

Confidential Memorandum

Memo to: Rev. Sean Connor

From: Barbara Thorp, LICSW

Re: John Doe 18
MCI Shirley
DOB: [redacted], 1956Rev. Thomas Curran
Rev. Paul Shanley

Date: August 1, 2002

The interview was conducted during the general visitor period at MCI Shirley to protect Mr. Doe 18's confidentiality. Diane Nealon, social worker from Att. McLeish's Office was present during interview at Mr. Doe 18's request. The interview began at 1:45 p.m. and concluded at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Doe 18 readily gave a clear and highly detailed account of sexual molestation that he alleges began in the summer of 1970 continuing until 1974. His allegations include five specific occasions of sexual molestation perpetrated by Fr. Thomas Curran. In addition he alleges that Fr. Curran introduced him to Fr. Paul Shanley in September of 1970. Over this three and a half year period Mr. Doe 18 alleges that Fr. Paul Shanley introduced him to male prostitution and other forms of sexual deviancy. The following details the allegations against Fr. Thomas Curran and Fr. Paul Shanley.

Mr. Doe 18 recalls getting into a street fight with other boys across the street from St. Mary's Parish in Cambridge. Fr. Curran broke the fight up and brought Mr. Doe 18 into the St. Mary's Gym which he recalls had an upper balcony with some offices. Fr. Curran took him into one of these offices to clean up the cuts on Mr. Doe 18's face. In the process of cleaning him up Fr. Curran groped Mr. Doe 18's genitals on the outside of his pants.

A few days later Fr. Curran took Mr. Doe 18 to a maintenance building located in a park on Huron Avenue. He recalls mutual masturbation and mutual oral sex. When they left the park Fr. Curran stopped to buy Mr. Doe 18 a soda after he complained of the bad taste in his mouth.

Three other incidents of the same type took place in a relatively short time period. He also recalls being digitally raped and that Fr. Curran used vaseline because of the pain it was causing him. The locations included two incidents at Mystic Lake near Sandy beach. And another incident near an MDC pool in Rindge Avenue.

In [redacted] of 1970 (Mr. Doe 18 recalls it was around the time of his birthday) Fr. Curran took him to the Twin Donut Shop at the corner of N. Beacon where he was introduced to Fr. Paul Shanley. They were not wearing clerics and they told him to address them by their first

names. Mr. Doe 18 recalls they took him to a park down the street on N. Beacon. He then recalls the area on Soldiers Field Road mentioning both the IHOP restaurant and the Howard Johnson's Restaurant. They took him across the street to an area near the Charles River and the path that runs along it. He was forced to have mutual masturbation and oral sex with both men being traded off while the other watched.

After this incident he continued to see Fr. Shanley until 1974. Fr. Curran was not part of these future incidents with Fr. Shanley. Mr. Doe 18's cousin lived in the Fidelis Way Project and Mr. Doe 18 stayed there most weekends. He would meet Fr. Shanley at the steps leading from Warren Street up to the St. Gabriel's Monastery property on Saturday or Sunday at around noon time. He describes three incidents at St. Gabriel's, one outside and two inside the monastery. The interviewer is familiar with the property and Mr. Doe 18's descriptions were as if being taken on a virtual tour both inside and outside. The sexual abuse, mutual masturbation and oral sex, occurred outside near the Passionist cemetery on the Washington St. side of the property. The two incidents that occurred inside the Monastery: the first involved an older man dressed in white shirt and black pants that Mr. Doe 18 assumes was a priest who took him to his room located on the first floor. Fr. Shanley watched as this man performed oral sex on Mr. Doe 18. A similar incident of sexual abuse occurred with this same man on a second occasion in a larger room on the lower level between the Church and the Monastery. The description of this room would identify it as the room used as a lounge by the St. Elizabeth Nursing school before it closed.

Mr. Doe 18 went on to describe being taken to the Fens by Fr. Shanley where he would observe Mr. Doe 18 engaging in sex acts with men who would meet there. At some point Mr. Doe 18 brought his cousin, W, into these sexual acts with Fr. Shanley. They eventually began to work at the Greyhound bus station as male prostitutes under Fr. Shanley's direction. They were told how to tie up their shirt tails and attract customers. They kept the money, but were forced to give detailed descriptions of their sexual encounters to Fr. Shanley. He would masturbate while questioning them about what they had done with the men they had met. He also recalls being photographed by Fr. Shanley while performing sex acts with his cousin, W. W died of a drug overdose in 1995, but Mr. Doe 18 believes it was suicide. W and Mr. Doe 18 had been living together as gay lovers before W's death.

The final incident with Fr. Shanley was described as occurring at the Carnival Lounge (a gay strip club) in the Combat Zone on the corner of Boylston Street. Mr. Doe 18 described being forced by Fr. Shanley to dress up in a G string and perform a dance for the customers. Mr. Doe 18 was always self-conscious about his body and his weight and felt completely humiliated by this experience. In a back room where he went to change he was sodomized by a man who followed him from the bar. Mr. Doe 18 followed Fr. Shanley out of the lounge and was very angry at him. He slapped him and told him he never wanted anything to do with him again. He then went to the rectory at St. Mary's in Cambridge and confronted Fr. Curran in anger over all that had happened after he introduced him to Fr. Shanley. Shortly after this Mr. Doe 18 joined the Navy, but this was short-lived; he did not explain why or how he left the service.

In 1979 he was sent to Met State Hospital by the court for a competency assessment. He had another encounter with Fr. Curran. He forced him to have oral sex in a laundry room after threatening to tell Mr. [Doe 18]'s girlfriend that he was gay if he refused.

Mr. [Doe 18] also reports sexual molestation by an unknown priest in 1965. He reports that after serving at a First Communion Mass that the priest masturbated him. When he told him that he had to leave because he had to go to the bathroom the priest told him no that he was going to have a release and cupped his hands for his ejaculation. He reports that he cleaned him with holy water and a purificator.

Mr. [Doe 18] spoke with little hesitation in reporting the details as described above. He stopped on several occasions weeping and wiping his eyes on the corner of his sleeve. He described being angry when he learned that Cardinal Law had visited Fr. Hanlon in jail, but people like him were not a concern to the Church. He stated that he thought about coming forward at the time of the Porter revelations in 1993, but decided that no one would believe him because he is a convict. He has a colostomy as a result of colon/rectal cancer and said he does not expect to live long. No inquiry was made regarding the reasons for his incarceration, but Mr. [Doe 18] volunteered that he will not be released until 2030. He has siblings, an ex-wife, two sons, but little if any contact with his family. He reports virtually no visitors. The prison mental health services were discussed as a resource to him especially during this time. A prison meeting with Cardinal Law was offered, but refused.