

February 12, 1987

[Notes of Most Rev. John J. Mulcahy, North Region Bishop]

Case of [REDACTED]

15 years old.

[REDACTED] and his mother came to my office at 3 P.M. on Thursday - February 12, 1987. [REDACTED] told me the following story.

He worked as a receptionist on the first floor of the rectory. Sometime before the following incidents, Father Joe Birmingham asked [REDACTED] this question, do you know who gay people are? [REDACTED] answered that in a general way he knew about gay people.

Last March [REDACTED]'s kidney was hurting. He told Fr. Birmingham about this. Fr. said that he wanted to give [REDACTED] a massage when he got back. He left the room and when Fr. returned he took [REDACTED] upstairs and told him to lie down on the couch. Father Birmingham started to massage [REDACTED] on the shoulder and the kidney, then down and touched [REDACTED]'s private parts. He asked [REDACTED] to massage him but then the door bell rang and [REDACTED] left the room to answer the door.

This past summer, Fr. Birmingham asked [REDACTED] to bring him some water. [REDACTED] was due to receive his check and Fr. asked him to come up and get it. [REDACTED] sat down and Father started to massage him from the shoulder down to his private parts.

On another time, [REDACTED] was in his first floor office. Fr. came down and said, turn the T.V. to the news. After the news was over, Fr. told [REDACTED] to turn down the volume and pull down the shade. Fr. Birmingham sat down and grabbed [REDACTED] [by] the arm and said, are we friends. [REDACTED] said yes. The Fr. sat [REDACTED] down on his knee and started to touch the boy's private parts.

[REDACTED] said that he is angry.

His mother who brought him to my office spoke of getting counselling for [REDACTED]

His mother also said that Fr. Birmingham was concerned as to why there was not a youth ministry in the parish of [REDACTED]. He wanted to build it up.

[REDACTED]'s mother wanted to know if Fr. Birmingham would stay in the parish!

Finally, [REDACTED] said that there is a chance that another boy might be involved with Fr. Birmingham.

Submitted by
+John J. Mulcahy

2/14/87 - I spoke to Joe Birmingham. He admitted there had been some difficulty. He agreed it would be helpful to resign from the parish and to seek assessment and therapy. He has shown himself cooperative in every way.

I gave name of counselor to Bp. Mulcahy so boy could receive help.

+Robert J. Banks