



The Archdiocese of Boston
Office of Communications

Statement:

The Archdiocese of Boston indicated today that it has located a written record of the 1985 meeting with Mr. p Coleman, who claims that he was sexually abused by a priest thirty-five years ago. The file shows that Archdiocesan officials did take action by notifying the proper Church officials.

The records, contain a summary of a meeting that took place between Fr. John McCormack and Mr. Coleman in November, 1985. They confirm the fact that Mr. Coleman notified Fr. McCormack of his claim involving Father Richard Coughlin, a Boston priest who moved to California in 1985. Fr. Coughlin has since worked in several capacities in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the Diocese of Orange.

The file also indicates that Fr. McCormack passed the allegations along to his superior, Bishop Robert Banks, who was then Vicar for Administration. Bishop Banks informed the Diocese of Orange of Mr. Coleman's accusations against Fr. Coughlin. Recently, Fr. McCormack confirmed that Mr. Coleman's name appeared in an appointment book for the November date in 1985. Fr. McCormack, however, could not recall the specifics of the meeting itself. Initial efforts by officials of the Archdiocese of Boston were unable to turn up a written record until yesterday. The file was out of its permanent storage site due to an extensive review of past complaint files ordered by Cardinal Law as part of a project to revise and update the Archdiocesan policy for handling complaints of sexual abuse.

John B. Walsh
Director
April 2, 1993