

Rev. Richard E. McQuade

On Tuesday, June 18, 1996, Father McQuade met with me at Chancery. I began by reviewing with Father McQuade the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual misconduct and telling him that everything we discussed was discoverable if this matter was brought to a judicial process.

I told Father McQuade that an attorney representing [REDACTED] had sent to Chancery approximately thirty letters written by Father McQuade to Mr. [REDACTED]'s son, [REDACTED] (hereafter referred to as "[REDACTED]") in the years 1982-1983, when [REDACTED] was a student at Saint John Seminary College. I told Father McQuade that it was our understanding that [REDACTED] was killed in an automobile accident [REDACTED] years ago and that his parents have since divorced. In going through [REDACTED]'s belongings at the time of the divorce Mr. [REDACTED] discovered these letters. Father McQuade noted that [REDACTED]'s death was over [REDACTED] years ago, in [REDACTED].

I proceeded to read to Father McQuade approximately ten of the letters forwarded to this Office by the attorney representing [REDACTED]. I told Father McQuade that these letters were representative of all of the letters. I then invited Father McQuade's response.

Father McQuade began by telling me about [REDACTED]. He said that to understand these letters you would have to know [REDACTED]. He was very responsive and alive. Father McQuade showed me two cards he had received from [REDACTED], one of which he read at [REDACTED]'s Funeral. The cards are indicative of the very close relationship between [REDACTED] and Father McQuade.

Father McQuade related that when [REDACTED] was young he learned of his father's escapades; he found out that his father was seeing a woman in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was upset by his father's behavior. He would drive by the woman's house. He would call her telephone number and disguise his voice. He loved his mother - he always did. [REDACTED] would cry when talking about how his father hurt his mother. She did not know about the other woman. According to Father McQuade, [REDACTED] felt adrift and alone. His father was not often around. When he was home there were fights and arguments. [REDACTED] felt that his father ignored him.

Father McQuade remembers the first time he saw [REDACTED]. Shortly after Father McQuade was named Pastor at Saint Mark Parish in Dorchester, he erected a basketball court, probably in 1979. One day [REDACTED] was at the court watching his brother play. Father McQuade asked him if he attended CCD classes. He said "no". They struck up a friendship. Father McQuade said that [REDACTED] became aware that he could talk to Father McQuade. He feels that [REDACTED] switched his love and friendship from his father to Father McQuade. [REDACTED] worked in the Rectory beginning in [REDACTED].

I asked Father McQuade if he and [REDACTED] were sexually involved. He responded, "No. He would resent that; I would too". I asked what he meant by the word "resent". He explained that he thinks that [REDACTED] would have been offended at any suggestion of such a relationship.

I asked if Father McQuade ever slept with [REDACTED]. He said he never did. He clarified this by adding that they did have to sleep in the same bed on rare occasions while traveling when there was only one bed available.

I asked about kissing. Father McQuade said that [REDACTED] would kiss him on the cheek. I asked about kissing where one of them would insert his tongue into the other's mouth "French kissing". Father McQuade denied emphatically that this behavior ever occurred between [REDACTED] and him. He said that he never remembers any kissing on the lips between them.

I asked Father McQuade how he would characterize their relationship. He said that he would call them "good friends".

We then talked about the accident in which [REDACTED] died. In 199[REDACTED] a soup kitchen/shelter founded by Rev. Bernard McLaughlin in East Boston. He was [REDACTED] years old and unmarried. He had a girlfriend. He was outgoing. He loved the shelter. He was emotionally involved with the residents. He had a lot of promise. Father McQuade recalls that [REDACTED] called him on Monday of that week. On Wednesday evening [REDACTED] went out to dinner with Father McLaughlin. He was driving to Father McQuade's home in Scituate when his car hit a wall. He was thrown into the oncoming tide. His body was recovered later. Father McQuade celebrated [REDACTED]'s funeral. Father McQuade shared his devastation at [REDACTED]'s death.

I asked Father McQuade a number of specific questions:

- were the letters written by him? Father McQuade acknowledged that they were.

- was he emotionally involved with [REDACTED]? Father McQuade described [REDACTED] as a very good friend. He said that [REDACTED] always called to talk to him. Father McQuade felt that he was a substitute father for [REDACTED]. He tried to make up for [REDACTED]'s lack of a father. He tried to build him up. It was a good friendship. Father McQuade acknowledged that this was a good feeling.

- were he and [REDACTED] sexually intimate? Father McQuade says that they were not.

- was there sexual kissing (French kissing)? Father McQuade says there was not. I asked about this passage in a letter:

"If you want: when you are here the next time I would like to have or "hold" your tongue for 10 minutes running; that would be very warm and delicate. It would cement & fuse two into one... - I just hung up talking with you and since you said that the above was o.k. with you I would like to change the 10 minutes to 12 - so open wide when you arrive - for I really really - very much - always - deeply - continually love - all love - feel & touch - all that you have."

Father McQuade explained that this was written in the context of helping [REDACTED] get confidence for a speech that he had to give in front of people. (This was in fact the other part of the letter.) He acknowledged that the intensity of the language makes it hard to explain.

- did they sleep together? Father McQuade says they did not except for rarely while traveling. I asked him to explain these passages:

"...said to myself [REDACTED] and I were sitting on that bench a few hours ago'...got the coffee pots from the bed room and saw a blue pillow on the bed and removed it forthwith to his proper room and bed."

and "...after talking with you last nite I felt much better - and went to bed - alone - and happy."

Father McQuade was at a loss to explain these references.

I cited references to Father McQuade's thinking about [REDACTED] constantly. He said that they were very good friends. Father McQuade acknowledges that they were emotionally involved at times.

He described [REDACTED] as a person who got very excited about little things, for example cooking and shopping. He described driving by a kennel and [REDACTED]'s pleading for him to stop and [REDACTED]'s excitement at the dog they brought home.

Future plans:

I told Father that I would prepare a summary of this interview and send it to him for his response.

I told him that although he was consistent in his denial of sexual involvement with [REDACTED], it is my responsibility to make a decision about whether there is reasonable probability that sexual misconduct had occurred. I told him that based on the letters I had to conclude that reasonable probability was present. My reasons are:

- the general emotional spirit evident in the letters;
- the sexually charged tone of the paragraphs cited above;
- the reference in one letter "I thought it would be as at first - way back at 17" with implications of involvement when [REDACTED] was a minor.

In light of the Archdiocesan policy I asked Father McQuade to accept an Administrative Leave which entails temporary limitations on his ministry. Specifically, he cannot be involved in public ministry. He may offer Mass privately in his residence. Father McQuade agreed.

In line with the Archdiocesan Policy I asked Father McQuade to agree to go for a medical and psychological assessment at Saint Luke Institute. He agreed that he would do so. I arranged for an appointment for an assessment from Sunday, July 7 to Friday July 12. I told Father McQuade that I would like to attend the closeout session of the assessment and he agreed to that.

I gave Father McQuade the name of a therapist to call if he felt that he need to talk about this situation. I asked that he call me if he had any questions.

On Wednesday, June 19, 1996 I called Father McQuade to see how he was faring in the light of this stressful situation. He said that he was doing as well as could be expected. I told him that I was in the process of securing an advisor for him, as required by the Archdiocesan policy. Father McQuade requested that I not assign an advisor to him. I acceded to his request. I asked Father McQuade to send me a note allowing me to forward the letters to Saint Luke Institute. He agreed that he would do so.

Brian M. Fladey 