

Give deposition and be done

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To the Editor:

It appears, thanks to Judge Keith Brown's ruling in Geneva, that Monsignor Joe Jarmoluk of St. Peter's parish will have to submit for his deposition regarding the Mark Campobello sexual abuse civil lawsuit.

The claim by Canice Rice, Jarmoluk's attorney, that publicizing the fact that the monsignor will be deposed somehow "reinforces the public's unfounded suspicions" against Jarmoluk flies in the face of common sense.

I think everyone would expect that all teachers and school administrators at St. Peter's who are familiar with Campobello's actions would be deposed at some point.

For Rice to insinuate that Jarmoluk being identified as a witness somehow tarnishes his image misses the point.

The bigger shock would be if Jarmoluk was not scheduled to be deposed. He is the pastor of the parish. By what bizarre stretch of logic would he not be expected to be called as a witness?

Depositions are part and parcel of virtually all civil proceedings. If there are any unfounded suspicions within the community regarding Jarmoluk, they stem from Rice's attempts to stall his client's deposition.

Such legal maneuvering only serves to reinforce the growing perception that Jarmoluk doesn't want to answer questions about the Campobello matter. I don't know how much Jarmoluk paid Rice for last month's failed motion, but here's my bit of legal advice to Jarmoluk offered at no charge: The monsignor should dispense with Rice's peculiar court motions, sit for his deposition like everyone else, tell the truth and be done with it.

That's the quickest and most efficient way for any witness to show that he has nothing to hide.

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