

While on an overnight stay at his parents home I awoke to find Father Lavigne laying beside me with his arms around me. I recall being very confused and startled and ran away behind the bar on the other side of the cellar. With what I guess was Father Lavigne's reassurance that everything was o.k. I must have returned to my sleeping area on the cellar floor.

As I remember there were times when Father Lavigne would be awaiting in his car down our street away from view of my house. He would offer me rides to where I was going. As I look back it was as if he knew when I would be leaving the house to go out. One time in particular he decided to drive back down my street to where it was wooded and secluded. He had somehow become aware that I had been a passenger in a stolen car and addressed this issue with me. When I denied it he became very angry and physically grabbed my leg and squeezed very strongly until it hurt. As I look back I feel fortunate that that is all that took place.

Over time his presence in our lives deminished. Once we drifted out of being alter boys we had no further involvement with Father Lavigne.

These experiences I shared with no one. It was not until learning of the recent molestations involving Father Lavigne that I felt the need to share this information. It was at this time that I phoned the District Attorney's Office and spoke with Susan Mosman."

42. On December 31, 1991 this officer interviewed _____ gave the following statement:

"I first met Fr. Lavigne when as an alter boy he joined our parciale as a priest assigned to St. Catherine's out of the senunary.

We all felt this new young priest was dynamic, exciting, and fun to be around. He seemed unlike other priests in the way he related to us alter boys. He was more a friend or buddy than someone in authority. We felt he could do no wrong.

An incident I recall ocurred on an overnight camping trip with the Croteau family in Goshen, MA. I was 10 or 11 at the time. I remember 3 or 4 of us sleeping in one of the larger beds in the cabin with Fr. Lavigne next to me. I remember as the others in the bed fell asleep he moved closer to me and wrapped his arms around me. He then began rubbing me between the legs and fondling my genital area. He also began kissing and nuzzling my neck and shoulder area. I believed I was wearing underwear at the time and he either pulled them off or just reached inside to fondle me.

During that same camping trip after an episode of what I remember as "Tickle fights", I was more or less vying for his attention with Danny Croteau and I nudged or pushed him out of the way. This made Fr. Lavigne very angry and he slapped me across the face harder than I had ever been hit before.

I also remember spending the night at this parents house in Aldenville or Chicopee. During the night my brother woke me up screaming and came running out from behind a bar or counter. Fr. Lavigne appeared out of nowhere and we both consoled to forget about what I believed was a nightmare.

As well as the "tickling fights" he would also in fun give "Cow bites" which hurt very much. He would grab the thigh area and squeeze very hard. He would also hold us down occasionally and rub us all over the chest and face area with his beard when he was not clean shaven.

After the age of 12 or so I pretty much stopped all contact with him. When these incidents occurred I never told anyone about them. I wasn't sure if anything wrong had taken place because this was a priest that everyone admired and a priest could do no wrong according to the way I was raised, and I also did not want to fall from grace in his eyes or get him in any trouble.

I decided to come forward with this information after my mother-in-law mentioned the article in the Springfield Union about the Child Molestation charges against Fr. Lavigne. I then spoke to my brother about it and we both decided that certain actions Fr. Lavigne had performed with us warranted our coming forward."

43. On February 1, 1992 this Officer interviewed _____ gave the following statement:

"My name is _____, DOB 09-17-71 with an I'm a junior at _____ engineering. _____ majoring in mechanical engineering.

I first met Father Lavigne when I was approximately eight years old. I was a parishioner at St. John's Mission in Colrain which is in St. Joseph's parish. I became an altar boy about one year after Father Lavigne was assistant pastor. Father Lavigne was friendly with my family and most people in the parish. After he became pastor and Father Thrasher was no longer living at the rectory, he started inviting me to stay over night at the rectory. I was approximately twelve years old at that point. I was a guest at St. Joseph's rectory from

twelve to sixteen, maybe 20-25 times total. He would approach me in church on Sunday morning and ask me if I wanted to stay over night and asked me if I wanted to stay overnight either that night or one night during the week and he would drive me to school the following morning. He never gave an explanation as to why he wanted me to stay over. We would sleep on the third floor of the rectory. When I first started sleeping over I would sleep in one bedroom on the third floor, and he would sleep in a different room on the same floor. This was the arrangement for the first five visits or so. After that we started sleeping in the same room. I don't know the reason why. I would sleep on the couch and Father Lavigne would sleep on the mattress on the floor in the same room. Once or twice he made the suggestion that it would be warmer if we slept in the same bed. I told him that I didn't think it was a good idea. He would wear a long tee shirt or a night shirt. I couldn't tell if he was wearing anything underneath. I would wear a tee shirt and sweat pants. Once or twice he made the suggestion that I might be more comfortable if I didn't wear either. I opted to wear both. A few times he offered to lend me a night shirt which was similar to the one he wore. Once during the summer I did wear the night shirt along with my underwear. I was always alone with him when I stayed over night. He suggested once or twice that I would be cooler if I slept with as little as possible.

About the sixth or seventh visit he started to give me back rubs. He would rub my back and then I would rub his. This was at his request. He would say something along the lines of I rubbed your back now rub mine. This happened almost every time I stayed over. The back rubs would take place on the mattress on the floor on the third floor. He would have his tee shirt on and then he would take it off. I would be wearing sweat pants, underwear, and a tee shirt. He would suggest that I remove the tee shirt because it would be easier to give the back rub. He also suggested that I remove the sweat pants in order to be more comfortable. I took off the tee shirt but not the sweat pants. He would be naked, but covered from the waist down with a blanket and he would lay on his stomach first. I would then rub his back. He would suggest that I could rub lower if I wanted to, meaning below the blanket. He then would say, you give me a back rub and now I'll give you one. I can say now that he did not have any clothes on while he was rubbing my back. A couple of times he brushed over my rear end with his hands while he was giving me a back rub. He also ran his fingers under the waist band of my underwear and I'd move and he would stop. He also tried to move his hands around the front to my stomach area. I would move again and he would stop and continue to give me a back rub. Sometimes he would kneel next to me and sometimes he

would lay down next to me while giving me a back rub. After he would rub my back for awhile he would then say it was his turn again. I would then rub his back. At this point he would turn over and I would rub his chest and stomach at his suggestions. Once he took my hand with his hand and he showed me how he would like it done. After awhile he would then say now I'll rub your chest and stomach. He was still naked while he was rubbing my chest and stomach. After awhile he would stop and then we would go to bed, me on the couch and him on the floor. This would happen most of the times that I spend the night at the rectory.

Once or twice while at the rectory when I stated over night he offered me a glass of wine. I only drank one glass but was offered more. I was about fifteen years old.

These events happened quite a while ago and were difficult to remember. Specific questions assisted in remembering these particular events which I am positive did occur.

I have not been coerced into stating this nor have I been promised any rewards for giving this statement. This is true to the best of my knowledge."

44. This concluded this officer's investigation to date, but further information maybe added as obtained. This case is scheduled to be presented to the Franklin County Grand Jury on February 14, 1992.

Respectfully submitted,

Tpr. Susan M. Mosman

Susan M. Mosman
Trooper, Massachusetts State Police
Hampshire/Franklin CPAC



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Safety

Massachusetts State Police
 Bureau of Investigative Services
 Hampshire County CPAC

To: Detective Captain William P. Horgan, BIS

From: Trooper Susan M. Mosman, #1620 Hampshire CPAC

Subject: Addendum to Alleged Sexual Assaults in Franklin County
 CS# 91-017-1199-0193.

Date: March 26, 1992

1. On March 4, 1992 this officer spoke with Father Thrasher, Vice Chancellor of the Springfield Diocese. Fr. Thrasher came to the Northampton District Attorney's Office at this officers request. Fr. Thrasher provided the following information.

In 1979 Fr. Thrasher was the Pastor of St. Joseph's in Shelburne Falls and Fr. Lavigne was the Assistant Pastor for approximately 2 1/2 years, until sometime in early 1982. Then Fr. Thrasher became assistant Vice Chancellor in Springfield spending his weekends from 1982-1988 as an Assistant Pastor to Fr. Lavigne at St. Joseph's Church. In 1988 Fr. Thrasher became the Pastor of Holy Family in Holyoke. He is still Vice Chancellor in Springfield, part time.

During the time in 1982 through 1988 Fr. Thrasher would arrive at St. Joseph's Rectory early Saturday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. His arrival and departure times were like clockwork.

While Fr. Thrasher was Pastor, 1979-1982, Fr. Thrasher slept in the main bedroom on the second floor of the rectory. Fr. Lavigne had the third floor to himself while Assistant Paster.

When Fr. Lavigne became Pastor in 1982, he took over the main bedroom on the second floor. Fr. Thrasher would use the spare bedroom on the second floor on weekends from 1982 thru 1988.

Fr. Thrasher didn't go up to the third floor on these weekends.

During 1982 through 1988 on the Saturday nights he stayed at St. Joseph's, Father Thrasher only saw Fr. Lavigne's mother and father stay over at the rectory on the third floor. Fr.

Thrasher indicated that Saturday nights were his time to rest and he often retired early. When asked, Fr. Thrasher indicated that it is definitely possible that boys could have stayed over these nights. They could have come in after he retired. Fr. Thrasher had a bath connected to his room so he didn't have to leave his room after he retired.

When asked about the time period from 1979 to 1982, Fr. Thrasher indicated that on occasion, while Fr. Thrasher was pastor and Fr. Lavigne was living on the third floor, young boys did spend the night. Fr. Thrasher couldn't recall if a single boy spent the night. He remembered it was usually two or three boys at a time. Essentially they were all alterboys. They stayed over once or twice a month. Fr. Thrasher recalled more clearly that they were likely on weekdays.

When asked specifically if he knew a Fr. Thrasher indicated that he was a friend of Fr. Lavigne's. He visited on occasion and may have spent the night on occasion. Fr. Thrasher couldn't recall staying overnight on a regular basis.

Fr. Thrasher did indicate that there is a small house down the street from the rectory, which was owned by the diocese and sold in 1983-1984. It did have heat and hot water, but no bedroom. Fr. Thrasher doesn't know if anyone ever stayed there.

Regarding dinner, no alterboys ever ate dinner with Fr. Lavigne and Fr. Thrasher. However on occasion as the alterboys slept over, they would eat dinner with Fr. Lavigne.

Fr. Thrasher did not feel that the frequency of sleepovers and dinners were too often. If he had felt they were too frequent he would have spoken to him about it and he never did.

Fr. Thrasher indicated that Fr. Lavigne is not a drinker and he was not aware of any alcohol at meal time.

As pastor, Fr. Lavigne could come and go anytime from St. Joseph's and no one would know his schedule. Fr. Thrasher has never received a complaint or statement from anyone in the parish regarding any inappropriate sexual touching or behavior. Fr. Thrasher has never been told by supervisors to watch Fr. Lavigne regarding this issue.

Fr. Thrasher has known Fr. Lavigne since they were Assistant Pastors together at St. Mary's Parish in East Springfield. Fr. Lavigne is a very close personal friend of Fr. Thrasher's.

Fr. Thrasher wanted to add that in his opinion, the allegations are contrary to Fr. Lavigne's character, and that it is inconceivable Fr. Lavigne is involved in something like this.

2. On March 24, 1992 this officer spoke with _____ is the father of _____ provided this officer with the following information:

My name is _____ is my son. I am currently employed by _____

I first met Fr. LaVigne in September of 1984 when I moved to Colrain with my wife _____ and three sons, _____ who was entering the 9th grade, _____ who was entering the 7th grade, and _____ who was entering the 4th grade. We lived on _____ in a rented home and became members of the St. John's Catholic Parish. Fr. LaVigne was our new pastor. _____ and _____ became altar servers in the new parish as they had been before in Holy Spirit Parish in Gardner, Mass. _____ did not because he was entering High School and felt too old. After about a year we had to move because the house we were living in was being sold. Fr. LaVigne said he knew some people who had an apartment available across the street from the church so we could remain in the parish. The apartment was owned by the Slowinski brothers. We moved there during the fall of 1985 and it was shortly after that Fr. LaVigne who had become a friend of the family asked if my sons could help him by doing some groundskeeping around the church in Shelburne Falls.

On the day that the boys (all three) went to do these chores we anticipated them only spending the afternoon. Late afternoon I received a call asking if they could stay for dinner and to watch some TV because they had done such a good job. We were glad they had and said "yes". Later they called back asking to sleep over. We agreed and brought them a change of cloths. The next morning we picked the three boys up. I did not notice anything suspicious at this time. Later that day my wife told me that _____ was very upset. We spoke to him in private and I could tell he was upset, he told me that Fr. LaVigne had laid down beside him and when he stood up he didn't have any underwear on. I said you must have been mistaken he didn't try to sexually molest you did he? He said he didn't know so I asked him if he was alone in the bed he said no _____ was with me. Then I explained that Priests are people too and they also have to get undressed to go to bed and that he must have misunderstood because I was sure that Fr. LaVigne wouldn't do anything wrong. I tried to reassure him and told him he didn't have to sleep over again. After speaking with _____ I casually discussed with _____ and _____ what they had done or seen over the weekend they both seemed to be pretty much at ease so I felt there was not enough reason to sound an alarm and suggest possible impropriety involving such a trusted member of the community. _____ seemed mor sullen and withdrawn following this incident and his grades suffered substantially but I attributed this all to our moving.

I didn't give all this much long term thought until recently I read that Fr. LaVigne had been arrested for alledgedly molesting some young boys I was struck by the resemblance of the young Croteau boy pictured in the paper to [redacted] That Sunday when I called [redacted] I told him Fr. LaVigne had been arrested and for what. There was silence on the other end of the phone then [redacted] said "He molested me too," as a result of this I called the Mass State Police and reported the incident.

3. On the same date this officer spoke with [redacted] is the mother of [redacted] provided this officer with the following information:

I am [redacted] I live with my husband. [redacted] These are the facts as I remember them to be at that time.

"1985" [redacted] and his brothers [redacted] and [redacted] were doing yard work for Father Lavine at the church in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. As it got later in the day Father Lavine invited them to dinner. At that moment one of the boys called home and asked if it was alright to stay for dinner and we said yes. Later on in the evening Father Lavine had gotten some movies for them to watch it got rather late and the boys called and asked if would be ok to stay over, Father Lavine also talked to us and asked the same thing. He said it would be perfectly alright. So we brought the boys some change of clothes. The next morning when we picked up the boys, [redacted] was very quite & didn't hardly speak at all. This continued most of the morning. When his brothers were outside playing I asked [redacted] if something was bothering him, I said did something happen over Father Lavine's? Aaron said to me I saw Father Lavine naked & he layed down next to me, but I pretended to be asleep. That was all he told me. After that he never said anything about it again.

At the time I didn't think to much about it, but we didn't ever let the boys go back there again to sleep over.

March 24, 1992

Respectfully submitted,

Spr. Susan M. Mosman

Susan M. Mosman
Trooper, Mass. State

Adendum F