

27 February 2004

Curran, John DECEASED	XXX (12-14)	Augusta	1957- 1959	Victim called the AG's Office on 3/22/2002 and reported that Father Curran sexually abused him on at least two occasions in Father's private study at St. Augustine School. The abuse consisted of Father Curran allegedly fondling the genitals of the victim.
	XXX (13)	Augusta	1950s	Victim says that Fr. Curran "touched" him. In a recent report to the Diocese, victim says that XXX of Augusta sexually abused him and that Father Curran was present in the XXX residence on some of those occasions. (Father Curran died in 1976.)

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Father John J. Curran:

XXX' claims that Father Curran "touched" him. Mr. XXX was born about 1952. This abuse would have taken place in Augusta. In 1994, the Kennebec Journal reported that Mr. XXX testified before a legislative hearing that Fr. Curran had abused him. In a newspaper article, Mr. XXX stated that his memories of abuse by Fr. Curran came out in therapy and were based on statements made to him by XXX, who also abused him for many years.

XXX reported that Fr. Curran abused him when he was 14 years old in the Augusta area. Mr. XXX was 50 at the time of the report (born approximately 1945), so the alleged abuse was about 1959. Fr. Curran approached XXX 2 or 3 times and then was told to quit. At the time of the report, Mr. XXX was just coming out of a deep depression. He approached other people in the Augusta area and all denied being abused by Fr. Curran.

Father John J. Curran was born in 1900 and ordained in 1927. He died at the age of 76 in 1976 and had retired in 1972. His assignment to St. Augustine in Augusta was from March of 1962 to October of 1972. He was not in Augusta in 1959 when Mr. XXX was 14 years old. He was in Augusta during Mr. XXX's later teenage years.

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May 17, 2002

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Child Protective Intake  
Department of Human Services  
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Re: Report of Possible Abuse of a Minor

Gentlepersons:

I am writing in my capacity as counsel for the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portland to report a case of possible abuse of a minor. [REDACTED] called the Diocese to report on testimony he gave before the Legislature in the early 1990s and forwarded us an affidavit which we understand he read to the Legislature at that time. In it he describes being abused by a [REDACTED] at his house at [REDACTED]. He was about 13 at the time and had been fondled by five or six other men before in return for candy or money. He reports that [REDACTED] had albums with pictures of a number of nude boys and that a friend by the name of [REDACTED] would participate. [REDACTED] indicated that he returned to [REDACTED] house in 1984 and [REDACTED] reported that he was still into young boys and still had photographs. Apparently, [REDACTED] had revealed this information to [REDACTED].

He also reported that Father Curran was sometimes present during the abuse. He spoke to his mother about this but she threatened to wash out his mouth with soap if he ever called Father Curran a queer again. Father Curran died in 1976.

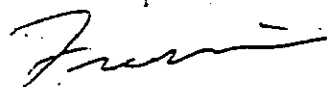
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Stephanie Anderson, Esq.  
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[REDACTED] was offered counseling.

Please do not hesitate to call if I may be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,



Frederick C. Moore

FCM/mh

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# **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

## **Investigation Division**

Date: March 25, 2002

To: Brian MacMaster, Chief

From: Bruce Densmore, Detective

Subject: Report of sexual abuse by clergy

On March 22, 2002 I returned a call to [REDACTED]

Date of Call: 03/21/02

Name of Alleged Victim: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

**Allegation:** Unlawful sexual contact, touching of the genitals through the clothing.

**Name and Position of Alleged Perpetrator:** John J. Curran, Roman Catholic Priest, Deceased, St. Augustine Church, Augusta, ME.

**Approximate Date of Alleged Conduct:** 1957-59, age 12-14

**Location of Alleged of Alleged Conduct:** Fr. Curran's private study, St. Augustine School.

**Description of Alleged Sexual Contact:** It's being alleged that on at least two occasions while meeting with Fr. Curran during school hours in his private study at the school, Fr. Curran fondled the victim's genitals. There were no witnesses to the alleged violations nor did the victim report the alleged conduct to officials.

**Present Location of the Alleged Perpetrator:** Deceased.

**Synopsis:** [REDACTED] reported that during the period 1957 – 1959 he was the victim of sexual abuse on at least two occasions while meeting with Fr. Curran in his private study located at St. Augustine's School. [REDACTED] described a period in his life where he was experiencing tremendous difficulty coping with the domestic abuse situation at home involving material problems between his mother and father. [REDACTED] described his father as being an abusive alcoholic. [REDACTED] said that he was so emotionally effected over the situation at home that not only did his school grades and conduct drop from "A- F's", he actually would get sick and vomit in classroom at school. Not wanting to disclose the home environment to his teacher out of fear that his parents would find out, [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] at the time made arrangements for him to meet with Fr. Curran for counseling during school hours. [REDACTED] said that he met with Fr. Curran in his private study at the school.

[REDACTED] reported that during his first of two or meetings with Fr. Curran, he disclosed to Fr. Curran the situation at home between his mother and father and the impact that it was having on him as well as other siblings in the family. [REDACTED] said during this meeting Fr. Curran, did not appear to be interested in what he was telling him. He said that Fr. Curran kept repeating to him over and over again in French, "Mon beau beau [REDACTED] Tu shanties si bien et tu es si

beau". " My handsome [REDACTED]. "You sing so well and you are so handsome". [REDACTED] said that during the meeting Fr. Curran told him to stand so that he could bless him. [REDACTED] said that he did as he was told and stood up in front of Fr. Curran. [REDACTED] said instead of Fr. Curran placing his hand on [REDACTED]'s forehead to bless him, he place his hand on Mr. [REDACTED] genitals and began to fondle him. As stated by [REDACTED] "Fr. Curran grabs my groin area and begins massaging my Dick". [REDACTED] said that he responded to Fr. Curran's behavior by telling him "what he was doing to him, [REDACTED] was wrong" and then left room very up set and returned to class.

As described by [REDACTED] the home situation continued to deteriorate as well as did his grades and conduct at school. Eventually, [REDACTED] met with him again and insisted that he resume meeting with Fr. Curran. Not daring to disclose what Fr. Curran had previously done to him, [REDACTED] tells [REDACTED] he does not need to meet with Fr. Curran again. [REDACTED] not wanting to take no for an answer schedules an appointment for [REDACTED] to meet with Fr. Curran in his private study during school hours. [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] escorted him to Fr. Curran's study. He said that she told Fr. Curran that she would wait outside in the hallway should he need her. [REDACTED] said, after a few minutes had passed Fr. Curran open the door to his study and told [REDACTED] that there was no need for her to remain outside in the hallway and that she could return to her office. [REDACTED] reports that during this meeting Fr. Curran repeats the verbiage of the first meeting and tells Mr. [REDACTED] women are to blame for all problem in the home". As told by [REDACTED] Fr. Curran then takes a hold of [REDACTED] hand and attempt to place it on his, Fr. Curran's " penis". Allegedly, [REDACTED] pulls free from Fr. Curran's grasp and strikes out at him, hitting him in the upper arm or chest area and immediately leaves the room and returns to class.

[REDACTED] reported no further allegations against Fr. Curran.

When asked, [REDACTED] told me that he did not disclose any of alleged conduct perpetrated by Fr. Curran to any officials. He said at the time he did not dare to report what had happen and if he had, no one would have believed him anyway given that a priest was considered to be the closest thing to God.

[REDACTED] said that he is Bi-Sexual and started receiving therapy at the age of 20. He said that [REDACTED]

Additionally, [REDACTED] said that he was not interested in public exposure of his issues or in filing a law suite against the church. However, he did say that he was strongly in favor of renaming the "Fr. John J. Curren Bridge", based upon his personnel knowledge that Fr. Curran was not the pillar of the community that everyone believes he was. [REDACTED] said that if others in the community step forward about Fr. Curran, he would be willing to go public in regards to renaming the bridge on Water Street.