

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Rev. Brian M. Flatley

DATE: July 11, 1996

RE: Rev. John J. Geoghan '62

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This is an updated summary of allegations concerning Father Geoghan:

- 1980 February 9: Assigned at Saint Andrew, Forest Hills since June 4, 1974: Rev. John Thomas, Vicar in Jamaica Plain came to Bishop Daily; had been to Bishop Riley. Woman from Blessed Sacrament, Jamaica Plain (later determined to be Mrs. Dussourd) reported "homosexual activity" with her sons and nephews (ages 6-11) (later determined to be 7 boys). Father Geoghan "admits the activity but does not feel it serious or a pastoral problem." Transferred, counseling mandated. Cardinal Medeiros approved. Saw Doctor Brennan for psychoanalysis; Doctor Mullins for psychotherapy.
- February 12: Sick leave until assigned to Saint Brendan, Dorchester February 25, 1981
- 1982 July 24: Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dussourd, Marge Gallant (Mrs. Dussourd's sister) and Fran Dussourd came to see Bishop Daily, referred by Father Thomas. Mrs. Dussourd's son (previously molested) met Father Geoghan at an ice cream parlor in Jamaica Plain. Seen there again with another youngster. Bishop Daily sent for Father Geoghan. He explained that he was in the area for a wake; visited the widow; took her son out for ice cream.
- August 10: Letter to Cardinal Medeiros from Mrs. Gallant. Angry. "7 boys in the family have been violated". Why is he still functioning?
- August 28: Bishop Daily saw Father Geoghan. Allowed to go on his planned sabbatical in Rome - see the Cardinal on return.
- September 6: Another letter from Mrs. Gallant. Why is nothing being done?
- 1984 September 17: Father James Lane, Pastor and Charles McGahey, Parochial Vicar at Saint Brendan's came to Chancery to complain. Father Francis Cloherty of Blessed Sacrament in Jamaica Plain said that Father Geoghan was still seeing Dussourd children. In Dorchester "Fr. G's language, although not gross or vulgar, was imprudent and inappropriate". Father Lane stated that it is a pastoral problem. Asked that he be terminated at Saint Brendan's.
- September 18: Father Geoghan between assignments until November 13. Assigned to Saint Julia Parish, Weston. Monsignor Rossiter, the Pastor, aware of past allegations.
- December 11: Doctor Mullins - Father Geoghan "fully recovered".
- December 14: Doctor Brennan: "no psychiatric contraindications or restrictions to his work as a parish priest."

- 1989 March 6: In a memo of Father John McCormack dated March 6, 1989 it is referenced that there were two 51A's taken out on Father Geoghan, one 6 years ago; one 2 years ago:
1. Informant brought to us by Dr. Kolber. Boy named MGS-5 Not as serious as the others. Father Geoghan patted the boy on the rear end while the boy was changing in the bedroom.
  2. Informant: kid (MGS-4) was practicing fellatio on his three year old brother. Kid said Father did it. Took two years to disclose. Father Geoghan would show up when kid was asleep. Lights off. Mother couldn't press charges. Boston Police investigated. Father Geoghan denied it. Too many discrepancies; dropped it. Father Geoghan insists that charge was fondling at the pool. In this conversation, Father Geoghan tells Bishop Banks, "I don't have the sexual attraction for children that I had before. I have been chaste for the last 5 years."
- April 3: Father Geoghan sent to Saint Luke Institute for evaluation. Diagnosis: homosexual pedophilia.
- April 28: Memo by Bishop Banks of conversation with Doctor Brennan: "you better clip his wings before there is an explosion; you can't afford to have him in a parish." Told by Bishop Banks on April 28 that he had to leave ministry. Placed on sick leave May 24. Admitted to The Institute of Living on August 10.
- November 4: Discharged. Diagnosis: "Atypical pedophilia in remission". Recommended that he be returned to assignment; keep in touch with psychiatrist; "Moderately improved". Returned to Saint Julia's, Weston on November 17.
- November 30: Letter by Bishop Banks to Institute for Living. Unhappy with Discharge Summary. Different from what he had understood and based his decision to allow Father Geoghan back to work.
- December 12: Letter to Bishop Banks explaining Discharge Summary: "The probability that he would act out again is quite low. However, we cannot guarantee that it could not re-occur. It is both reasonable and therapeutic for him to be reassigned back to his parish."
- 1990 November 28: Note from Bishop Banks: "I would recommend him for a parish [as a pastor], but decision left up to [Bishop Hughes] and [Cardinal Law]."
- December 7: Letter from Doctor Brennan: "no psychiatric contraindication to Father Geoghan's pastoral work at this time."
- 1991 October 23: Mrs. Green from Salvation Army complained of Father Geoghan proselytizing at pool; there with a young boy.
- 1992 July 3: Informant called Father Fred Ryan at Chancery. In confidence said a gentleman she met at Mass named MGS-6 said Father Geoghan molested his two sons in the 60's at Blessed Sacrament in Saugus (Father Geoghan was there 1962-66); Father Geoghan contacted one of the sons within the past year. The boy said he'd kill him if he called again. Hearsay and vague.
- 1993 January 12: Father Geoghan appointed Associate Director of the Office of Senior Priests.
- 1994 January 31: Letter to Cardinal Law from Informant concerning Dussourd family. Sister Catherine made contact.
- April 4: Mom of MGS-7 wrote complaining about sexual abuse of her son by Father Geoghan at Saint Paul, Hingham, (Father Geoghan there 1967-74). Father Geoghan denied the allegations.
- June 6: Review Board: The Board recommended that there be no parish ministry or weekend ministry in a parish for the present. There shall be an outpatient assessment to see how he is presently doing and to structure an appropriate aftercare program for him.

- 1994 December 30: Call from Mrs. [MGS-1,2,3], alleging abuse of her three boys in 1993-1994. Father Geoghan denied. Place on Administrative Leave
- 1995 January 16: Father Geoghan sent to Saint Luke Institute for reassessment.
- October 23: Claim filed against Father Geoghan by [MGS-7] of Hingham.
- November 9: Complaint Hearing - [MGS-1,2,3] case.
- November 9: Monsignor Murphy asks for Father Geoghan's resignation.
- December 19: Father Geoghan makes an agreement with The Middlesex County District Attorney that does not require residential treatment. Bishop-Elect Murphy points out to him that this does not change the Archdiocese's demand that he be in residential treatment.
- 1996 January 23: Cardinal Law ends Father Geoghan's assignment
- March 18: Saint Luke Institute assessment report sent to Chancery. Diagnosis: pedophilia - attracted to males, non-exclusive.
- May 6: Father Geoghan assigned by Cardinal Law to Saint Luke Institute.
- May 20: In an attempt to bring resolution to this situation BMF writes to Father Geoghan telling him that he has informed the Cardinal that he would not oppose Father Geoghan's being assigned for inpatient treatment either to Saint Luke Institute or to Southdown.
- June 5: Cardinal assigns Father Geoghan "to residential treatment either at Saint Luke Institute or at Southdown in Aurora, Ontario, Canada. I direct you to contact Father Flatley within fourteen days of receipt of this letter so that he may determine the effective date of this assignment. It is my sincere hope that you will accept this assignment willingly in a spirit of obedience. However, I must inform you that this letter should be viewed as a second warning that if you do not accept this assignment, it will be necessary for me to invoke canonical penalties according to Canon 1371, 2."
- July 11: Newspaper articles appear.
- July 12: Father Geoghan agrees to go to Southdown.