

## MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

PERSON INTERVIEWED: [REDACTED]

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: MANCHESTER, NH POLICE DEPARTMENT

DATE OF INTERVIEW: DECEMBER 4, 2002



RE: DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER  
FATHER FORTIER  
FATHER PETIT

INTERVIEWED BY: ANTHONY FOWLER, INV. (P)  
ALLISON VACHON, INV.

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Above investigators interviewed [REDACTED] at the MANCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT. [REDACTED] resides at [REDACTED] NH. His telephone number is [REDACTED]. The entire interview was audiotaped, and [REDACTED] gave us permission to tape the interview. Refer to transcript of interview for details.

  
 INTERVIEW

AF: This is Investigator Anthony Fowler of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office. It's December 4, 2002 at 11:58 a.m. by my watch. Um, this is an interview with a . I'm going to go around the table and have everybody introduce themselves. Ah, the interview is taking place in an interview room at the Manchester, New Hampshire Police Department in the Detective Division. Ah, I asked before we went on tape  but do we have your permission sir to audio tape this interview?




 Yes.



AF: Okay. The only thing that I would ask is the mike isn't that great on this tape so if you would try and remember to speak up it helps the ladies in the office very much sir.




 Huh, huh.

AF: Okay. Thank you.

AV: And my name is Allison Vachon. I am also an investigator with the Attorney General's Office.


   
AF: Would you spell your last name, 



   
AF: Where do you live sir?

  New Hampshire 

AF: 

 Correct.

AF: Okay. What's your date of birth 

   
AF: And your phone number sir?

AF: Is that your home phone number sir?

[REDACTED] Yes sir it is.

AF: Do you have a work number?

[REDACTED] Yes I do. [REDACTED]

AF: Okay. Let's get right to the first point. Back, back in 1984, um do you recall speaking to a police officer from the Derry Police Department?

[REDACTED] Yes I do.

AF: And ah see if we can save some time here. Was that something that was arranged by retired Manchester Police Officer Armand Forest?

[REDACTED] Yes it was.

AF: And at that time sir, in 1984, you would have been 17 years old, is that correct?

[REDACTED] That is correct.

AF: Okay. Um, first off where at that particular time were you living as a lad?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] Manchester. [REDACTED]

AF: Who were you living with?

[REDACTED] My parents.

AF: Okay. What church, what parish did you, you folks attend?

[REDACTED] St. John the Baptist.

AF: Okay. At some particular point in your teenage years sir, did you, let me ask you this. Were you the person in the Derry Police Department reports known as Info 1 or are you aware of what you were called in that report.

[REDACTED] I'm not sure what I was called.

AF: Okay. You were anonymous is that correct?

[REDACTED] That's correct.

AF: All right. At some particular point sir, during that timeframe we're talking about, did you become acquainted with a priest and we'll start with ah Father Roger Fortier?

[REDACTED] Yes.

AF: How did you become acquainted with Father Fortier, sir?

[REDACTED] Ah, at that time I can't remember if it was at that age or if I had stopped that, that waking moment, but I was involved with [REDACTED] from the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade junior high school up to including high school. Ah, I was also an altar boy at St. John the Baptist parish as well.

AF: Um, Father Fortier just for the record, where was he assigned at that particular time?

[REDACTED] St. John the Baptist.

AF: Can you recall any other priests that were assigned to St. John at the time?

[REDACTED] At that time it's, it's tough to say. Um, I remember within that timeframe I believe there was a Deacon by the name of Phil Petit, who was ordained after the fact. I'm pretty sure that he was at the parish on/or around that timeframe within a couple of years.

AF: In 1984 when

[REDACTED] Monsignor Lesmerise as well.

AF: Okay. Great. In 1984, when you spoke to Armand Forest how long had you known Father Fortier up until that point?

[REDACTED] Ah, again, it's a while ago. Um, but ah from probably from the first couple of weeks he was introduced into the parish because he was fairly active. Ah, myself of course with ah some friends we did a lot of work at the church besides [REDACTED] and ah being an altar boy. I also participated of putting the weekend bulletins together at the Rectory as well.

AV: Right.

AF: And in the timeframe what you put as a length of time as knowing Father Fortier leading up to um speaking to Amand Forest about this? How long prior to that if you had to guess if you've known Father Fortier?

[REDACTED] Gee I don't know. I really don't know. Ah, again from the time he was involved from the day he walked into the parish um I can remember Fortier when I was an early teenager, but I don't remember exactly what year again. It's been almost 20 years.

AV: Huh, huh. Yeah.

AF: Sure.

AV: It's been a long time.

AF: Sure. At some particular point and we'll let this obviously want this in your own words, but at some particular point why don't you if you could describe to us what occurred with Father Fortier that may have been or would be considered inappropriate for a priest and a parishioner or a lad at your age at that time.

[REDACTED] If I can remember um what was said and what was disclosed um I may need some refreshing, but for the most part I do remember being in the Rectory at one point in time where there were a bunch of us, a handful of ah young guys together and um we were invited to go in, have a couple of beers with Father Roger um and he had a habit of ah wanting to play um pornography, adult pornography um of the homosexual content.

AF: Okay. And who furnished the, the ah beer when you drank?

[REDACTED] Ah, it was always Father Roger. I never ah believe it or not even ah by today's standards, I never partook in any of the alcohol with the priest. For some reason um, my I guess you could say ah CCD classes and the teachers I had growing up were very prevalent in the parish and there were people that I, I looked up to and I don't know where I got the strength and ah I certainly don't have it anymore. Um, and at that point in time in my life I referred back to a lot of my CCD classes, a lot of conversations we had and most of my ah CCD was done either Monday, Tuesday evenings.

AV: Huh, huh.

[REDACTED] Or after school depending on my age.

AV: Right.

[REDACTED] And ah there were a few people that stuck out ah in my head. One of them ah was [REDACTED] who is still a parishioner there. She was a CCD teacher of mine for a few years and when ah a few of the situations had occurred um, I always had the strength to say no. Um, I wish I had that same strength today

sometimes, but ah I don't and in any case I referred back to a lot of my Catholic teachings ah through the CCD program that really pre-empted to be not partake.

AV: Huh, huh.

█ Good.

AV: When you said that you that Father Roger had a habit of playing pornography, can you tell us a little bit about where that stems from?

█ No idea. There were a couple of times where I was at the Rectory um casually with ah again some other friends and it would come on. Um, I, I again didn't bother looking at the content. Um, I, I do know that there were um primarily ah homosexual adult videos. I personally never sat down to watch any. Frankly, ah I'd get up and um proceeded to walk out on numerous occasions when that sort of thing happened.

AF: This was in the Rectory?

█ Oh yeah.

AF: Of the church?

█ Oh yeah.

AF: Did he have ah Fortier, Father Fortier was this were these his videos?

█ I don't know.

AF: Okay.

█ Again, I never saw them so I don't know if they were a rental or if they were personally owned.

AF: When, when he would give you beer to drink, um do you recall back then was it a situation where um, I mean did you reach the point of intoxication or did you get a buzz for a lack of a better word or?

█ As I said I never drank in the Rectory.

AF: Never drank in the Rectory. Did you ever drink any of the beer that Father Fortier or any alcohol that Father Fortier would provide?

Yeah. And I, I don't recall whether it was in the Rectory or not. Um, I do remember when we were out and about um I don't know if it was a beach or a fair, something along those lines. It wasn't um part of the youth group. I do remember having um you know a couple sips from in fact I remember Michelob Light particularly. Ah, but I don't recall sitting down and having any alcoholic beverage um as a minor um regularly. I may have ah I don't maybe once or twice possibly.

AF: But there were sporadic occasions where Father Fortier would furnish some amount of beer to you?

Oh yeah.

AF: And there, and there were occasions in the Rectory where Father Fortier and you were present ah would put on homosexual pornographic ah videos for you and your friends or put them on with you and your friends there?

Correct.

AF: Okay. Um, when, I've got to pick your memory here a little..

Yeah, please do.

AF: When, when would this have been? Now what I want you to do is think about speaking to Thomas, Officer Thomas from Derry um Forest and work back from there as to when this would have occurred prior to that happening? Was this is an ongoing thing for a year or two or six months, prior or do you know?

I really don't remember. I really don't. Ah, I know that throughout the course of um his tenure at St. Jeans I always remembered you know if I ever wanted to go and ah, and get involved with ah with alcohol as a minor ah it was an excepted behavior so to speak um because it was in um in, and around ah someone that we looked at as a literally a figure to look up to.

AF: Yeah.

Um, again, I don't, I don't remember.

AF: So would it be fair to say then that during Fortier's tenure at St. John's that it was a common practice for you and other lads to go to the Rectory if you wanted to to drink beer or do whatever?

Yes that's a fair statement.

AF: Okay. Um.

AV: The, the other people that were present were other altar boys as well that?

[REDACTED] Most of them, yeah.

AV: Okay.

[REDACTED] Yeah, some were older to the point where they were ah actually ah serving masses anymore, but we were all at one point neighborhood kids. Ah, I can rattle off a handful of names that maybe, but for the most part we were all kids that hung around played football together. There used to be a small field right next to the Rectory and all of us that were somewhat involved with the church whether it [REDACTED] whether it be ah you know CCD classes. We were all pretty much were neighborhood kids and.

AF: Okay.

[REDACTED] And we're right next to the, to the ah Rectory so we were we were there regularly.

AF: Um, let's see if we can get this right out. At any point and I'm going to ask you two questions. The first question I'm going to ask you is this. At some particular point during your appointments with Father Fortier, did he ever inappropriately touch you in any way shape or form?

[REDACTED] He tried to.

AF: Okay. Let's, let's, let's talk about that if you don't mind. And I want to try to remember when that occurred? Where it occurred? Um, the circumstances of that and I'm going to let you explain to us in your own words um how, what happened. First off, again think of the contact with Armand Forest and the officer that you spoke to back then. When in time do you recall this attempt by Fortier to touch you occurring?

[REDACTED] I really have to preface this by saying it's a, it's a time in life, that frankly I don't really wish to think about and I've shut it out for such a long time. And a lot of the information to me is ah um hopefully forgotten at this point.

AF: Sure.

[REDACTED] Um.

AF: If you had to put a time bar on it as to when this occurred.

[REDACTED] From the time that I spoke with?



AF: Yes.

[REDACTED] With ah Officer Forest?

AF: Yes.

[REDACTED] Probably within a month or two maybe.

AF: Okay. And where did that, where did that attempt by Father Fortier occur?

[REDACTED] At the Rectory.

AF: At the Rectory. St. John's?

[REDACTED] St. John's the Baptist, right.

AF: Was, was anybody else there. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Yes.

AF: Did anybody else witness or observe what was taking place?

[REDACTED] They were already in ah what used to be Father Roger's study. Um, they had divvied up the Rectory into private quarters and if I remember correctly um, he had a room that was on the front side. It would be the Youville Street side. He had actually had one in the front and one in the back at a given time, but I remember specifically going into the study on the Youville Street side. Um, there were some of the guys that were already in there and, and I don't know what they were thinking. Um, again, they, they had a couple of beers opened at the time. Um, they were talking about him ah putting in a ah, pornographic tape and ah he had put his hand on my shoulder and ah tried to put his hand around my neck and bring me into the room with him and I basically said I had no interest.

AF: Okay. Did he say anything to you?

[REDACTED] I can't remember.

AF: Did he, did he place any, his hands on any part of your body that he shouldn't have?

[REDACTED] Again, he attempted to at that point, but I didn't ah, I didn't wish to walk into the room at that point in time.

AF: When you say he attempted to and I think you probably explained this, but can you make it clear in my mind again what you mean, what you mean by he attempted to.

[REDACTED] Huh, huh. We were facing each other. He put his hand on ah what would be my left shoulder. Ah proceeded to, to put his arm behind my neck or his hand behind my neck to bring him close, to bring me closer to him. He did put his hand on my stomach and ah at that point is when I, I backed up. I don't remember much else of that particular.

AF: Okay. Did he touch any of your private areas or did it get that far?

[REDACTED] Um, I don't believe I let it get that far. Um.

AF: Okay.

[REDACTED] Which is why I believe I wanted to step out, out of the room and not, not get involved at that point in time.

AF: Okay. Did he ever out right come out and I'm talking about Father Fortier here, did he ever out right come out and ask you if he could in some way have some type of sex with you?

[REDACTED] I can't remember.

AF: Okay. Um, do you remember a couple of boys. One named [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Huh, huh. Most certainly do.

AF: Were these a couple of boys that were around the Rectory at the time too?

[REDACTED] They were.

AF: Do you remember um, do you remember [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Yes I do.

AF: Telling you that at some point Fortier had also solicited him?

[REDACTED] Yes.

AF: Okay. Do you have any detail as to what that is? Just so you know we have already spoken to ah, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] You have talked to [REDACTED]

AF: Yes.

AV: Huh, huh.

AF: So that you'd know we talked, in fact other family members.

AV: His family, yes.

AF: Yep. So.

[REDACTED] Older brothers?

AF: Ah.

[REDACTED] All guys that we used to hang around and play football in the Rectory with him. Um, I don't know if you've ever talked to [REDACTED]

AV: Huh, huh.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] was ah very

AF: Yes.

[REDACTED] Active with Father Rogers and frankly I don't know for sure, but.

AF: He's been spoken to.

AV: Huh, huh.

AF: But do you remember [REDACTED] telling you any specifics about what Fortier had solicited him before?

[REDACTED] inaudible

AF: Can you give us.

AV: Kind of summarize what you talked about.

[REDACTED] Sure. I remember at one point in time we had talked about ah going to the Rectory and having beers and [REDACTED] was about I want to say two or three years older than I was so he had already, he was probably a junior or senior um, actually a senior or just graduated actually right around that time. Um, we got

to talking and it turns out that ah he did mention to me that he was asked to um get involved with some form of relationship.

AV: Huh, huh.

██████ We talked a little bit about that. We talked about some of the other ah kids in the parish. We talked about, we had all kinds of names that we were throwing around.

AF: Relationship with Fortier?

██████ Yes.

AF: Okay.

AV: Like of a sexual nature?

██████ Yeah.

AV: Okay.

AF: Do you also remember ████████ telling you about going to a house in Derry with Fortier? Making an overnight with him?

██████ Ah, he, he mentioned that he did ah, ah go to an overnight. I don't remember the, the information. In fact I, I do remember though that um, ah ████████ ████████ had ah quite frequently hung out with ah the priest from Derry that Father Roger hung out with as well.

AV: Do you know who that was?

██████ No I don't.

AV: But it was another priest?

██████ Far as I knew.

AV: Okay.

AF: ████████ recalls an incident when, on this overnight thing in Derry where Fortier actually touched him. Do you recall him telling you anything about that?

██████ I don't remember that.

AF: Okay.

█ I don't.

AF: How many times over the span of you knowing Fortier during his tenure at St. John's, how many times did he attempt to in anyway assault you or ever try and solicit you?

█ Ah, there were quite a few times. Um, some we were in ah, ah you know our altar boy gear. Um, you know we had our habits on. Again, it was a friendly hand behind the, the neck as you would expect a priest that, that I would ah have a professional relationship as a priest and someone I would look up to. Someone that came to give me guidance in my faith. Things like that so to me that form of relationship wasn't a problem. It became a problem when you know, when it wasn't just the occasional hand on the shoulder or on the neck or on the head. You know it became a point where when the hand goes behind the neck and it's more of a wanting to massage your kind of neck.

AF: Yeah.

█ It's not a comforting feeling. It was, it was inviting from what I saw to get involved with him um sexually. That happened a couple of times.

AF: Did he ever, ever ask you to touch him?

█ No. Not that I remember.

AV: Did he.

AF: I'm sorry Allison.

AV: Did he ever, the time you had talked about when he grabbed, kind of grabbed you closer and trying to pull you in and you kind of thwarted off that, that advance. Did he say anything to you about don't talk about this or any kind of conversation or dialogue develop that you might remember, █

█ No. Cause again it's been too long.

AV: Yeah. At any point did he ever say anything or did you guys enter into any sort of conversation about anything about you know that it was you know misconduct or anything like that?

█ I can't remember.

AV: Okay.

AF: Would it be fair to say that the only reason and this, if you don't agree with me on this say so. Would it be fair to say that the only reason that Fortier never was successful in maybe touching your private areas or going further with you was because you resisted that?

[REDACTED] Yes, I'd say that's a fair statement to make.

AF: Okay. When he made attempts like that with you, were there times where that occurred in the context of um beer being consumed or videos being watched?

[REDACTED] Yes.

AF: Um, when's the last time you saw Father Fortier?

[REDACTED] Ah, in the newspaper a couple of months ago.

AV: You saw a picture or an article or?

[REDACTED] Of the, in the Union Leader, yeah. Yeah, three months ago.

AF: If you had to guess. Just put a number on it. How many times do you think that you and your friends, [REDACTED] all those boys. How many times do you remember going to the Rectory or any other location with Fortier and seeing homosexual pornographic videos being played or he providing beer to you guys if you wanted it?

[REDACTED] Either or scenario? Whether it be pornography or?

AF: Yeah, lets, lets do one, one then the other. However you would best describe that for me.

[REDACTED] Pornography of when I discovered what was being played I didn't want any part of it. I stepped away and walked out. Ah, I had no interest in that at all.

AV: On how many occasions do you think you?

[REDACTED] Yeah how many attempts were made?

AF: How many occasions do you think you were there and pornography was being played?

[REDACTED] At least a couple dozen.

AF: How many times were you at the Rectory or in any other location with Father Fortier where he provided beer to you guys?

█ At least a couple of dozen.

AF: Okay.

AV: Did they usually happen hand in hand or was it, if he was providing beer was he, was the kids there and then he would put in a tape?

█ If it were at the Rectory where he um had the availability of a TV and VCR it would seem to go hand in hand. If we were obviously out and about then ah then it was only the alcohol.

AV: Where were the out and about? Do you remember at all where the out and about places were that you might have gone? In like, were they like a social setting? An event that was occurring or just kind of going out?

█ Um, well, we, we took a lot of events together both with um the youth group and ah some of the gang used to hang around together, but ah in situations where we were with Father Roger under the lets call it the, the organization of the church ah where we had gotten together or lets say without the organization of the church. Outside of █ or things like that. Um, I remember going to the Deerfield Fair, Hopkinton Fairs, the beach. We took a trip to the mountains one day. Ah.

AV: Primarily groups though?

█ Yeah.

AV: Any times that he would take you any place alone?

█ Personally, no.

AV: Okay.

█ And I'm quite certain it's because I resisted him.

AV: Did he ever take you to that place in Derry that █ spoke of?

█ I don't remember.

AV: Okay.

█ I, I don't think I did.

AV: Just out of curiosity, were there ever any other adults present or any other priests present when you went to fairs or the lake or?

[REDACTED] In those situations no there were no other priests or adults.

AV: Okay. It was primarily himself as the pastor and then several altar servers?

[REDACTED] Right and there again some ah lets call them retired altar boys that had gotten too old or didn't have any interest any longer, but they were at one point in time altar boys.

AV: And they were still part of the group that would kind of.

[REDACTED] Right.

AV: Go out to these different.

[REDACTED] This whole group of guys at one point in time we would all hang around together. There would be ah one would go off his way, but ultimately within ah you know within a ten year period we all used to play football, baseball. Um, not just be a little league, but again in that little rectory field ah and I can just imagine what he may have been thinking up in the Rectory, way up. You know a whole bunch of us boys playing you know down in the yard. /

AV: Exactly.

[REDACTED] And again you asked me if ah, if ah I had ever been anywhere with him alone. Um, no because anything that I was involved with I was usually with, if it were a [REDACTED] function, um I was [REDACTED] in junior high school and a couple years in high school. We were always around um other people, other adults, whenever we'd do something for the youth group. In fact my parents were involved at one point in time as well. Ah, and there was speculation that there were a couple other priests in the parish, not at that time that had come and gone that were, that were having sexual relations.

AV: Huh, huh. That was going to be my next question. Was your family involved in the church?

[REDACTED] Yes.

AV: Did you ever have Father Roger over on a social setting, dinner anything like that?

[REDACTED] Not Father Roger.



AV: Okay. Other priests at some point?

█ Yes.

AV: Okay.

AF: Lets talk about now um Petit.

█ Actually let's finish with, with.

AF: We're not done?

█ Ah.

AF: If you've got more to offer we'll listen.

AV: Yep.

█ I did make it clear at the time and again I haven't seen this report that you're reading. Um, it's been 20 plus years.

AF: Sure.

█ Actually talked about this. Although I talked with my wife a couple of years now um that we, I myself particularly need to bring closure to this. Ah, after Armand Forest had ah brought me to the PD and I talked with the Derry PD, Armand, myself um I specifically remember saying something at that point in time. They had asked if I wanted to press charges and I didn't know what that really meant at the time. I don't know what the, the ramifications would have been for me growing up. How I would have been looked at, but I did make one comment and I hope it made it on the statement and that was that um I don't wish to press charges. I wish to remain anonymous. The only thing that I hope is that somebody gets him some help and ah, and that I would like to talk to somebody in the Diocese of Manchester. That's the way I left it.

AF: That's how you left it back then?

█ Yep.

AF: Okay. Lets talk about that while we're on it.

AV: Might as well. Can you talk a little bit about what from there happened, if anything with the Diocese or you know a further report.

█ I think we need to discuss the second um, Phil.

AF: Do you want to do that first?

AV: Okay, sure.

█ Sure that would ah.

AF: Okay.

█ That would be a little bit ah. It may bring all this full circle.

AF: Excellent.

AV: Okay.

AF: Ah, lets talk about Petit then. How did you meet Petit?

█ He was ah a Deacon in St. John's the Baptist Church. Ah for a while I know he left the parish, he was relocated. He was ordained. Um, when he left the parish, again, he was a part of the residency at ah St. John the Baptist.

AV: Huh, huh.

█ He was also ah, ah participating in masses with us ah as a Deacon of course and ah he was involved with us as altar boys. He got involved with the ah youth group as well. Um, he left the parish. Awhile, quite a while I'd say quite awhile, a few years had gone by and there was a statement made ah actually he had called me out of the blue one day. After he had left the parish. He knew that I was █ He knew I was █ He knew of my lifestyle. He knew what I liked to do. He knew where I worked part time. He had definitely done his homework on.

AF: He, he just called you out of the blue?

█ Just called me out of the blue. Called me out of the blue.

AF: How old were you at that time?

█ I'm pretty sure I was 16 or 17. Again it was right around that same time.

AF: Okay.

Um, I never talked to anybody about this before. An, and frankly um, I was a little embarrassed that how it actually ended, but it's a rather winded story and I'd really like to pause for a minute.

AV: Sure.

AF: Sure. Yep. Go, go ahead.

Ah, so he called me one day and said listen why don't we get together for some pizza one day. Haven't seen you in awhile. Like to catch up with you. I said great. So I made sure that I took ah I didn't have the afternoon to work. I got home. I usually walked home from school. Um, I don't think I had purchased my car at the time. Ah, he had picked me up that one afternoon and said lets go out for pizza. Said great. I let my folks know at that point in time ah that I was going to be, excuse me, going to have some pizza with Father Phil since I hadn't seen him since he left the, the parish. He picked me up after, after school one day and ah basically I got in the car and he said ah we're not going to have pizza we're just going out an talk. So of course I wasn't prepared for that. I was a little hungry. He took me to a place where I'd never been before and that was St. Anselms College. He took me around the backside of the um ah, monastery. We parked in the general parking lot right around the church and we walked the grounds backside. I'd never been there before in my life. Excuse me. Not even for a church service at the Cathedral. We walked out back and we sat in one of the, the ah open gazebos. It was a long rectangular gazebo and we talked about ah where he's been. What he's been doing. What I've been doing and it was really topical at the time in conversation. One statement that came right up ah within the first ten minutes of conversation were has anyone said to you that I was gay? I said some of us kind of thought so with your feminine character.

AV: Huh, huh.

But ah other than saying flat out calling you gay um I have not heard it. Um, and as a kid you, we always used that term you're gay, he's gay so to us gay didn't mean much of anything other than the fact that ah we knew that gay was homosexual.

AV: Right.

When it was used in that term, terminology. I had a family member who ah, who passed away in 1981 ah and I had an unfortunate chance to learn a lot about homosexuality at that point in time in my life. Nonetheless, we continued to talk and I said I did not really you know say anything like that. I don't, I don't know you personally, frankly again I go right back to God bless her. She, she did the right things for me in my life. When

ah, I flat out asked him I said well are you gay. He said yes I am. I said ah and again I don't know what, what triggered me to do what I did, but I went right back to the Bible. Went right back to my, my learnings and went right back to what [REDACTED] said. And of course you know one of my statements was ah if ah if ah God wanted man to be man he would have created another gentleman. Um, I continually went back to what I learned in CCD classes. I don't know where I got the strength, but we talked a lot about that and he tried to force beer down me also.

AV: At the gazebo?

[REDACTED] At the gazebo. I had no interest and frankly um I'm glad I, I was a little defensive at that point in time because when the conversation got even further ah one of the statements he made was ah don't you think if I, if I ah, if I had a choice I would prefer not to be gay so he took an oath and you're suppose to be here leading us, guiding us and you're suppose to be celibate. One way or another you know and frankly don't tell me you're gay because I don't believe in it and I don't think God does either. My, my today, my where I sit right now at 35 years old I see things a little bit differently. Um, granted I may have been a little bit naive at that age, but you know I liked girls and I thought every other guy should see a girl not another guy. More and more of the conversation stemmed around his homosexuality and ah I kept going back to [REDACTED] and digging and I don't know where I got the words I did. I don't know where they came from, but it was strong ah in, in regards to my religion supporting my statements. Um, I then said I think we're done here. Ah, lets go home. I'm hungry. You lied to me. I'm suppose to have pizza. I want out of here. Um, turns out a few other people had ah also been confronted by Phil Petit. Um, in and around that same timeframe, within a couple of months and the same sort of thing happened to them. What didn't happen to them that I'm at least at this point in time I'm not aware of. We got back in his car and started to head back down St. Anselm's drive because it was only a couple of miles from where I was brought up and where I was living at the time with my parents. Ah, right before we got into the car he attempted to grab my ah my penis.

AV: Huh, huh.

[REDACTED] And I physically beat him up. Ah, again, I defended myself. I punched him two or three times. Um, again, he was a little feminine so it wasn't that big of a deal to me. Ah, it was more important that I was defending my religion, my feelings and my personal manhood and I wasn't going to be um, I was not going to become a statistic.

AF: Did he get his hands on you?

[REDACTED] Did he?

AF: Yes.

[REDACTED] Yeah.

AF: He did. So he did touch you with his hands?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

AF: Okay.

AV: Over your pants or?

[REDACTED] Over my pants.

AF: And that's when you and that's how.

[REDACTED] That's when I punched him at least three times. I did draw blood and I still have that scar. Um, we got in the car, went home. The last thing he said to me when I got out of the car was ah I know if you were gay I would enjoy you. I then said thank you very much. Have a good life. Please don't call me again.

AF: And he said that after this all?

[REDACTED] He said that after I beat him up. Ah, I wanted to hit him again, but he was sitting in the car and I couldn't reach over the passenger seat fast enough. Ah, he says don't worry I won't call you again, but call me if you're interested and of course I slammed the door.

AF: And you would have been um, you would have been around 16.

[REDACTED] 17. Again, right around that same timeframe.

AF: Does the summer of 1983 sound accurate as this being when this would have occurred?

[REDACTED] Somewhere around there. I know that ah the [REDACTED] brothers were talked to by Phil. I know ah.

AV: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Pardon.

AV: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Oh yeah. Oh yeah. And of course today I know what happened and again I'm thankful that I wasn't a statistic any further than I am right now.

AF: How about [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Oh yeah I'm sure he was called. Um, [REDACTED] again. [REDACTED] who was not related, but we all lived, they lived two houses down.

AV: Not related to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] No they're not related. Ah, same last names. Again only a couple of houses apart.

AV: Yep, Yep.

[REDACTED] And again we're all within you know a ten house block.

AV: Right.

[REDACTED] We were all brought up. I know that [REDACTED] ah his brother graduated with me. His name I can't remember his name. Ah [REDACTED] myself um can't remember some of the others, but there were a handful of us that kind of said you know were you called by him too and of course they said yes.

AF: Yeah.

[REDACTED] Nobody really volunteered anything at that point.

AF: Do you know where Petit was assigned at that point? Where he was living?

[REDACTED] No idea.

AF: He, he was a priest by then though, right?

[REDACTED] At that point he was a priest.

AF: Yeah.

AV: So he moved on from St. John's?

[REDACTED] He was in his first or second assignment ah from the time that he was ordained.

AF: Okay.

█ Ah, it gets better. When I didn't even know whether or not I was going to go in the house and talk about this and if, if I were to put a timeline went on it they all happened within the same timeframe.

AV: The incident with Fortier and Petit was all around the same timeframe?

█ Right. I didn't want to go into my house at that point in time. I wanted to ah actually go talk to █ was the █ there. █ used to live on the corner of Youville & Bremer diagonally across the street from where I was brought up. That man and his wife were wonderful people. I started my █ career at █ years old thanks to him. Um, someone that I really looked up to. Someone I really liked and I believe now he is now a firefighter in either Goffstown or Hooksett. I'm pretty sure it's Hooksett.

AF: █

█ █  
AF: █

█ Correct.

AV: He was the head of █

█ Yes. Him and his wife were primarily the ah, the adults that ran it. They didn't have children and from what I could figure this is a way that they ah, they could serve the church to fulfill their, their parental feelings. Um, I immediately went into █ house before I went into my, my house. Went to talk to █ because █ was someone that ah I, I could trust. I could talk to. Um, and I wasn't sure what to make of it at the time. One, I was ashamed that I hit a priest, but I was also defending myself so I went to talk to, ah to █ about it.

AF: Same day?

█ Same night. I just got out of the car and went to his house first. Told him what happened and then I went home to my folks told them what happened. I didn't have the heart to tell my grandparents. My folks bought the house from my grandparents shortly before they passed away. A few weeks later is when I specifically remember um █ telling, actually at that time █ told me you needed to talk to someone about it. Wasn't sure what I wanted to do yet. Um, again, I'm thinking 17 years, 16, 17 years old. I hit a priest. It could be assault. I could be the one going to jail. I could be the one that could be at

fault here, not him. I don't think I, I was in a position um at that point in my life to be strong enough to, to go through that sort of thing. Now I know for a fact [REDACTED] talked to a few people in the church. One of them happened to have been [REDACTED] Had to have been [REDACTED]

AF: Okay.

AV: Whose head of the CCD program?

[REDACTED] I don't know if she was the head, but again I had her a couple of years. Um, loved the woman. Um, I just bumped into her a few weeks ago as a matter of fact and ah it was quite nice. I wish I had more time to talk with her.

AF: Good.

[REDACTED] Anyhow, I, I know that [REDACTED] talked to her. [REDACTED] was involved with the ah, the ah, the adult community in the church and of course things got out. Turns out I'm sure, once again, I'm assuming this, but I'm quite sure this is how this came about where [REDACTED] must have talked to at the time was Attorney Champagne, who has now become um Judge Champagne.

AF: Norman Champagne?

[REDACTED] That's correct.

AF: District Court Judge over here?

[REDACTED] That's correct. That's correct. I remember getting a phone call from him.

AF: From him?

[REDACTED] From him um and asked if I wanted to press charges.

AF: When, how long after the incident was that?

[REDACTED] Within a month.

AF: Okay.

[REDACTED] Within a month.

AF: Was he, was he a lawyer at the time?

[REDACTED] He was a lawyer at the time.



AF: Yep. In?

[REDACTED] In Manchester.

AF: Okay. And what occurred ah with, what happened after that?

[REDACTED] Um, of course I told my folks and, and I did not tell my folks that ah that he had actually, that Phil had actually touched me. I did tell them um the statement he had made and of course my father got a kick out of it saying that's my son taking care of himself, defending himself.

AF: So you didn't tell your parents that you had actually been touched?

[REDACTED] No.

AF: Did you tell [REDACTED] that you had actually been touched?

[REDACTED] I probably did. I.

AF: Okay.

[REDACTED] Um, I yeah, I told [REDACTED] the whole story.

AF: Yep.

[REDACTED] And um, again I, I was more ashamed of being asked the questions than I was actually you know being touched.

AF: Sure.

AV: Ummmm, right.

[REDACTED] Pissed off. I was more pissed off about the statements than I was you know somebody trying to touch me.

AF: Right.

[REDACTED] Um, so that, that it's not that it didn't bother me it did, but I was more concerned about the statement that was made and what do I do. In any case when ah talking with Champagne um he asked if I wanted to press charges and I said no. I said the only thing I want would ah, would be to make sure that this sort of thing doesn't happen to anybody else. Um, it turns out that you know this very well could have been closed way back then, but apparently it hadn't been. Um, I did say that I that at some point in time I would like to talk to the Diocese of Manchester.

AF: Who did you tell that to?

█ Ah, Champagne.

AF: Okay.

█ Ah, at that point um I don't remember anything about that situation from that point um actually about that at all other than the fact that I'm the one that went to talk to the Diocese of Manchester.

AF: Okay. Let me ask you about that. At, at some particular point you end up going to the Diocese of Manchester to talk about the stuff.

█ Yes.

AF: How long after the incident did this occur?

█ Two months or so.

AF: The Petit incident, is that correct?

█ Ah, I went to ah, yes.

AF: Okay.

█ Yes. And at that point in time I discussed what had happened with ah Father Roger and what had happened to me with at the time Father Petit.

AF: Inclusive of the solicitation?

█ Yeah.

AF: The pornographic, the pornography, the beer.

█ Right.

AF: The touching by Petit, all that stuff was discussed by you at the Diocese. Who went to the Diocese with you?

█ No one.

AF: Went on your own?

█ Yes I did.

AF: Okay. And this was about how long after?

[REDACTED] A few months after the situation with ah Petit?

AF: Okay. So go ahead.

AV: I was going to say would that have been like the fall of '83? Does that sound right?

[REDACTED] I don't remember the year.

AV: Okay.

AF: Okay.

[REDACTED] It would have been somewhere's around the fall timeframe.

AV: Okay.

AF: So you go to the Diocese, here in Manchester.

[REDACTED] Huh, huh.

AF: Who, who do you speak to?

[REDACTED] I believe it was Bishop Gendron at the time.

AF: Bishop Gendron.

[REDACTED] I believe it was Bishop Gendron at the time.

AV: Let's backup. Did you call first to make an appointment or did you just show up?

[REDACTED] I called first.

AV: Okay. And who did you speak with when you first called?

[REDACTED] It was ah, it was a gentleman. Ah, they wouldn't give me an appointment. They said just come on in and, and ah and sit with him at this point in time. They wouldn't give me a specific timeframe. They basically said come by during the afternoon at this time and it was, it was a gentleman that took my information. It's wasn't a woman.

AV: Did you tell him the nature of what you wanted to talk about?

[REDACTED] I did.

AV: Okay.

[REDACTED] Yep.

AV: You said you needed to speak with the Bishop.

[REDACTED] Correct.

AV: Okay.

[REDACTED] And I did use the fact that um I was a [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Ah, I was my [REDACTED] so I definitely tried to use  
my, my young adult politics to my advantage.

AV: Huh, huh.

[REDACTED] At least to get me in to talk.

AV: Kind of get you in the door.

[REDACTED] Yeah.

AF: Did you ever while you were there did you ever meet a man by the name of  
Father or Monsignor Frank Christian?

[REDACTED] I don't remember.

AF: Okay. All right. So you go to the Diocese.

[REDACTED] Huh, huh.

AF: And you end up in front of ah Bishop Gendron.

[REDACTED] I believe that's who it was.

AF: Okay. What did you tell the Bishop?

[REDACTED] Everything that I've just talked about in the last 20 minutes.

AF: Everything that we've discussed here today you told Bishop Gendron?

█ Every single

AF: What did Bishop Gendron say to you?

█ We'll take care of it.

AF: Did he say specifically how?

█ No.

AF: He just said we'll take care of it?

█ Yep. He said I'm sorry. Um, we'll take care of it.

AF: Did he ask you not to tell anybody?

█ I don't remember. I don't remember hearing anything like that.

AF: All right. What else do you remember him telling you besides we'll take care of it?

█ He said all but maybe a couple hundred words to me. Um, he pretty much ah just sat there and listened and looked at me when we talked and the last comment was ah thank you very much for your time and we'll take care of it.

AF: Did he offer you anything? Any help, guidance, assistance, pastoral.

AV: Counseling?

AF: Counseling?

█ No.

AV: Did he ever, did he leave it open ended that he would get back in touch to let you know, follow-up with you, keep you in the loop, just we'll take care of it and that was kind of it?

█ Yeah.

AF: So he's got a 16 year old boy in front of him complaining about certain things what we've just talked about on this tape and the only assurance you got from the man was we'll take care of it.

[REDACTED] Yes, and part of the reason why I felt okay with it was most of the older priests that I've grown accustomed to ah, again, the Monsignor Lesmerise ah there was another Bishop at ah St. Patrick's was a friend of my mothers.

TAPE ONE, SIDE B

AF: Okay, we're back on tape. We had to stop the interview. The side A of this tape ran out. We're on side B now. Continuation of interview ah [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Same people are present. Ah, December 4, 2002 at 12:45 p.m. by my watch. Ah, one quick question. Do we still have your permission to continue to audio tape, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Yes.

AF: Okay. Continue if you will.

[REDACTED] Um, again, the older priests um like the Gendrons and ah the Monsignor Lesmerise that were older I respected and ah, and frankly I think they were more narrow minded about the religion and the church that some of the newer up and comers younger generation that are trying to get more active in the community. Ah, personally I, I have, I, I like a very few priests and the ones that I've seen that I really like are the ones that ah wouldn't betray me, make some serious um mistakes along the way.

AF: Something I just want to clear up. You went in front of Bishop Gendron. You told him about the drinking of the beer.

[REDACTED] Yes.

AF: The pornography by Father Fortier?

[REDACTED] Yes.

AF: The solicitations by Father Fortier or the attempts? You tell him about other boys as well?

[REDACTED] Yes.

AF: Or just yourself?

[REDACTED] Yes I mentioned the names of other people that I already talked about.

AF: Okay. And then you told him what Father Petit had done to you?

[REDACTED] Oh, yes.

AF: So he was, he at that time was absolutely fully aware, which would have put us around the fall of 1983 of everything that you have told us here today.

█ Absolutely.

AV: And he assured you at that point he'll take care of it?

█ Right. And again based on my dealings with older priests ah I felt that um my trust and, and the statements he made to me was sacred.

AF: Let me ask you this. You're an adult man now. Obviously very intelligent guy. Do you think Bishop Gendron took care of it from what you know of now?

█ I'm not in a position to judge anybody.

AF: Okay. Fair enough. Did you tell anyone that you went to the Diocese and spoke to Bishop Gendron?

█ Yes.

AF: Who would that be?

█ My parents.

AF: You told your parents. Were your parents supportive?

█ Yes. 100 percent. They are, again, I never told them about the actual um physical touching by Phil, but they were supportive with me um even up until last night when I talked with them and let them know that I was coming to see you. Ah, whatever I chose to do we will support as they did when I was younger. Um, basically they said this happened to you. You know you're old enough to make your own decisions. If you wish to go forward with this we'll support you. If you don't we understand.

AF: Do you know if any of the other boys or their families went to the Diocese and complained also?

█ I don't know.

AF: Okay.

AV: When you talked, disclosed to your family, did you also disclose about Father Roger Fortier incident or just Petit?

█ Oh, sure.

AV: Okay.

█ Oh, sure.

AV: So both.

█ Yep. Again, the only thing I did not tell my parents was that Father Phil had actually tried to, to touch me.

AV: Exactly.

AF: Do you know where Father Fortier is today, █

█ I believe he's incarcerated by the State of New Hampshire.

AF: Yeah. Do you know why?

█ Ah, yeah I do.

AV: Is there anything else you can think of that we didn't cover, that Tony or I didn't ask you that you can think of that might be helpful in our investigation?

█ I'd like to know where Father Phil Petit is today?

AF: He's in California. I'll tell you that.

█ Is he still a priest?

AF: No, well.

█ Is he incarcerated?

AF: No.

AV: No.

AF: Let's, let's put it to you this way. Father Petit cannot exercise his priestly functions. However, it to my knowledge Father Petit is still a priest, is still attached to the Diocese of Manchester. Let me just check one thing here.

AV: Make sure we covered everything.



AF: But he's not ah.

AV: I just have one other question regarding [REDACTED] Do you know, you had confronted talked to him and disclosed what had happened to you.

[REDACTED] Yes.

AV: And then he went to um the woman you spoke so fondly of.

[REDACTED] This is all assumption.

AV: Okay.

[REDACTED] Because they were all part of the adult community in St. Jean's. Ah, my assumption is that um he had spoken to [REDACTED] and ah [REDACTED] probably spoke to Champagne because they were neighbors.

AV: Okay, but you don't have any knowledge of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] going to the Diocese specifically?

[REDACTED] Not to my knowledge. No, I opted to keep that to myself.

AF: Let me ask you this. After you went to the Diocese with this information, can you recall any time after that that the same thing occurred to you that was occurring prior to you going to the Diocese, such as the pornographic videos, the beer, the solicitation. Did that continue after your complaint to the Diocese?

[REDACTED] Um, I don't know because they were out of the parish at that point in time.

AF: They were gone?

[REDACTED] As far as I know.

AF: Okay. Okay.

[REDACTED] Now you have to remember it's been almost 20 years and I'm embarrassed to say.

AF: Sure.

[REDACTED] I have been, I have not been a practicing Catholic since about that time \_\_\_\_\_ I attended my grandparents funerals and that's about it. I got married in the church.

AF: Anything else you want to say, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] No thank you.

AF: I'm going to end this interview. The end of the interview with [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] It is 12:52 p.m. by my watch. December 4, 2002. End of interview.

200759

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE POLICE  
POSSESSED PROPERTY REPORT

10764

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. CASE NO. <u>AG-021-02-00103</u>	2. INVESTIGATING TPR. <u>Va chon FOWLER</u>	3. ID <u>NHAG</u>	4. TOWN OF CRIME <u>Various</u>	5. TN CD	6. DATE OF REPORT <u>12-4-02</u>
7. OWNER <u>NHAG</u>		8. OWNERS TEL. <u>271-3671</u>	9. OWNERS ADDRESS <u>33 CAPITOL ST. CONCORD, NH 03301</u>		
CHECK ONE	11. RECOVERED STOLEN PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/>	12. SEIZED PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/>	13. POSSESSED ABANDONED PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/>	14. EVIDENCE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	15. OTHER (Explain) <input type="checkbox"/>
CHECK ONE	16. SEIZED WITH A WARRANT <input type="checkbox"/>	17. SEIZED WITHOUT A WARRANT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	18. NHSP LABORATORY NUMBER (If Applicable)		

PROPERTY

ITEMIZE, DESCRIBE, AND VALUE EACH ITEM		
# OF ITEMS	DESCRIPTION INCLUDING SERIAL NUMBER	VALUE
1	<u>MAXELL C90 Communication Series Audio tape [REDACTED] Interview</u>	<u>UNK</u>
<u>END</u>		

CUSTODY

DATE	RELINQUISHED BY	RECEIVED BY/LOCATION	PURPOSE

PAGE NO. <u>1</u> OF <u>1</u> PAGES	SIGNED (Investigating Trooper) <u>[Signature]</u>	ID NO. <u>NHAG</u>	DATE <u>12-4-02</u>
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## MEMORANDUM

TO: FILE

FROM: ANTHONY FOWLER, INV. (a)

RE: DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER  
FR. FORTIER/PETIT  
TELEPHONE CALL TO JUDGE NORMAN CHAMPAGNE

DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2002

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As follow-up to the [REDACTED] interview, contacted JUDGE NORMAN CHAMPAGNE at the MANCHESTER DISTRICT COURT-624-6596. It is believed that JUDGE CHAMPAGNE was the ATTORNEY CHAMPAGNE that [REDACTED] was referring to during his interview.

Asked JUDGE CHAMPAGNE if he had been a parishioner of ST. JOHN'S in the early 80's, and he believed he was, and confirmed being a parishioner there. Asked if he recalled an incident where he learned that a kid named [REDACTED] had been with Fr. FORTIER and was given beer and watched porno movies in the rectory, and further had been touched by FR. PETIT.

Explained to JUDGE CHAMPAGNE that [REDACTED] recalled receiving a telephone call from him (JUDGE CHAMPAGNE) offering assistance to press charges if he wanted to. JUDGE CHAMPAGNE had no recollection of this call occurring, but recalled FR. FORTIER and vaguely recalled FR. PETIT. JUDGE CHAMPAGNE stated if [REDACTED] had spoken to him, his advice would have been that to him, as far as pressing charges against them. Stated this was a long time ago, and did not have recollection of a call to this kid.

## MEMORANDUM

TO: FILE

FROM: ANTHONY FOWLER, INV. ©

RE: DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER  
FATHER FORTIER  
[REDACTED]

DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2002

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Called ATTORNEY DICK MOQUIN to ascertain whether or not [REDACTED] would allow us to interview him. MOQUIN indicated he met with [REDACTED] yesterday, DECEMBER 4, 2002, and [REDACTED] is a mess, very emotional and too upset to speak to us about this matter with FORTIER. MOQUIN related that [REDACTED] has decided not to speak to us and does not want to be involved with this investigation.

## MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

PERSON INTERVIEWED: MATTHEW MCSORLEY

PLACE OF INTERVIEW: NH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE  
TELEPHONE

DATE OF INTERVIEW: DECEMBER 3, 2002

RE: DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER  
FATHER FORTIER

INTERVIEWED BY: ANTHONY FOWLER, INV.

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MCSORLEY called me back on the above date. MCSORLEY resides at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] NH. His telephone number is [REDACTED]. MCSORLEY is the former DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS (PUBLIC RELATIONS) for the DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER. He also was the EDITOR for the TIDINGS NEWSPAPER for the DIOCESE. He was employed by the DIOCESE from 1994-2000.

Asked MCSORLEY if he recalled a telephone conversation he had in 1997 with a police officer from FARMINGTON, NH. MCSORLEY recalled the telephone call and they spoke about FR. FORTIER. MCSORLEY told me he did not know who FORTIER was prior to charges being brought against the man. Asked what he recalled knowing about FORTIER at the time of the call, and he did not recall knowing much about him. Stated that he received very little information about this, and anything he did get, came from BISHOP CHRISTIAN regarding personnel matters. MCSORLEY knew that FORTIER had been charged and convicted.

Asked what the substance of the call was with the officer from FARMINGTON. MCSORLEY could not recall specifics, but believed the officer was trying to gather information about FORTIER and MCSORLEY was 70%-75% certain that the officer called him due to the officer seeing his name in the newspaper.

Asked MCSORLEY if he became aware or was aware at the time of the call with the officer, that FORTIER had prior problems with teenagers as a priest. MCSORLEY related at some point during the FORTIER matter, he became aware that FORTIER had problems 15-20 years prior and believed the problems originated from a parish in MANCHESTER. He estimated the time frame as being around the 1970's or 1980's. MCSORLEY recalled the previous problems he became aware of had to do with complaints against FORTIER for his behavior with teenagers and FORTIER was showing them pornographic videos. Asked how he learned that information, and MCSORLEY stated that he and BISHOP CHRISTIAN had

conversations about that. Asked again what he specifically recalled telling the officer from FARMINGTON, and MCSORLEY stated he did not recall and was drawing a blank on that call. Asked if he knew this information about FORTIER'S previous problems at the time he spoke to the officer, and he did not believe so, but is not sure what he knew and when he knew it.

MCSORLEY stated the officer seemed very frustrated, in that he was not getting information he needed from MCSORLEY'S superiors. MCSORLEY believed this was the reason the officer called him. MCSORLEY continued by saying that he and the officer spoke once and the call was not very long. He further added that he wouldn't have misled the officer in any way, but does not recall specifics of the call at all. MCSORLEY stated he was not told very much by his superiors and they purposely did not tell him much to keep him out of the problem. MCSORLEY believed the officer called him early on in the investigation.

## Memorandum

To: File (Investigation of the Diocese of Manchester – Fr. Fortier and Fr. Petit)  
From: Chris Domian, Investigator  
CC: James D. Rosenberg, AAG  
Date: December 4, 2002  
Re: Interview of Father Marcel Martel

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On November 25, 2002, Assistant Attorney General James Rosenberg and I conducted a telephone interview with Father Marcel Martel, a priest with the Diocese of Manchester. Based on information secured during the investigation, it appears that Father Martel served at St. John's the Baptist church in Manchester in the early 1980's –during the time that Father Roger Fortier also served at that church. As such, the focus of our interview with Father Martel was to determine whether he had any information about sexual misconduct perpetrated by Father Fortier and, if so, whether the Diocese was aware of Father Fortier's conduct.

Father Martel reported that he was ordained in 1979 and began to serve at St. John's the Baptist in June of that year. In June of 1981, the Diocese transferred him to a parish in Nashua. Father Ray Lamy replaced him when he left. Father Martel explained that Father Fortier was assigned to St. John's the Baptist in June of 1980. Thus, they served together for approximately one year. Phil Petit was also assigned to St. John's the Baptist as a deacon in 1981. They all served under Father Lesmerise, who is now deceased.

Father Martel stated that he had no knowledge that Fortier engaged in sexual misconduct or whether the Diocese was aware that Fortier was a sexual threat to minors.

However, Father Martel stated that in 1980 or 1981, when he worked with Petit at St. John's the Baptist, he received a call from a parishioner alleging that Petit "came onto" her son who was a "young adult" at the time. Father Martel explained that the call came from a woman involved in La Rencontre, an evangelical movement in which he and Petit participated. The group was sanctioned by the Diocese of Manchester and included a number of French speaking parishioners from the Manchester area. Father Martel could not remember additional specifics related to the allegation. Father Martel stated that he was concerned when he received the call and immediately contacted the Diocese of Manchester to turn the information over. Father Martel reported this information to a "Diocesan official," most likely Bishop Christian or Bishop Mulvee. Father Martel stated that he made this call personally. He also pointed out that he made this call to the Diocese when Petit still functioned as a deacon, before he was ordained as a priest with the Diocese.



Approximately one year later, Father Martel learned through the grapevine that Petit "picked up" a hitchhiker. Thereafter, the hitchhiker identified Petit when he was at a Seacoast area hospital.

Father Martel was asked whether he had any other information related to sexual misconduct by priests. He explained that someone had confided in him that in the 1940's or 1950's a priest from St. Francis Exavier in Nashua had engaged in sexual misconduct of some sort. He could not recall the name of the priest or the details of the allegation. However, he knew that the priest that was involved was the same priest that was responsible for significant renovations to that parish, including changing the pews from wood to marble.

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