaint of abuse by Father Bob Yetter. Bishop Grosz indicated there are two specific concerns of Kyle [REDACTED]

1.) "Kiss on the neck" as mentioned in paragraph one of the complaint. Bishop Grosz indicated that in his conversation with Kyle the day before, Kyle noted that on several occasions Father Yetter continues to greet him by kissing him on the neck which makes Kyle very uncomfortable. Such has been the case even recently when Kyle met Father Yetter at the [REDACTED] as well as in the sacristy of St. Mary's Parish for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the original church. Bishop Grosz then read the specific complaint from the document.

In response, Father Yetter indicated that all that Kyle stated is true. Father Yetter also noted that never in such a context did Kyle ever note to Father that this gesture made him feel uncomfortable or was unwanted.

Relative to his relationship to Kyle, Father Yetter indicated that they are not close friends.

[REDACTED]
Those instances took place around 2012-2013. Father Yetter also noted that Kyle [REDACTED]

2.) Relative to the second concern and complaint, Bishop Grosz then read the entire paragraph where Kyle describes the incident back in 2013 when Father Bob invited him out to go to a

movie and have dinner afterwards. It was on that occasion that Kyle felt uncomfortable when, during the previews at the theater, Father Yetter was laughing and "slapped" or placed his hand on Kyle's inner right thigh and left it there for 45 seconds to a minute after which Kyle told Father Yetter to "stop touching me."

In response, Father Yetter noted that the report as expressed by Kyle was accurate. Father Yetter noted that he may have hit Kyle's leg a few times and stopped when Kyle stated "stop touching me."

Father Yetter noted that the last time that he saw Kyle was at the [REDACTED] where Father went for a fundraising event since a family in his parish have a child going to that school.

Father Yetter indicated he probably would not be seeing Kyle in the future unless they bumped into each other.

TYPES OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Bishop Grosz then shared with Father Yetter a copy of the notes entitled "Types of Sexual Harassment" and reviewed such types of harassment as expressed as physical, verbal and non-verbal. Bishop Grosz noted that in the first category of physical, that includes "unwanted touching of body or clothing, holding, grabbing, patting, hugging, kissing."

Bishop Grosz emphasized the importance of not touching the other individual without permission or touching an individual inappropriately. Bishop Grosz noted how important proper behavior is for all those in church ministry, including priests.

RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNSELING

Bishop Grosz indicated that in light of what Father Yetter has shared with Bishop Grosz, it would be prudent and opportune for Father to contact the Diocesan Counseling Center for Church Ministers to meet with one of the members of the staff to address these specific concerns. Father Yetter indicated that he would be doing that.

Bishop Grosz thanked Father Yetter for coming to the Chancery on such short notice.