

REVIEW BOARD MEETING

April 13, 2000

Chancery - 6:30-8:30 P.M.

Case # 79

The Board approves the recommendation of the Delegate that the Archdiocesan Policy applies in this case and that the Board review the case following the completion of the priest's residential treatment program.

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The complainant reported that there was inappropriate sexual behavior by the priest sixteen years ago when the complainant was fourteen years old. This behavior consisted of genital fondling rationalized by the priest who said that this behavior was appropriate since priests were "supposed to check out these things". The complainant also reported that many years later his brother also shared with him that the priest had him remove his shirt and "measured him". There were also allegations of inappropriate sexually charged conversations about the boys behavior with girls and at least one invitation to travel to New Hampshire with the priest where they could "have drinks" there together. This trip never took place.

The complainant did not ask for psychological or financial assistance and only came forward with the complaint when he discovered that the priest was still in ministry in another State. Over the years the complainant had somehow understood that the priest had left ministry. The complainant was quite credible in his presentation.

The priest admits to knowing the complainant, to engaging in weight lifting and other physical behavior but adamantly denies any sexual behavior with the complainant. The priest was referred for an inpatient psychological assessment. The conclusion of the assessment was that the priest should be involved in extended inpatient treatment and this has been undertaken. The residential treatment program will continue until April 28, 2000.

Recommendation:

Because the behavior involved minors, the recommendation is that the Archdiocesan Policy applies in this case, namely that "the assignment of one who has engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor will exclude parish ministry and other ministry that involves minors."

If this recommendation is approved, it will become a part of the treatment process and the aftercare planning that will take place prior to the termination of residential treatment on April 28, 2000.

It is also recommended that the case be reviewed again following the completion of residential care and that recommendations for future ministry be considered at that time.