

Big Picture  Local Focus
Daily Herald
SUBURBAN CHICAGO'S INFORMATION SOURCE

No Headline

Date: January 31, 2004

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Section: News

Story was not fair to St. Peter's pastor

As a resident of Geneva and parishioner of St. Peter Catholic Church, I was greatly disturbed by your article titled "Group asks bishop to take action" (Jan. 23). If the subject matter wasn't so serious, the factual errors would be laughable. At the very least, it is poor journalism.

Our priest did not "publicly scold a parishioner." This is a misstatement that has been repeated over and over.

Although I was not present at the "private meeting" (as Father Joe, refusing to toss away privacy and dignity, has elected not to comment, we have only Frank Bochte's version), I find it hard to believe Father Joe "asked him to recant" and "accused him of bearing false witness." Anyone who knows Father Joe realizes this is so out of character it must be untrue.

As for Bochte's supposed "overwhelming amount of support from parishioners," I would like it known that in no way do I, as a parishioner, support his opinions, actions or manner in which he continually chases the media to promote himself.

If Bochte is concerned about becoming the focus of the controversy, perhaps he should stop putting himself in the center of the controversy.

The criminal case of sexual abuse charges against Mark **Campobello** is a sad situation for our parish and our diocese. I have full faith that **Campobello** will be handled appropriately by the legal system.

That same legal system allows our diocese the right to argue against a ruling it considers unjust; an appellate court will determine what is just, not Bochte.

It seems unfair to me that when the diocese attempts to explain its actions it is called a liar, and when it chooses to remain silent, it is accused of a cover-up.

As for Father Joe's sabbatical, it was planned several months ago after being postponed from five years ago - postponed due to Father Joe's commitment to St. Peter Church and the capital campaign for the school addition.

The implication that Father Joe's sabbatical is anything other than a long-planned, well-earned and well-deserved break from the pressures and responsibilities of performing pastoral duties to a church of several thousand is ridiculous.

Angela K. Pavelich

Geneva