

Off: (312) 642-1837

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

VICAR FOR PRIESTS
800 NORTH CLARK STREET, SUITE 311
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610

TO: File

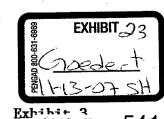
DATE:

March 30, 1989

RE:

Vincent McCaffrey

4. According to the caller did not identify himself by name but stated that he was a Chicago policeman. He said that he was on patrol and he and his partner came across two 12 year old boys who flagged them down. The boys claimed that the man in the car a half a block away or so had offered them \$20 if they would get into the car and have sex actions with him. The cops pursued the car and they asked the driver what he was doing in the area. The driver said he was asking the boys for directions to a grocery store in the area. When the police returned to the two kids, they were too frightened to pursue the issue. The policeman talked it over with his partner and decided to make the phone call. According to the policeman did not sound vindictive. He sounded sincere.



9. The caller said he was a Chicago policeman working the wagon. That's the word he used, but he also spoke of the beat car. He asked if he knew Vince McCaffrey. He then told that two 12-year-olds waved him down and said the guy in the car up there pulled over, offered them \$20 to come into the car and have sex games. They chased the car, stopping him a Leland and Magnolia. They asked what he was doing around there. Vince said he was looking for a grocery store. Vince was very apologetic. The policemen went back to the children and they were very scared.

10.

The policeman was divorced. He said he talked it over with his partner and he just felt he had to talk to someone to make sure his own conscience was clear in the event a child were to get hurt. The policeman sounded genuine to the sounded like he was trying to be discrete. The asked the policeman why he didn't take Fr. McCaffrey in. The said that he used to be a policeman himself and he would have felt obliged to at least take the "culprit" in for questionning. The policeman said that the two boys didn't want to get involved.

- I met with and Vince and asked to relate the events as he heard them. I then asked Vince for his reaction. Vince said there had been no incident recently at all. The incident I described actually took place in early February, probably the first week of February, 1988, a year ago. A paddy wagon stopped Vince on Lawrence Avenue. The policeman said two 12-year-olds accused Vince of propositioning them and Vince denied it. The policeman asked Vince for his drivers' license. He also asked Vince what he did and he told him he was a priest. The policeman told him that he had better stay out of the neighborhood. This happened on Lawrence Avenue about two blocks west of Broadway. Vince said that what really happened was as follows: Vince had come up on a stop sign. These two kids were on the side making as if they were going to cross the street. They started out, then stopped. They began to play "chicken" with Vince and his car. Vince was getting very angry. He really thought they were going to throw a rock through his window. But Vince insists that he never said a single word to the kids and made no gestures. Vince said he was really shook up by the incident. The police asked him what he was doing in the neighborhood. He had just come from a White Hen pantry. The police didn't act like they believed Vince. They said that he had better watch out because they were going to keep an eye out for his car and he should stay out of the neighborhood. Vince wondered at the time what he should do, whether he should say something to Dom or to me.
- 19. Dom said he was scared for the parish. This has the potential of doing great harm to the school families, to the parish, to Vince. How do we protect all of these entities?
- 20. Vince said it was a terrible experience for him. He was scared and didn't know what to do and didn't think anyone would believe him. He is beginning to realize there is no future in parish ministry for him. He just recently made efforts to get into graduate school to work towards some sort of a degree. He hoped that maybe down the line he could work for Catholic Charities helping out

with sexual disorder cases or something like that.

21. Vince said the police did not believe him that night and he thinks they believed the kids. They talked down to Vince. It was very humiliating. This was around 9:15 PM, It was in the Uptown area, so it wouldn't be unusual for kids to roam the streets.

23. I really did not know what to do. It seemed unfair to insist that Vince move out of St. Josaphat, but on the other hand, I don't see much of an alternative. If he stays, we run the risk that someone else might be phoned just as the were and they may not be as discrete. Moreover, what do we do if someone starts checking things out and finds that Vince does have a past history? This would certainly compromise both myself and the diocese as it would appear as though we were covering up for Vince and not telling the exactly what the story is. It's a complicated mess and I thought I would

24. I also put in a call to see whether or not I could track down the information through the police department. I left a message with my contact person and I will see whether or not he can get any information about the incident, either a year ago or recently.