

Assistant Secretary for Ministerial Personnel

Archdiocese of Boston

Memo

To: Cardinal Law
Bishop Murphy
From: Reverend Charles Higgins
Date: 05/17/00
Re: Reverend William Scanlan

This report came to me via the youth minister at Immaculate Conception Parish in Stoughton, a Nancy Coggin. Nancy Coggin indicated that a priest had molested an [REDACTED]. She communicated that the priest was Reverend William Scanlan. After assuring her of our concern and the seriousness of the situation, I informed Nancy that I would contact [REDACTED] parents and arrange a meeting. I met with Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED] this past Sunday at Immaculate Conception Rectory. I was surprised to find that when I saw [REDACTED] I recognized him from [REDACTED] where he worked [REDACTED] until last November. I informed them of the accusation that [REDACTED] had lodged against Fr. Scanlan. They were surprised and stunned but relived to begin to understand the unusual behavior of their daughter for the past three and one half years. We discussed how best to handle the situation and recommended that I could meet with [REDACTED] the following morning after they told her that they knew of the accusation she raised against Fr. Scanlan.

I met [REDACTED] at the rectory of Immaculate Conception on Monday morning (May 8th) at 9:30. She is 15 years old, [REDACTED]. She is quiet and shy. After telling her how I became involved with her situation, we began to exchange in small talk to make her more comfortable. About 20 minutes into the conversation she began to reveal the details of her relationship with Father Scanlan. He was a friend of the family and would on occasion come over the house for dinner. At times she would visit him at the rectory. The first incident occurred on her 12th birthday, [REDACTED]. She was in the rectory office with him and he began to rub parts of her body with his hand. They were both clothed at the time. However, he did reach inside her underwear to fondle her. He said, "let it happen." She said "no". She said he became angry and aggressive in his actions and she was frightened. After this first incident she stayed away from him until the following February. Her parents wanted [REDACTED] to see "Fr. Bill" because she had changed in the last few months and was depressed. Because of her condition the parents made an arrangement for [REDACTED] to see Fr. Scanlan. [REDACTED] stated that during these counseling situations that the touching of her body both outside and underneath her clothes began again. Of the times that she met with him in February and early March she said these incidents happened about four times.

In March, around St. Patrick's Day, [REDACTED] went to see Fr Scanlan again. It was during this meeting that the situation changed. He invited her to his room upstairs. She described the room as having two parts, one an office - sitting room and the other a bedroom. In the bedroom he pinned her against the wall and began to rub her body. She told him "No" but he became angry. He took off her clothes but he only removed his pants. At this point they were on the bed and she said that they had sexual intercourse. [REDACTED] said that she said no again but "Fr. Bill responded that God wanted him too." [REDACTED] indicated that Fr. Scanlan's appearance was different, she said he seemed dazed. After the incident he took her down stairs and out to the car where her [REDACTED] was waiting.

In the past 3 ½ years since these incidents, her grades have gone from A's to F's. She has attempted suicide, has been hospitalized for depression. She recently began to see a rape therapist who is a mandated reporter to the state. The Department of Social Services and local police department were notified by the rape councilor.