

Psychiatric Interview For:

Rev. James Burns

Interviewer:

Date:

March 8, 1990

Father Burns is a fifty-six year old priest from the Diocese of Gallup, N.M. He says there are three major problems.

- 1) He had been involved sexually for approximately ten years with adolescent males. He claims that the last such involvement was ten years ago.
- 2) He said there are allegations in the parish that he misused parish funds to remodel his own house. He claims he has been exonerated of that charge.
- 3) People have complained that he was withdrawing from the parish. He talked a bit about being somewhat burned out and over-compensating for his sexual misadventures with workaholism.

Father Burns said that sexually he would be involved approximately three or four times with each of the ten adolescent males. It almost always involved masturbation or mutual masturbation. There was no kissing and there were no appendages which went into orifices.

He claimed to have had one sexual experience with a same-age woman about fifteen years ago. He claimed that she seduced him and that she is still in his life, and that he doesn't know how to politely get rid of her. He described the experience as "very frightening." "I performed the act." He claimed that he did it to "stop her aggression."

In terms of sexual development, he developed an awareness of sexuality sometime around ten to thirteen years of age. He claims that he thought he was in love with some girls in school. He said that he dated in high school, but there was not anything overtly sexual. He remembers once fondling a girl. He claims that was exciting but he was afraid that he would get slapped in the face. He claimed that one time he went out with "the school mattress" (a promiscuous female). He said that they had parked the car and were hugging and kissing. He said a policeman came over to the car "and that ended that. It was enough of a scare."

In the college seminary, he remembered having some romantic feelings for some of the other seminarians. He said there were good and bad elements in the seminary. The bad elements were involved with homosexual relationships with one another. He considered himself one of the good elements. He remembers during the seminary that "a kid in the movie" started feeling his leg. He claims that he slugged him. He said, "He was bigger than me."

He said the sexual involvement with the adolescent males started about four years after ordination. He remembered in his first parish that two kids told him that they had been sexually involved with the last priest. He became sexually involved with them. He talked about getting in trouble in a reform school with another boy and described the boy as fifteen or sixteen years old. "No peach fuzz or anything else."

Five years later, he was threatened with being arrested for this. He claimed the Bishop knew, but not a lot was done. About ten years ago, he was in bed with a kid in a motel room and the kid objected to him touching his penis. He said the Bishop also knew about this and transferred him to another parish, but he had no real treatment.

He claims he masturbates now with fantasies of both males and females. He is not attracted to effeminate boys or very masculine boys. At the end of the session, he started crying saying that he is here for himself, because he needs it. He said he owes it to the Diocese and the Church also. He said, with tears in his eyes, "I have worked like a slave, but I will probably go to Hell anyway."

I do not see any diagnosable psychiatric disorder in him, with the exception of "Androphilic Ephebophilia" (sexual attraction to adolescent males). He definitely would be a very good candidate for one of the programs in Jemez Springs. I found him to be easy to work with.