



Honorable Lynne Abraham

District Attorney

Section VI

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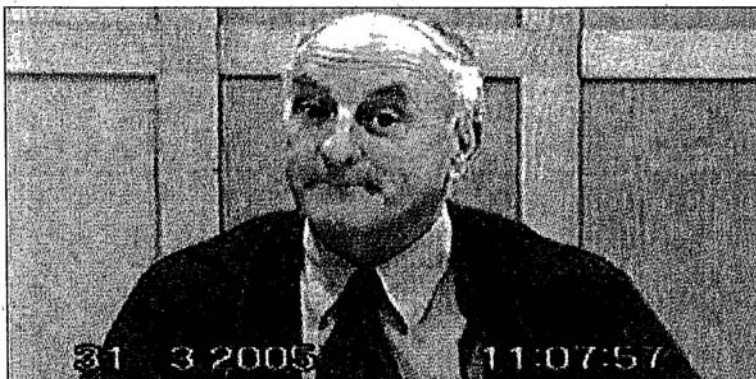
A Glimpse at the Mind of a Pedophile

A former priest who served under Mahony in the Stockton Diocese describes his ploys.

By JEAN GUCCIONE
Times Staff Writer

In a chillingly frank account, a former Roman Catholic priest, promoted 20 years ago by Roger M. Mahony, recently described his decades-long career as a pedophile, including his sexual tastes and how he groomed his young victims for abuse.

In a 15-hour videotaped deposition in March, Oliver O'Grady described how his heart raced when one of the slim, playful boys he preferred towed off af-



SECRETS: Oliver O'Grady, 59, testifies on videotape in Ireland. To secure a victim, he said, "I might have to do a little planning . . . to be sure that the boy was there, to be sure the boy was alone."

ter a swim. He also said he liked to lift little girls' skirts and peek at their underpants.

Asked to demonstrate how he would lure one of his estimated 25 victims into his arms, the 59-year-old Irish native softened his voice, flashed an avuncular smile and looked directly into the video camera.

"Hi, Sally," O'Grady impro-

vised. "How are you doing? Come here. I want to give you a hug. You are a sweetheart. You know that. You are very special to me. I like you a lot."

If his hug met no resistance, O'Grady testified, he would take the child's compliance as "permission" to molest.

The deposition came in con-
[See Priest, Page A23]

Disgraced Priest Describes a Molester's Tactics

[Priest, from Page A1]

ection with lawsuits filed against the Stockton Diocese over alleged abuse by clergy. Mahony, who was bishop of Stockton from 1980 to 1985 before heading the Los Angeles Archdiocese, inherited O'Grady, who had admitted years earlier to molesting an 11-year-old girl. In 1984, police investigated a therapist's report that O'Grady had molested a boy.

After police declined to file charges, Mahony transferred O'Grady to a rural parish and later promoted him to pastor there, where he allegedly molested three more victims, including a baby girl who suffered vaginal scarring, according to plaintiffs' lawyers. Mahony has said he was unaware of any molestation reports. The additional victims were molested after he left the diocese.

"The cardinal acted on the information he had, just as the police investigator did," church attorney Don Woods said.

Costa Mesa-based plaintiffs' attorney John C. Manly conducted the deposition in Ireland. The now-defrocked priest, an Irish citizen and native of Limerick, was deported from the U.S. in 2001, after serving seven years in California state prison for sexually abusing two brothers. He lives in Thurles, Ireland.

A transcript of the deposition was filed Tuesday in Alameda County Superior Court, where the Stockton Diocese is defending four lawsuits alleging that the church failed to protect parishioners from abuse. Manly filed the transcript in opposing a church motion to dismiss one of the suits.

O'Grady, on the video, asked why church officials did not remove him from ministry after he committed the molestations.

"I think it probably would have been best if, back in 1984, they said, 'Look, we need to put a halt to this. We need to take you out,'" O'Grady told lawyers during the questioning. "But even the 1984 situation, as I understand it, was handled as best it could have been handled at the time."

Woods said Tuesday that O'Grady "was not trying to say what should have been done. He's saying I wish it could have been done differently."

"It's a lament from hindsight," he said.

An attorney for the Stockton Diocese, Paul Balestracci, declined to comment, noting the

ON THE WEB

To see the Oliver O'Grady deposition video, go to latimes.com/ogrady.

open lawsuits over O'Grady's misconduct.

O'Grady's deposition offers a far-reaching, and often disturbing, glimpse into the mind of a convicted pedophile. Still, there were times during the marathon question-and-answer session when he was less than candid.

He refused to name any of his 25 victims, invoking his 5th Amendment right against self-incrimination. He at first denied molesting one little girl, then the next day admitted that he had lied and that he had abused her. He said his abuse ended in the mid-1980s, but in his criminal case he had pleaded guilty to molestations as late as 1991.

Although O'Grady voiced remorse for his abuses, he often appeared to be enjoying his videotaped performance. At one point, he winked into the camera.

O'Grady testified that he was molested as a child by two priests in the sacristy of his church. The first occurred when he was 10 and an altar boy, he said.

The priest "began the conversation by asking how I was, what I was going to do for the day, and I remember he was — he called me over to him and he began to hug me, you know, in a kind of gentle way, first of all.

"Then he turned me around ... which means I had my back to him with him standing behind me, and then the hands would come down and hug me here and then went lower."

When he was growing up, he testified, he was involved in molestation within his family, both as perpetrator and victim. And when he was a teenager, he added, a priest touched him sexually.

"It was not a very pleasant experience on some occasions, but it was a very normal thing. Nobody talked about it," he said. "I did not consider it a very serious criminal matter."

O'Grady testified that his own sexual attraction to children began before he was ordained a priest in 1971.

"The only thing I understood religion to say at the time was that anything ... to do with sexuality was sinful, and that is where a lot of my conflict came," he tes-

tified.

His first assignment as a priest was to the Stockton Diocese in 1971. Five years later, O'Grady testified in an earlier deposition, he fondled an 11-year-old girl he had met at a summer camp and invited to sleep over at the rectory.

"I remember going into her bed, and I tried to caress her and fondle her, and I sensed her objections to that, nonverbally, and I stayed for a little while more and then decided not to continue. So I left and went back to my own bed," he told lawyers during the March deposition, estimating that he had spent no more than 20 minutes in the girl's bed.

The girl's parents complained to then-Bishop Merlin Guilfoyle, who preceded Mahony in Stockton. O'Grady testified that the bishop, who is now deceased, confronted him and he confessed.

O'Grady wrote the family a letter of apology, angering Guilfoyle, O'Grady said. The letter was in O'Grady's personnel file when Mahony assumed the bishopric, according to court records.

O'Grady said he suffered no repercussions for his transgression.

"Life just continued," he testified.

Court records show that in 1984, four years after Mahony became bishop of Stockton, O'Grady told his therapist he had fondled a 9-year-old boy. The therapist alerted child welfare officials, and police opened an investigation.

O'Grady took the 5th Amendment when asked during the deposition what he told his therapist. But he testified that Mahony was out of town at the time, so he told the bishop's second-in-command about the investigation. He said the official sent him to talk to the diocese's lawyer.

The child, who had been asleep during the alleged molestation, said he was unaware of any abuse, and police declined to file charges. Court records show, however, that police said an attorney for the diocese promised that O'Grady would be transferred to a job where he would not have contact with children, and that he would be sent to therapy.

O'Grady testified that Mahony sent him to a psychiatrist for an evaluation, which the cardinal has acknowledged was the

church's standard operating procedure at the time for handling pedophile priests. Almost immediately thereafter, O'Grady said, Mahony transferred him to a parish in San Andreas, about an hour outside Stockton. Mahony later promoted him to pastor.

There was no school at his new assignment, but O'Grady testified that he supervised hundreds of students who came in on weekends and after school to study Catechism.

Mahony has testified in court that he never saw the letter of apology O'Grady wrote to his female victim's family. He also said that he did not know the details of what O'Grady had told his therapist and that once police declined to file charges in connection with the 9-year-old boy, he saw no reason to investigate further.

O'Grady "was in counseling at the time," Woods said, "and the second opinion that the diocese obtained said the counseling was satisfactory and he should continue with it.

The second opinion did not recommend that he be removed from ministry, nor did the [evaluation] render any diagnosis of pedophilia."

After years of therapy, O'Grady said, he's embarrassed and ashamed of his sexual attraction to children.

But asked to describe his "type," he gave an animated response. "Generally, a boy who was — spontaneous, affectionate, playful, generally around the age of 10, 11, and who seemed to maybe need somebody to care for him. I'm not saying that he necessarily had family problems but seemed to identify with me as somebody who he could trust, who he could come to, who was willing to take care of him."

The priest searched his congregation for submissive children. "If they demonstrated affection, by hugging and that sort of stuff, it sort of awakened within me urges to be affectionate in return," O'Grady testified.

"If I got comfortable doing that and felt he was comfortable with me hugging him, and I had thoughts or feelings that I wanted to go further, I might at that time explore that possibility," he said.

"I might have to do a little planning . . . to be sure that the boy was there, to be sure the boy was alone, and that there was not any hurry on him leaving."

O'Grady testified that he had

sexual relationships with two mothers of children he molested. He also said he occasionally wore women's lingerie he found among donated clothes left at his church.

"Perhaps I was trying to use external things to arouse myself," he said.

A Stockton jury in 1998 awarded one of O'Grady's victims \$30 million, later reduced to \$7 million. Jury members told The Times they thought Mahony was untruthful on the witness stand, that he had allowed O'Grady's pattern of abuse to continue.

Mahony said he thought the jurors were wrong and that he took extraordinary steps to protect children.

Over the years, O'Grady said, he tried to understand and possibly curb his appetite for children — reading books about his disorder, touring a residential treatment center for pedophile priests and eventually opening his parish to secret Sex Addicts

Anonymous meetings so he could attend.

After O'Grady was released from prison and returned to Ireland, the Stockton diocese paid for him to undergo three years of outpatient therapy, he said, and also agreed to pay him \$800 a month for 10 years starting on his 65th birthday.

"I would have liked somebody in the diocese or somebody to have intervened as early as possible in helping me confront this situation as a very, very serious one," he said, "and help educate me to the very serious nature of the problem that I had and was causing."

Each time he reached into a child's pants, O'Grady said, he knew his conduct was wrong, "definitely a sin." But there was "another part of me saying, 'I can't seem to control these desires, thoughts, feelings when they come.'"

After a molestation, O'Grady testified he always went to a priest and confessed his sin.

Newsday (New York) March 17, 2002 Sunday

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Newsday (New York)

March 17, 2002 Sunday QUEENS EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. A03

LENGTH: 1025 words

HEADLINE: Egan Under Fire;
Records: Priests worked despite abuse allegations

BYLINE: By Elizabeth Hamilton and Eric Rich; THE HARTFORD COURANT

BODY:

Hartford - Secret court documents reveal that New York Cardinal Edward Egan, while serving as bishop of the Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocese, allowed several priests facing multiple accusations of sexual abuse to continue working for years.

Egan failed to investigate aggressively some abuse allegations, did not refer complaints to criminal authorities and, during closed testimony in 1999, suggested that a dozen people who made complaints of rape, molestation and beatings against the same priest may all have been lying, the documents show.

In comments that seem starkly out of synch with the current climate of zero tolerance for sex-abuse accusations against priests, Egan said he wasn't interested in allegations - only "realities." He added that "very few have even come close to having anyone prove anything" against a priest.

"Allegations are allegations," he said in the 1999 testimony.

Egan did not respond to requests for comments. In an e-mail yesterday, his spokesman, Joseph Zwilling, referred all questions "concerning the Diocese of Bridgeport and/or any actions that may have occurred in that diocese" to Bridgeport.

In addition to Egan, former Bridgeport Bishop Walter Curtis, Egan's predecessor, testified in 1995 that the diocese deliberately shuffled pedophile priests among parishes to give them a "fresh start," and he admitted destroying records of complaints against some priests, the documents show. Curtis, who is now deceased, also said he didn't believe pedophilia was a permanent condition.

The revelations about Egan's role in Connecticut's largest clergy sex-abuse scandal are taken from thousands of documents in lawsuits that Egan and the Bridgeport Diocese fought, successfully, to keep sealed from public view. While the files remain sealed following a settlement of the suits last year, The Courant recently obtained copies of much of them, including transcripts of pretrial testimony of Egan and

Curtis, internal diocesan memoranda and personnel files.

The documents reveal that, in addition to the eight priests who were originally sued, at least nine others faced molestation accusations but were never publicly identified. The documents do not include details of the claims or their outcomes.

While glimpses of the allegations against a few of the priests emerged during eight years of legal battle, details of what the bishops and other church officials had to say about the cases, and how they handled them, have never been reported until now.

The diocese settled complaints against six priests for \$12 million to \$15 million last March, shortly after Egan was promoted to cardinal. Egan, who was bishop in Bridgeport from 1988 to 2000, was a defendant in some of the lawsuits and fought them aggressively from 1993 until the settlement, which ended all of the litigation.

He inherited a budding scandal in the Bridgeport Diocese that took root during the 27-year reign of Curtis, who in pretrial interviews with plaintiffs' lawyers exhibited a blunt lack of interest in dealing with sexually abusive priests. Under Curtis, the documents show, church officials and other priests often ignored obvious signs of sexual involvement with children - such as one priest's practice of having boys spend the weekend with him in his bed in the rectory. Typically, when a complaint was made, it was only considered substantiated if the priest confessed.

Curtis also testified that records of complaints against priests would usually be put into the diocese's "secret archive," a canonically required cache of historical documents accessed only with keys kept by the bishop and the vicar. He said he would occasionally go into the archive and remove what he called "antiquated" abuse complaints and destroy them.

By the time Egan took over in December 1988, complaints were trickling in against several priests, made by adults who said they had been victimized in the 1960s, '70s and '80s. The documents show that he defrocked at least one priest for sexual offenses, and put in place the first written policy on sex abuse complaints.

But he was slow to suspend or remove priestly powers of some others, even those with multiple complaints against them.

Despite a May 1990 memo by a diocese official worrying about "a developing pattern of accusations" that the Rev. Charles Carr of Norwalk had fondled young boys, Egan kept Carr working as a priest until 1995, when he suspended him only after a lawsuit was filed.

Egan reinstated Carr in 1999 as a part-time chaplain at a church-run nursing home in Danbury. But after yet another accusation against Carr surfaced earlier this year, about an incident from long ago, newly installed Bishop William Lori defrocked Carr.

The expressions of concern for, and willingness to believe, accused priests stand in contrast to the absence of sympathy displayed for the accusers. For instance, regarding a dozen people who made complaints of sexual abuse and violence against the Rev. Raymond Pcolka of Greenwich, Egan said, "the 12 have never been proved to be telling the truth."

Yet, nowhere in the documents is there evidence that attempts were made to

seriously investigate the allegations: The accusers were not interviewed. Egan allowed Pcolka to continue working as a priest until 1993, when he suspended him after Pcolka refused to participate in psychiatric treatment.

There is no evidence from any of the documents that the diocese under either Egan or Curtis alerted law enforcement authorities when parents or victims came forward. In all of the cases during Egan's tenure, the statute of limitations to bring criminal charges had expired.

But the failure to report those cases meant that police and state child protection authorities were never able to investigate the possibility of other victims or possession of child pornography, a federal crime.

Joseph McAleer, a Bridgeport Diocese spokesman, said "this was litigated for eight years and was in the newspapers practically every day," and that the diocese would have no further comment.

GRAPHIC: 1) Photo - New York Cardinal Edward Egan, 2) Newsday File Photo / Julia Gaines - New York Cardinal Edward Egan in November.

LOAD-DATE: March 17, 2002

The Boston Globe

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2001

Law defends his response in clergy sex abuse case

BYLINE: By Michael Paulson, Globe Staff

BODY:

Cardinal Bernard F. Law, stung by the suggestion that he had reassigned a priest from parish to parish despite knowing that the priest was an accused child molester, is publicly defending his conduct for the first time, and his lawyer is lashing out at the attorney for the alleged victims.

Law, in a column in today's edition of the archdiocesan newspaper, wrote, "Never was there an effort on my part to shift a problem from one place to the next."

And Law's lawyer, in a letter also published in The Pilot, blasted the attorney for the alleged victims of the Rev. John Geoghan for what he called "an extraordinary example of disingenuousness" and "an irresponsible misrepresentation of the underlying facts."

The public defense marks a tactical shift for the cardinal and his attorney, Wilson D. Rogers Jr. Law has generally avoided comment on specific cases of clergy sexual abuse, and Rogers says his letter in today's Pilot is his first comment on a pending case in 35 years.

But the Geoghan case involves more possible victims than any other case to unfold during Law's 17 years as archbishop of Boston. It also is the most potentially damaging to Law because of the allegation by the victims' attorney that the cardinal continued to place Geoghan in jobs with access to children for 11 years after being notified that the priest was an alleged child molester.

Law has admitted, in a court document filed last month, that he was notified of allegations that Geoghan had molested seven boys in September 1984, six months after Law had become archbishop of Boston.

Geoghan allegedly molested at least 70 youngsters between 1962 and 1995, while a priest at six parishes: Blessed Sacrament in Saugus, Saint Paul in Hingham, Saint Andrew the Apostle in Forest Hills, Saint Brendan in Dorchester, Saint Bernard in Concord, and Saint Julia in Weston.

Geoghan, who was defrocked in 1998 at Law's urging, has pleaded not guilty to criminal charges of child rape and indecent assault and battery. He is scheduled to go on trial in September in Suffolk Superior Court.

Rogers used his letter in The Pilot to criticize Mitchell Garabedian, the lawyer who represents 86 people who, in civil suits, charge they have been victimized by Geoghan. Seventy of Garabedian's clients say they have been abused by Geoghan; the remainder are family members of alleged victims.

"Mr. Garabedian, for all of his quoted comments in the media, has never once mentioned that each assignment of John Geoghan, subsequent to the first complaint of sexual misconduct, was incident to an independent medical evaluation advising that such assignment was appropriate and safe," Rogers wrote in his letter, which is published on the front page of The Pilot, and which was also sent to the editors of The Boston Globe and Boston Herald. "To suggest or infer that Cardinal Law assigned John Geoghan without regard for the safety of those to whom John Geoghan would minister, in my opinion, constitutes an irresponsible misrepresentation of the underlying facts."

Rogers also took umbrage at Garabedian's calling reporters' attention to a section of a legal filing in which Law said that Geoghan's alleged victims were "not in exercise of due care" and that their "negligence . . . contributed to cause the injury or damage complained of."

Rogers said such language "is standard, indeed universal practice" in civil lawsuits about negligence, and that the language is necessary in any formal response to any negligence suit to protect a defendant's rights at trial.

"While it is readily understandable how a nonlawyer could look at such a formal answer in response to a complaint and conclude that the church is blaming the alleged victim, for a lawyer to do so is, in my opinion, an extraordinary example of disingenuousness," Rogers wrote.

In an interview yesterday, Garabedian was unapologetic, saying that if Rogers didn't want Law to appear to be blaming victims, he didn't need to include such language in Law's legal filings.

As for Rogers's contention that Garabedian misrepresented the facts by suggesting that Law had knowingly exposed children to an alleged child molester, Garabedian said, "Suffice it to say that we believe that at judicial hearings we will be able to demonstrate that Father Geoghan and Father Geoghan's supervisors engaged in conduct the law considers wrong."

"Attorney Rogers seems to forget that it was Cardinal Law's own admissions in the public record which recently drew attention to these 86 lawsuits," Garabedian said. "Unfortunately, his response to the public reaction is to try to blame me, the attorney representing victims of sexual abuse."

Law's column does not refer to Geoghan by name, but offers a broad defense of the way the archdiocese handles cases of clergy sexual abuse.

"The sexual abuse of minors by priests is one of the most painful problems facing the contemporary Church," Law wrote. "Not only is the trust that should exist between a priest and child broken, but families and friends are also shaken in their own trust. Indeed, it is not unusual that questions should be raised about the way in which the Church handles such cases."

Law wrote that in 1993 he instituted a new policy for dealing with accused child molesters that attempts to provide support for victims and treatment of perpetrators, and that "ensures that there be no assignment [of clergy who have abused children] in which minors would be placed at risk."

"I only wish that the know ledge that we have today had been available to us earlier," he wrote. "It is fair to say, however, that society has been on a learning curve with regard to the sexual abuse of minors. The Church, too, has been on a learning curve. We have learned, and we will continue to learn."

Law said "nothing else has given me the anguish that I experience because of these cases."

"In the final analysis, after we have done all that we can humanly do to ensure that persons who are a threat to children are isolated from them, and after we have done all that we can do to bring some measure of healing psychologically and emotionally to all who have been traumatized by the sexual abuse of minors, it is only the peace which is the gift of the Risen Lord that can quiet our hearts and minds," he wrote.

Michael Paulson can be reached by e-mail at mpaulson@globe.com.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, CARDINAL BERNARD F. LAW "Painful" problem for church

LOAD-DATE: July 28, 2001

Orlando Sentinel Tribune, March 24, 2002

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March 24, 2002 Sunday, METRO

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A18

LENGTH: 1091 words

HEADLINE: CHURCH, HOSPITAL TRADE BLAME OVER PRIESTS;
INSTITUTE CLAIMS ITS REPORTS ON ABUSERS WERE MISUSED

BYLINE: Eric Rich and Elizabeth Hamilton, National Correspondents

BODY:

A nationally renowned psychiatric hospital that for years has treated clergy accused of sexual misconduct now says it was deceived by the Roman Catholic Church into providing reports that the church used to keep abusive priests in the ministry.

The church sometimes concealed information about past complaints against clergy sent for treatment and disregarded warnings that the hospital's evaluations should not determine a priest's fitness for parish work, doctors at the Institute of Living in Hartford, Conn., said in interviews.

As a result, the institute may have unwittingly provided the clinical cover cited by New York Cardinal Edward Egan and other church officials as their reason for not suspending some accused priests, including such now-notorious figures as the defrocked John Geoghan in Boston, accused of molesting more than 130 people.

"In some cases, necessary and pertinent information related to prior sexual misconduct has been withheld from us," said Dr. Harold I. Schwartz, the institute's chief of psychiatry. "In some cases, it would appear that our evaluations have been misconstrued in order to return priests to ministry."

Schwartz spoke of the "surprise we have experienced, to learn only recently as these scandals were emerging in the press, that in so many instances we have been providing treatment to individuals while being so inadequately informed."

He said the institute has decided to require that the church attest, in writing, that it has disclosed any past allegations against priests referred for treatment.

That the Institute of Living would make such accusations about the Roman Catholic Church is extraordinary.

As one of the first major psychiatric hospitals to introduce concepts of spirituality to the treatment of clergy, the institute became unusually close to the church. Scores of priests from all over the country have been treated there, priests have worked for the institute, and one of its doctors was even knighted by Pope Pius XII in 1951.

The institute's criticisms of the church underscore the depth of unease among doctors, as it becomes increasingly apparent that various diocesan officials have

invoked their evaluations, time and again, as the reason for allowing abusive priests to continue working.

Just Saturday, in his annual pastoral letter, Egan again cited the institute in defending his handling of sex-abuse cases during his tenure as bishop of the Bridgeport, Conn., diocese. He said it was his policy to send priests facing allegations "immediately to one of the most prominent psychiatric institutions in the nation for evaluation."

"If the conclusions were favorable, he was returned to ministry, in some cases with restrictions, so as to be doubly careful," Egan said. "If they were not favorable, he was not allowed to function as a priest."

But Leslie Lothstein, the institute's director of psychology, said the church frequently ignored doctors' advice when deciding whether to return abusive priests to work.

"I found that they rarely followed our recommendations," Lothstein said. "They would put them back into work where they still had access to vulnerable populations."

The institute's claims -- made in interviews conducted before Egan issued his statement Saturday -- raise questions about the church's motives and expectations when seeking treatment.

Court documents reviewed by The Hartford Courant --which contain sealed pretrial testimony from the settled Bridgeport cases -- show that the diocese never referred sex-abuse allegations against a priest to civil authorities for investigation. Instead, church officials made clear they thought that an evaluation at the institute would determine the truth of an accusation.

Egan said during a 1999 deposition that he could take little action against an accused priest if doctors did not substantiate the complaint.

A case in point is the Rev. Raymond Pcolka, whom Egan sent to the Institute of Living in 1989, after a mother accused Pcolka of molesting her son years earlier. Egan testified that "an expert of some renown" at the institute concluded "that there was no reason for us to hesitate to allow this person to continue his duty."

What the institute hadn't been told is that Pcolka faced another complaint, six years earlier, that he molested a 7-year-old girl. Egan told lawyers during his deposition that a 1983 letter containing that accusation had gone missing from Pcolka's personnel file at the diocese.

A spokesman for Egan at the Archdiocese of New York, where Egan was elevated to cardinal last year, did not respond to calls seeking comment. Attorney Joseph Sweeney, who represented Egan during the Bridgeport lawsuits, defended the former bishop's use of the institute's evaluations.

Egan, he said, consulted the Institute of Living every time a priest was accused of sexual misconduct and never went against the advice of professionals there. Sweeney said Egan used his own judgment when deciding whether to remove priests from active ministry, adding that recommendations from doctors were "not the sole factor," but were "probably the most significant factor."

But a 1990 letter shows that the hospital long ago warned Egan's top aide in Bridgeport, the Rev. Laurence Bronkiewicz, that the church should not rely on its evaluations in deciding whether to remove a priest from ministry. The letter, written by an institute administrator, Dr. Howard Iger, said, "we certainly are in a weak position when we try to make predictions about future behavior."

To be sure, it is difficult to assess the Institute of Living's belated claim that it has been misled. The hospital would not point to specific cases in which the church allegedly withheld information, saying it is prevented by confidentiality laws.

Also, documents show that the institute sometimes did offer assurances that certain priests could return to parish work -- even, in Geoghan's case, after diagnosing the priest as having "atypical pedophilia in remission." Five years after the institute wrote the Archdiocese of Boston in 1990 that Geoghan was "psychologically fit" to continue working with children, he was again accused of molesting a boy.

One former psychiatrist who worked at the hospital called Schwartz's accusations against the church "self-serving" and said that in the 1980s, when the institute was struggling financially, it viewed the treatment of clergy as a profitable niche. "These were good patients for the institute," the psychiatrist said. "The diocese paid cash."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Egan

LOAD-DATE: March 28, 2002

Weather
Today: Partly sunny, rain
late. High 48. Low 42.
Wednesday: Cloudy, rain.
High 60. Low 36.
Details: Page B8

The Washington Post

FINAL

Inside: Health
Today's Contents on Page A2
NEWSSTAND 35¢
HOME DELIVERY 29¢
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154TH YEAR No. 81 M2 DM VA

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2003

N.H. Prosecutors Report Diocese Ignored Sex Abuse

Bishops Were Culpable, State Says

By PAMELA FERDINAND
and ALAN COOPERMAN
Washington Post Staff Writers

CONCORD, N.H., March 3—For years the Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester was “willfully blind” to pedophile priests, making no effort to restrict or monitor their activities even after they admitted sexual misconduct, prosecutors said today in a public report on a 10-month grand jury investigation.

The 154-page report placed responsibility squarely on New Hampshire’s bishops, saying decisions to reassign offending priests “were always made at the top.” It also said that diocesan officials “made apparently false statements” in civil lawsuits and that, on at least one occasion, the diocese used a confidential out-of-court settlement to keep a victim from speaking to law enforcement authorities.

“The most troubling aspect of this whole case is that this conduct went on for such a long time, under a veil of secrecy,” Senior Assistant Attorney General N. William Delker said in releasing the report. “By doing so, it harmed many, many children.”

The diocese, which covers all of New Hampshire, averted an indictment by agreeing in December that it would likely have been convicted of child endangerment. As part of the agreement, Bishop John B. McCormack promised stringent efforts to prevent sexual abuse and allowed 9,000 pages of investigative, legal and church files on 43 priests and members of religious orders to be made public today.

Had the case gone forward, the state attorney general’s office “was prepared to prove that the Diocese consciously chose to protect itself and its priests from scandal, lawsuits, and criminal charges instead of protecting the minor parishioners under its care from continued sexual abuse by priests,” the report said. The diocese “exhibited a ‘flagrant indifference’ to its obliga-

tions to protect children by engaging in a ‘conscious course of deliberate ignorance,’” it added.

In a written response, McCormack said the diocese “offers no excuses for its past actions.”

“The Diocese never intended to cause harm to any person,” he said. “On behalf of myself and leaders of the Church in New Hampshire—past and present—we are sorry for our failures, but most of all we are sorry for the harm done to persons who were abused by priests and to the Catholic faithful who have been scandalized.”

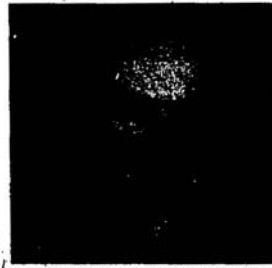
This is the second time this year that a grand jury investigation into sexual abuse by priests has resulted in a caustic public report rather than indictments. Prosecutors in Suffolk County, N.Y., last month detailed decades of abuse, secrecy and legal hardball tactics in the diocese of Rockville Centre on Long Island but said the statute of limitations prevented the filing of charges.

The agreement in New Hampshire averted charges against the diocese but not against individual priests. Most recently, the Rev. Joseph Maguire was indicted Feb. 20 on charges of sexual assault.

The report detailed the careers of eight New Hampshire priests accused of molesting children over four decades. They included the Rev. Paul Aube, 61, who told prosecutors last year that church officials had insisted he continue working with children in the 1970s even after he admitted abuse and asked for help. He was accused of taking four boys on a road trip to Indiana for six weeks—a journey one alleged victim described as a “rape fest.” Aube was placed on administrative leave in 1994.

In some cases, the report said, the diocese took steps to address allegations, including sending priests for counseling. However, the steps were so ineffective that the diocese could still be considered to have “knowingly” endangered children, it said.

The investigation also found



Robert Densmore is one of eight priests named in the report.



Raymond Laferriere, above, is another of the priests named.



Also named is former priest Gordon MacRae, shown leaving a Keene, N.H., courthouse after a 1994 conviction for molesting an altar boy.

cases in which the diocese “had reason to suspect” that a child was being sexually abused but did not inform civil authorities. Prosecutors said they found no evidence that McCormack had kept offenders in ministry since he became bishop in 1998.

In its response, the diocese said it did not “necessarily agree” with the state’s conclusions and could have mounted a vigorous defense, but “the Diocese believed that even a successful defense would not diminish the significant and serious harm suffered by minors. . . . It was in this spirit that the Diocese made the acknowledgements it did in the Agree-

ment.” Some New Hampshire Catholics, however, said the church did not go far enough. James Farrell, a University of New Hampshire professor and leading critic of McCormack, said the diocese’s response provided “only ambiguity, misdirection, euphemism and vague generalities.”

“We are still left with questions of who knew about abuse by priests? Who assigned and re-assigned known abusers? Who failed to report crimes against children?” he said.

Cooperman reported from Washington.

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HEADLINE: Dallas bishop testifies he warned Kos Grahmann says priest denied sexual abuse

BYLINE: Ed Housewright, Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

BODY:

Bishop Charles Grahmann of the Dallas Diocese testified Tuesday that he warned the Rev. Rudolph "Rudy" Kos three times not to allow boys to stay overnight and that Mr. Kos assured him he was not sexually abusing the boys.

"I asked him if something sexual was going on," Bishop Grahmann testified for the first time in the civil trial of Mr. Kos and the diocese. "He denied it. I think I used the word pedophile." He denied it."

Under questioning from plaintiffs' attorney Windle Turley, Bishop Grahmann acknowledged that he never opened Mr. Kos' personnel file to read complaints from two priests about the overnight stays in Mr. Kos' rectory room. The lengthy letters included the names of as many as 20 boys staying with Mr. Kos whom Mr. Turley suggested should have been asked about possible sexual abuse.

Bishop Grahmann, speaking in a slow, generally calm voice Tuesday, said he turned the Kos matter over to Monsignor Duffy Gardner, the diocese's vicar general, or No. 2 official.

"There was no reason for me to look in the file," Bishop Grahmann testified.

Bishop Grahmann, 65, took over as the top local Catholic official in 1990, nine years after the sexual abuse by Mr. Kos is alleged to have begun and two years before he was removed.

His predecessor, Bishop Thomas Tschoepe, is 85 and in ill health and will not testify.

Eleven plaintiffs are seeking \$ 146.5 million from Mr. Kos and the diocese. The 52-year-old Mr. Kos, who lives in San Diego, has already been found liable for the abuse because he has not responded to the lawsuits.

The diocese maintains that it should not be held liable for Mr. Kos' conduct.

On Tuesday, Bishop Grahmann took the stand before a courtroom so crowded that some people were sitting on cardboard evidence boxes lining the wall. He testified for about 90 minutes in the late afternoon and will return for more questioning on Wednesday. The trial is in its eighth week, and the plaintiffs' attorneys are expected to rest in the next few days.

Bishop Grahmann said he was not briefed on any complaints about Mr. Kos until more than a year after he became bishop. As early as 1985, an Irving priest who was Mr. Kos' supervisor had complained to top Catholic officials about the sleepovers, and Mr. Kos had been warned to stop them.

Bishop Grahmann said he learned of the complaints against Mr. Kos in late 1991 when an Ennis priest who reported to Mr. Kos requested a meeting with the bishop to talk about the sleepovers.

He said he had his first meeting with Mr. Kos the next month, warning him to stop the overnight visits. But he didn't ask him at that time if he was sexually abusing the boys staying in his rectory room at St. John's Catholic Church in Ennis.

"I didn't feel the opportunity to do that," Bishop Grahmann said.

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Five months later, in early 1992, he said he warned Mr. Kos again to stop the overnight stays after the Rev. Robert Williams, who was assistant pastor at St. John's, again reported that boys were at the rectory.

"I told him to cease and desist," Bishop Grahmann said.

Two months later, Father Williams wrote the bishop a 12-page letter detailing his concerns about the overnight stays, which continued.

Bishop Grahmann testified that he never read the letter and never put any of his warnings to Mr. Kos about the overnight stays in writing.

He said his third and final oral warning to Mr. Kos came in July 1992, a month after Mr. Kos had returned from a Catholic psychiatric facility in Maryland, the Saint Luke Institute, where he was evaluated for pedophilia.

In his questioning of Bishop Grahmann, Mr. Turley said that other church officials had warned Mr. Kos about the sleepovers as many as eight times previously but that he never stopped them.

Bishop Grahmann said he sent Mr. Kos back to the Ennis church after the center's director told him doctors could not find any evidence of sexual misconduct by Mr. Kos.

Throughout the trial, plaintiffs' attorneys have vigorously objected to the church's contention that the Maryland center gave Mr. Kos a "clean bill of health."

On Tuesday, Mr. Turley pointed to the report on Mr. Kos by Saint Luke, which recommends a test to find out if Mr. Kos is sexually aroused by pictures of nude children.

"It's in everyone's interest to gather more information about Father Kos," the report says.

An appointment was made in New Orleans for Mr. Kos to take the "plethysmograph," in which sensors are attached to a man's penis, but Bishop Grahmann canceled the appointment.

He testified that he had "moral problems" with the test.

"The end never justifies the means," Bishop Grahmann said.

Mr. Turley said that when he took the bishop's deposition in 1994 for this trial, he said church officials were working on a sexual abuse policy.

It was issued Jan. 1 of this year.

"Is that a reflection that there were so many other important priorities in the diocese?" he asked Bishop Grahmann.

"Not at all," he replied.

Parts of the six-page report, an SMU law professor testified Friday, violate state law by allowing church officials to investigate allegations of sexual abuse before reporting them to authorities.

Mr. Turley also criticized the policy in his questioning of Bishop Grahmann on Tuesday, but the cleric defended it.

The diocese's attorney, Randal Mathis, said after testimony ended that he thought the bishop was an effective witness for the church.

"I'm real pleased with his testimony," Mr. Mathis said. "This is the first time the bishop has ever testified in a courtroom. He was very calm. He had very good memory with regard to rigorous cross-examination."

Mr. Turley, however, said Bishop Grahmann's testimony showed that he acted with "total blinders on" regarding the complaints against Mr. Kos.

"There was a mountain of evidence he could have acted on from the beginning," Mr. Turley said.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO(S): (The Dallas Morning News: David Woo) Bishop Charles Grahmann of the Dallas Diocese answers questions from plaintiffs' attorney Windle Turley on Tuesday.

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