

Priest I

Two brothers learned as adults, that *Priest I* had victimized them both. As altar boys, they spent a lot of time in church and were involved in parish activities. For one brother, this developed into a constant string of overnights spent being abused by *Priest I* in the rectory. The other brother, envious of the attention lavished by *Priest I* on his sibling, began to follow suit. *Priest I* touched their genitals, masturbated them and performed oral sex. He told them not to tell anyone about the abuse or that they were spending the night with them in the rectory.⁴⁵

Once, on a trip, *Priest I* had anal sex with one of the boys. This happened a couple of times in the rectory as well. This boy tried to tell another parish priest what was happening to him, but he was ignored. Finally, the boy decided to end the abuse and began staying away from the church. At his sister's wedding, he put a note in the collection basket with his name and telephone number asking for help. He never heard anything. At his nephew's baptism about a year later, he tried again. He got no response.

When one brother had a crisis involving his abuse of alcohol, his sexual molestation by *Priest I* was disclosed and the Diocese was notified. The Diocese agreed to pay for his alcohol rehabilitation and other therapy as needed. After the victim retained an attorney, the Diocesan representative with whom he was dealing, himself an attorney, told him they would be unable to discuss further any matter related to his case.⁴⁶ He fired his lawyer, and the legal matters were settled.

Priest I was first assigned to a Suffolk County parish in the early 1970's. As usual, his pastor did not have access to *Priest I's* personnel file at any time during his assignment. At some

⁴⁵ One brother recalls that another priest interrupted *Priest I* once as he was performing an act of oral sodomy upon him. The pastor and the other priests living in the rectory during this time period deny this.

point during *Priest I's* tenure, the pastor discovered that he was entertaining underage boys in his rectory room; he advised him that this was not to continue. He never relayed this information to anyone because he thought the issue had been addressed. Later, when *Priest I* left the rectory, the pastor told the Grand Jury he never knew the reason for his disappearance and he never questioned it. The pastor told the Grand Jury that pastors were not told about a priest's background, however, he thought they should be.

A contemporaneous associate priest of *Priest I's* corroborated the fact that *Priest I* frequently had young boys in his room. He also agreed that the pastor had confronted *Priest I* about this and told him that such conduct was forbidden.

The Grand Jury finds that these two cases illustrate the blind eye turned by pastors to sexual abuse occurring in their parishes. Pastors ignored the clear warning signs of abuse and failed to properly supervise priests assigned to them. The Grand Jury finds that this position evinces either a poor capacity for supervision or a blatant attempt to avoid complicity in the priests' crimes.

⁴⁶ This victim did commence a lawsuit against the Diocese that was dismissed because it was time barred.