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No leadership shown

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To the Editor:

Leadership and integrity.

Those two words were used by St. Peter's parishioner Ray Benedetto to describe the parish's Monsignor Joe Jarmoluk in the wake of last Thursday's hearing before Judge F. Keith Brown in a Geneva courtroom. In that hearing, Jarmoluk and his attorney were thoroughly rebuked in their attempt to further delay the taking of Jarmoluk's deposition in former priest Mark Campobello's sexual-abuse lawsuit.

I just have a few questions regarding Benedetto's characterization of Jarmoluk.

Is it an example of leadership and integrity for a pastor of one of the largest parishes within the diocese to have his photograph and name appear on the home page of a New York-based Web site where St. Peter's parishioners have photographed fellow parishioners who have publicly questioned the parish's handling of the Campobello matter, and then post those photographs on the web site?

This is the same Web site that features a twice-weekly Internet-radio broadcast that consists of nothing more than hate speech directed toward sexual-abuse victims, their families, their advocates, our mayor and our police department.

It's also the same Website that is producing a feature film about the life of Jarmoluk.

And is it an example of leadership and integrity for a pastor to hire a private attorney to visit the employers of those parishioners who have spoken out and questioned the way our diocese and parish have responded to the Campobello crimes and to threaten those parishioners with lawsuits? I've experienced such a visit and I know others in our community have, as well.

Finally, is it an example of leadership and integrity for the parish community to now be asked to attend a dinner on behalf of Jarmoluk to pay for the self-imposed legal fees that Jarmoluk has incurred?

Why, as only a witness and not a defendant, does Jarmoluk feel the need to retain private counsel in the first place? And isn't the private attorney the same attorney that Jarmoluk was told to terminate his relationship with by Bishop Thomas Doran this past summer?

Leadership and integrity.

With all due respect, Benedetto, I guess your dictionary is different than mine.

Frank Bochte

Geneva