

I am very grateful to Your Honour and the Court for extending me the privilege of making a statement.

I would like to express how deeply remorseful I am for all that has transpired.

And I would like to assure Your Honour that I now fully appreciate the extreme gravity of my actions.

I have embarrassed and humiliated the priesthood and the Church. And I have breached the trust of the very Parish that I cared for – and continue to care so much about.

As a result of my actions I have jeopardized my vocation – a vocation that I truly believe to be my calling. Not only did I hurt my Parish and the Church but I have dishonoured the priesthood at large – and for this I am painfully ashamed. I pray that the Church may forgive me.

While the realization was not immediate, I now better understand that my addictions to alcohol and gambling contributed to my thoughtless and irrational behavior. At the time I must confess, I did not ever really turn my mind to the gravity of my conduct. As I reflect on

those times, I regard this weakness on my part as inexcusable, I was literally unable to control myself.

I have come a long way in understanding my addictions and my crimes and fully intend on continuing with my treatment as soon as I am able. I fully realize that the discipline necessary to overcome addictions is an ever mindful and lifelong commitment – and I am committed to waging this fight for the rest of my life. May God grant me the grace to persevere.

I pray, Your Honour, that you would feel it appropriate to impose a conditional sentence where I might continue to address my problems. However, I fully accept responsibility for the wrongs I have committed and accept whatever consequences should befall me.

Again, I apologize to all for any pain I have caused. It was always my hope and desire that my involvement in the lives of others would lessen or diminish hardship – not cause it. I am profoundly sorry for what I have done.

Thank you Your Honour.