

Priest O

Priest O wrestled with issues relating to his sexual orientation for most of his adult life. To that end he regularly sought psychological counseling. Whether he disclosed his sexual abuse of teenaged boys during these sessions is unknown. What is known, is that *Priest O* was repeatedly sexually abusive and that the Diocese knew this years before they took any action against him.

Much of what is known about *Priest O*'s history of sexual abuse was disclosed after he publicly denied that he had been abusive. Even though the Diocese knew this to be false, they never corrected his statements. These factors prompted a number of victims to come forward to discuss their abuse for the first time.

Priest O had the art of seducing teenaged boys down to a science. Assigned to a diocesan high school, he would target boys who had transferred into the school from the public school system. These boys were the most likely to be vulnerable to his advances, because they frequently had trouble adjusting to the parochial school environment, and they had fewer friends. The pattern of *Priest O*'s abuse was always the same. Each boy would be invited into his office. The door would be closed. After talking to the boys, he would suddenly pull them onto his lap. From there, he would undo their pants and put his hands inside their underwear. He would stroke the area around their genitals, running his hands through their pubic hair. Sometimes he spanked them.

Once, he invited a boy to the home of a wealthy friend. In their swimming pool, he fondled the boy under his bathing suit. Another time, this same boy, after arguing with his parents rode his bike to *Priest O*'s residence. *Priest O* asked him to spend the night and told the boy it was, "like a dream come true for him". They slept in the same bed. During the night

Priest O forcibly orally sodomized the boy by grabbing his head and pushing it down on his penis. The boy described this experience as being one of the most humiliating of his life. That same night *Priest O* tried also to perform anal sex, but this was not successful because the boy resisted. The next morning *Priest O* explained to the boy that he had been a homosexual his entire life. Although the boy told his parents that he had spent the night at *Priest O*'s residence he did not disclose what had happened. After this incident *Priest O* continued to abuse the boy in his office.

One of *Priest O*'s victims actually transferred from the high school to get away from him. Another boy, who was able to refuse his advances, was particularly angry at *Priest O*'s later public denial that he had sexually abused boys. Even though he had not been abused, this man came forward because he knew that *Priest O* had tried to abuse him, and he figured he had been successful with others.

At one point, a parish priest called a Diocesan official involved in personnel issues to inform him that a parishioner, well known to this priest, had told him that *Priest O* had abused his son. The abuse had occurred years before, during the time *Priest O* had been assigned to a Diocesan high school. The complaint was referred to another Diocesan official who was an attorney. (Grand Jury Exhibit 8Q) This priest met with the victim at length and concluded that he was not credible. Inexplicably, the Diocese offered to pay for his counseling expenses, counseling that presumably was unnecessary if he was lying. The Diocese did not further investigate the factual allegations of the abuse. They did however investigate the victim. The priest who had interviewed the victim illegally sought, and later obtained, information from his confidential high school records. While the information was first communicated verbally, it was later carefully documented in a memo that was placed in *Priest O*'s secret archive file. (Grand

Jury Exhibit 89) The Diocesan officials involved in this matter were certain that this information would impeach the credibility of the victim, should he ever decide to publicize the incidents.

Another of *Priest O's* victims, an employee of the Diocese, reported his abuse to his therapist and later to the Diocese. After this, the Diocese sent *Priest O* for a psychological evaluation. (Grand Jury Exhibit 8J) *Priest O's* evaluation and treatment report to the Diocese relates that *Priest O* had been attempting to deal with issues relating to the sexual abuse of boys for many years. *Priest O* acknowledged in the evaluation that he had abused at least twelve boys during his time assigned to the high school. This included the incident where the victim had been found to be incredible by the Diocesan officials who had interviewed him. The Diocese had even forwarded the results of the investigation of this incident to the treatment professionals charged with evaluating *Priest O*.

Priest O was finally placed on administrative leave in early 2002. Thereafter, a high-ranking official in the Diocese advised one of his colleagues of a conversation he had with one of *Priest O's* treatment professionals. He reported that,

I would not let him (name omitted) continue in any ministry with males, the object of his affection and actions, ...they are all related to sex abuse. It can only be described as abusive behavior, the truth is it would not be wise to have him in ministry. (Grand Jury Exhibits 8M,8P)