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**DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
OFFICE OF THE DELEGATE OF THE BISHOP**

REPORT SUMMARY ~ CIVIL AUTHORITIES

DATE: 7/14/2003 TIME: 4:20 pm

Complainant Name: [REDACTED] **(Maiden Name):** [REDACTED]
Address: [REDACTED]
Telephone: [REDACTED]
DOB: / / **SS#:** - - **E-mail:** [REDACTED]

Name of Reporter (if not Complainant): [REDACTED] **Relationship:** self
Telephone: same as above **Address:** [REDACTED]

Name of Accused: Fr. Steve Scruton

1. **Location (City/Town) of alleged abuse:** unknown
Place of alleged abuse: unknown
Date of alleged abuse: 1975
Nature of alleged abuse: "made a pass at me" details unknown
Age of Complainant at time of alleged abuse: 17 y/o
2. **Location (City/Town) of alleged abuse:**
Place of alleged abuse:
Date of alleged abuse:
Nature of alleged abuse:
Age of Complainant at time of alleged abuse:

Complainant has been informed that the Diocese of Manchester will report this allegation to law enforcement (Attorney General/ DCYF if applicable/local law enforcement) Yes ☐ No ☒
Specific Concerns: [REDACTED] did not wish to report this information to civil authorities. He will write an account of the incident and send to Joseph Naff

Report to DCYF (if complainant under age of 18) 800-894-5533
Date of Contact: / /200 **Time:** :
Name of DCYF Intake Rep:

Report to Ovide Lamontagne (603-695-8516) for report to AG/law enforcement:
Date of Contact: 7/14/2003 **Time:** 4:20 pm

Copy Distribution:

Delegate: ☒ Record Clerk ☒ Asst. to Delegate for Pastoral Care: ☐ Other: ☐

Fowler, Anthony

From: Ovide Lamontagne [OMLAMONTAGNE@dmb.com]
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2003 5:05 PM
To: Fowler, Anthony
Cc: jnaiff@catholiccharitiesnh.org; Earsenault@rcbm.org
Subject: New Report: [REDACTED] /Fr Steve Scruton

Dear Tony,

This is a report from [REDACTED] from whom we have had previous contact on the Fr. Lower case. Apparently, in 1975 when he was 17 years old, [REDACTED] he said that Fr Scruton "made a pass at me," and said that he would prefer to write an account of the incident and send it to Joe Naff. I thought I would file this with you now and then provide you the details when I receive them from [REDACTED]. Please advise if you would like me to do anything further at this time.

Ovide

Ovide M. Lamontagne
Devine, Millimet & Branch PA
111 Amherst St. - PO Box 719
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(603) 695-8516 Fax (603) 669-8547
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7/15/2003

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Fowler, Anthony

From: Ovide Lamontagne [OMLAMONTAGNE@dmb.com]
Sent: Monday, August 04, 2003 4:27 PM
To: Fowler, Anthony
Cc: jnaфф@catholiccharitiesnh.org; DQuinlan@RCBM.org; EArsenault@RCBM.org
Subject: Update from [REDACTED] Report of 7-14-03

Dear Tony,

Please find attached more detail from the report I sent you on July 14, 2003 (a copy of which is also attached) regarding [REDACTED]. The attached memo was prepared by [REDACTED]. Please let me know if you need more information or if you believe additional steps need to be taken by the Diocese.

Ovide

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8/5/2003

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Mr. Naff, Rev. Arsenault:

Last December, while I was making my report on Rev. Lower, I also mentioned that there had been an incident with Rev. S. Scruton. I would like to report the following incidents for the record.

Because of the change of Bishops and scheduling issues, Confirmation at St. Rose of Lima in Littleton had been postponed for several years. Finally it was scheduled for the spring of 1975 and in September of 1974 the guidelines for students who wish to be confirmed in the spring were laid out. These included required attendance at formation classes through the year and service projects. Through the year I participated in the classes and the other 'required' activities. I did notice that a number of my classmates dropped out of class and did not participate in the 'required' activities. Yet when confirmation came around, EVERYONE was confirmed, including those that did not fulfill the requirements. Rev. Scruton decided on his own that everyone would be included and though I complained, it fell on deaf ears. I would classify this as abusive authority behavior by Rev. Scruton.

I had been very much involved in activities. One of them I'd like to report because of it abuse of trust (theft from the parish).

Prior to Rev. Scruton's arrival, the collection counting had been taken care of by families in the Parish (neighbors that I knew). These were trusted people in the community and freely gave of their time to take care of the responsibility of organizing and counting the collection and depositing it in the bank. Rev. Scruton did not care for this arrangement (for reasons I will disclose later). He decided that the collection needed to be counted in the rectory under his supervision. In January of 1975, I was enlisted to count the collection at the rectory. Each Sunday that winter and spring, I would go to an early Mass and then go to the rectory and begin counting the collection, beginning with the Saturday evening and early Sunday Mass collections. As the morning passed, collection from the additional Masses would arrive and finally after the last Mass, Rev. Scruton would assist in finishing counting the collection. (Since this usually ran into lunch, I would be tasked to cook lunch for Rev. Scruton, and quite often for his guest.) As we came to the end of counting the collection, Rev. Scruton would go into his office and return with a cigar box. Anywhere from \$20 to \$50 was put into this box (these funds were not included in the collection). The collection was 'fixed' to look like a legitimate number (no even \$100 or even \$10 increments were reported). What I did find was that this cigar box funds were being set aside for personal and entertainment use. The money from the cigar box was used for Pizza, Movie Theater Tickets, and going out to eat. I'm sure it was used for other things that I was not involved in as well. Most of all, it was not reported to the parishioners. This theft is clearly an abuse of trust.

I was very upset at the time of confirmation and quit the collection counting and lunch service I was doing. I even stopped going to church.

Finally on Saturday of the First Sunday of Advent (December 1975), I made an attempt to return to church. I happened to stop by church Saturday afternoon while Rev. Scruton and the part time associate (Rev. Rochefort (sp?)) were working on putting up banners for Advent. Rev. Rochfort had to leave for other duties and I was asked to work on a banner in the rectory. This time I was taken up into a workroom on the second floor (north east corner of the rectory as I recall) to work on the banner. This went on into the early evening. At one point, Rev. Scruton offered to show me the changes he had made to the rectory (this is where the incident with Rev. Lower had taken place in 1973). As he showed me one of the bedrooms, we turned to leave and he grabbed me from behind and pulled me back onto the bed. I was able to break away, but did not know how to react. I returned to the workroom and made sure to not have my back to Rev. Scruton for the remainder of my stay that evening. Work was finished quickly (maybe 15 or 20 minutes) and I left the rectory.

I have only been to the Rectory in Littleton twice since (once to get Certificates, and once to see Rev. Klatka).

I stopped going to church at St. Rose. During this time, I was invited and participated in the Methodist church choir and began to attend there.

The following summer, my mother asked why I was not going to church and I told her of the incident of the First Sunday of Advent. My parents supported me and they began to attend Mass at St. Catherine's in Lisbon. By the end of the summer I began to go to Mass in Lisbon as well, while still participating in the Methodist Church Choir.

Rev. Scruton was still pastor in Littleton when I applied to be a Seminarian, for that reason; there was no Pastor's Letter for my file.

My mother reported the assault incident to Rev. John Horan (former Pastor in Littleton and a family friend). This was after Rev. Scruton had been arrested for Sodomy and removed from ministry.

What I saw in this one self appointed church leader was the abuses of assault, theft, and authority. It should never have happened.

[REDACTED]