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February 9, 1998

Frederic J. Torphy, P.C.
10 North Main Street
Post Office Box 608
Fall River, Massachusetts 02722

RE: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Torphy:

As you are aware, this office represents [REDACTED] with regard to injuries suffered as a result of having been physically and sexually abused by Father Edward Parquette during the time that Father Parquette was serving as a pastor at St. Mary's Church in Mansfield, Massachusetts. It is my hope that by bringing this matter to your attention, it may be resolved without litigation.

[REDACTED] grew up in a very "strict" Catholic family. In approximately 1956, when he was around 10 years of age, his family moved in with his grandmother in Mansfield, Massachusetts and became members of St. Mary's Church in Mansfield. It was at this time that he met Father Edward Parquette.

At the time of their first meeting, Father Parquette began sexually abusing [REDACTED]. On this occasion, Father Parquette had come to visit [REDACTED] grandmother at her home. Other than his grandmother, [REDACTED] was the only one at home at the time. Father Parquette stood very close to [REDACTED] and while talking to him, began to rub [REDACTED] penis with the back of his hand through [REDACTED] clothing. [REDACTED] was confused about what was happening and backed away. As [REDACTED] moved away from Father Parquette, Father Parquette moved with him continuing to rub [REDACTED] genitals until [REDACTED] could not back up any further. During this conversation, Father Parquette told [REDACTED] to join the Catholic Youth Organization and then left. [REDACTED] was very confused by what had happened.

Approximately one month later, [REDACTED] joined the Catholic Youth Organization and would see Father Parquette occasionally at which times Father Parquette was very friendly to [REDACTED] but did not physically approach him. A few weeks later, Father Parquette invited [REDACTED] and three other boys to go to Fall River with him for a religious seminar. [REDACTED] recalls that Father Parquette bought them

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tickets to the movies while Father Parquette attended the seminar. Upon returning to Mansfield, Father Parquette dropped the other boys off first and then took [redacted] to a parking lot where they talked and drank sodas. Father Parquette then put his hand on [redacted] penis outside of his clothing and put [redacted] hand on his penis. Father Parquette then took out his penis which was erect and instructed [redacted] to do the same. Father Parquette began masturbating [redacted] and told [redacted] to do the same to him. Father Parquette then ejaculated all over [redacted] hand, zipped up his pants and took [redacted] home. [redacted] recalls being very frightened by what had happened.

[redacted] avoided Father Parquette for several months, refusing rides from him. Father Parquette never pushed himself on [redacted] during this time and began to regain [redacted] trust. Several months later, Father Parquette took [redacted] and several other boys to a restaurant, dropped the other boys off first, took [redacted] to a parking lot and sexually abused him just as he had done previously. [redacted] became frightened to be alone with Father Parquette after this incident.

Several months later [redacted] went to St. Mary's Church on a Saturday for confession. He felt safe in the church because there were other people going in and out of the church. At this time, Father Parquette was present at the church and asked [redacted] to help him move something behind the altar. When [redacted] went behind the altar, Father Parquette dropped his pants and also unbuckled [redacted] pants which then dropped to the floor. Father Parquette tried to anally penetrate [redacted] and [redacted] resisted. He instructed [redacted] to perform oral sex on him and then forced [redacted] to masturbate him. Father Parquette then ejaculated all over [redacted] genitals and stomach. He then pulled up his pants and instructed [redacted] to do the same. He told [redacted] he was sorry and that he had overpowering Satanic thoughts. He told [redacted] he could never tell anyone because God would hate him and he would never be forgiven. He also told [redacted] that his parents would never believe him. After this final incident of sexual abuse, [redacted] avoided Father Parquette, stopped going to church and to the Christian Youth Organization meetings.

Subsequently [redacted] told his parents that Father Parquette was gay and tried to tell them what had happened. They did not believe him and his father was violent towards him while berating him for saying such things about a priest. His parents took him to see Father O'Brien and [redacted] told him about the incident at the church. Father O'Brien did not believe [redacted] telling him he was "no good, dirty, rotten, filthy and vulgar". He also told the boy that he did not deserve to go to church or deserve his parents. [redacted] recalls that within a year or so after this incident, Father Parquette was suddenly gone from the parish. [redacted] recently learned that Father Parquette was removed from the parish because of a complaint by a mother who was on the church board that Father Parquette had in some way approached her son.

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Following the response of his parents and Father O'Brien, [REDACTED] began to feel trapped within himself. He became increasingly angry and in approximately 1961, went to St. Mary's Church in Foxboro and destroyed church property, throwing candles around the church, tearing down curtains and urinating in a wastebasket. [REDACTED] did not go to St. Mary's Church in Mansfield because he was afraid he would be recognized. [REDACTED] was subsequently arrested and spent approximately nine months in a youth detention facility. He never disclosed why he had vandalized the church to anyone at the detention facility.

Upon his return to school in Mansfield, he had great difficulty and was branded as the boy who destroyed the church. As a result, he dropped out of school in the eleventh grade.

[REDACTED] suffered from the trauma of the abuse throughout his life. He has experienced low self-esteem and began abusing alcohol. His alcohol and drug abuse continued for approximately ten years during which time he was hospitalized on two occasions for detoxification. He was sober for approximately two and one half years until a recent episode of excessive substance abuse which resulted in another hospitalization. He participated in Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings regularly and struggles on a daily basis to remain sober. He has had difficulty with relationships and often experienced mood swings and became violent towards his family when he was using alcohol. He worked as a plumber for 30 years but left the field when his alcohol addiction became severe.

As a result of the abuse, [REDACTED] suffered from severe psychological disorders including an identity disorder, a compulsive disorder, polysubstance abuse and symptoms of a post-traumatic stress disorder. I have attached a forensic evaluation prepared by [REDACTED] Psy.D. for your review which documents the extensive harm and trauma suffered by [REDACTED] as a result of Father Parquette's sexual abuse. As the report reveals, the effects of the abuse substantially impaired [REDACTED] relationship with his wife and permeated every aspect of his life resulting in a continuing struggle to deal with the issues surrounding the abuse throughout his lifetime. As [REDACTED] report indicates, [REDACTED] did not begin to make the connection between the sexual abuse and his psychological harm until approximately mid-1994 when he consulted a minister following media disclosure about Father Porter.

Sadly, [REDACTED] was struggling enormously this past year with his alcohol addiction after having it under control for some time. This was clearly connected to his distress from dealing with his abuse by Father Parquette. He was found last summer floating in a pond [REDACTED] where he lived with his wife. His death was an extreme shock to his family and to us.

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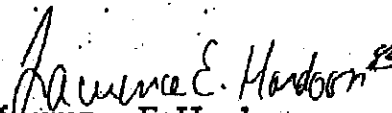
At this time, [REDACTED] is prepared to resolve the legal aspects of her husband's claim and the attendant distress that this has caused them for the sum of \$150,000. I know [REDACTED] would have wanted his wife, who has put up with countless instances of extreme grief, sadness, and depression during their many years of marriage, to receive the compensation from his claim. She believes, correctly in my opinion, that [REDACTED] died because of the horrific sexual abuse by Father Parquette.

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED], two other victims of Father Parquette whose claims are being presented simultaneously with [REDACTED] have agreed not to settle their claims unless [REDACTED] claim is also resolved. Under the circumstances, I support their solidarity.

As I am sure you are aware, this demand is extremely reasonable in light of the horrific abuse perpetrated on [REDACTED] by Father Parquette. I firmly believe it would be in the best interests of all the parties to resolve this matter speedily and confidentially.

Please contact me as soon as you have an opportunity to review this matter.

Very truly yours,


Laurence E. Haroon

Enclosure

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