

27 February 2004

<p>Sabatino, Lawrence DECEASED</p>	<p>XXX (8-9)</p>	<p>Portland</p>	<p>1960-1961</p>	<p>Fondling (in the guise of checking victim's underwear), hard mouth-to-mouth kissing, body rubbing with erection.</p>
	<p>XXX (12)</p>		<p>1964</p>	<p>Heavy petting and kissing, finger penetration. This would happen when victim attended Sodality meetings and Father would play hide-and-seek with the girls in the dark in the basement of the church. He would molest the girl with whom he chose to hide.</p>
	<p>XXX (8-12)</p>		<p>1963-1967</p>	<p>Victim remembers being in basement of St. Mary's with Father on top of her with his mouth to hers - no kissing, just touching of mouth to mouth.</p>
	<p>XXX (8-9)</p>	<p>Portland</p>	<p>1963-1964</p>	<p>Alleges numerous acts of sexual contact, i.e., touching of genitals through clothing, both hand and penis contact by Father Sabatino and coerced hand-to-penis contact by victim.</p>
	<p>XXX (12 or 13)</p>	<p>Portland</p>	<p>1960 or 1961</p>	<p>Victim reported to the AG's Office on 3/29/02 what she recalled two incidents of Father Sabatino hugging her on the front steps of St. Peter's Church; she believes Father had an erection when he hugged her.</p>
	<p>XXX</p>		<p>1967</p>	<p>Victim wrote letter of 3/10/2002 to the Bishop and copied to the DA's Office in Portland calling upon the Bishop to deal with the sex abuse situation and also mentioning that she Fr. Sabatino abused her 35 years ago.</p>
	<p>XXX (7 or 8)</p>	<p>Portland</p>	<p>1972</p>	<p>Victim wrote letter to Diocese in March 2002 reporting that she was a victim over 30 years ago at the age of 7 or 8 of Fr. Sabatino. Victim did not specify the alleged sexual abuse.</p>
	<p>XXX (12)</p>	<p>So. Portland</p>	<p>1965 or 1966</p>	<p>Sexually abused.</p>

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27 February 2004

XXX (8) XXX (10) XXX (11) XXX (12-13)		1953 1964 1964	Report to Chancery by XXX at request of her daughter XXX that Father Sabatino sexually abused XXX, XXX, and XXX. Victim knew Father since the age of 10 when she was a patient at Mercy Hospital. She recalls his constant attention, hugging, holding her. She recalls two trips with him and other members of the Sodality. She does not know what happened the first time, but found it strange that she had awakened without her underpants, and the second time she awoke during the night with Father reaching under her night dress and touching her. Parents reported Father played "big bad wolf" with victim and would his face against hers, but what really hurt was the "bone" when he pressed himself against her stomach. XXX reported that from about the age of 12 to 17, Father Sabatino would touch her breasts. He would sometimes touch her legs but mostly it was her breasts. She has been offered counseling. XXX indicated that it happened to all the girls and they could not talk about it. Her mother recently told her that Father Sabatino abused her when she was 5 or 6 years of age in the first grade in Lewiston. No further details about the alleged abuse.
XXX (6) XXX (12-17) XXX	Lewiston		

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Father Lawrence Sabatino:

XXX complained that Father Sabatino had "played games" with their daughter, XXX, who was 6 years old. She said that he played the big bad wolf and rubbed his face against hers but what really hurt was the "bone" when he pressed himself against her stomach. He did this when he took XXX for rides in his car.

XXX reported that Father Sabatino sexually abused her between 1963 and 1967 when she was approximate 8 to 12 years old. She was a member of St. Peter's sodality. The abuse happened in the basement of the church. XXX remembers Father laying on top of her and putting his mouth to hers. There was no kissing; he would just touch her mouth. XXX already had counseling when she came in and did not feel the need for additional counseling.

XXX reported that Father Sabatino had molested her when she was 7 or 8 years old. This would have happened about 1963 or 64. She was part of the Sodality at St. Peters. Father would play hide-and-seek with the girls and pick one to "hide with". She was often picked and Father would touch her all over. It never went beyond touching but it frightened her. At the time XXX declined an offer of counseling but more recently called and changed her mind. She has begun treatment.

XXX came with Channel 8 to inform the diocese of abuse by Father Sabatino. There is no description of the abuse in the file. She was offered counseling but never followed through.

The uncle of XXX, XXX, and XXX reported that Father Sabatino abused his three nieces. Their mother confirmed this happened in 1964 approximately. The girls were 10, 8 and 11 respectively. They were part of the Sodality and Father played "games" with them. No further description of the actual abuse is currently in the file. There was no direct contact with the victims but the mother was told to inform the girls that counseling was available to them.

XXX reported that Father Lawrence Sabatino had sexually molested her over 35 years ago. This happened when she was 12 years old, approximately 1964. The abuse was heavy petting and kissing. There was no intercourse but a lot of finger penetration. This would happen when she attended Sodality meetings and Father would play hide-and-seek with the girls in the dark in the basement of the church. He would molest the girl he chose to hide with. XXX was offered counseling and given a referral.

XXX notified the Bishop that Father Lawrence Sabatino had molested her over thirty years ago when she was 7 or 8 years old. We are still collecting information regarding this complaint and have not yet made direct contact with her.

XXX came forward but did not want her story to be made public. She knew Fr. Sabatino since the age of 10 when she was a patient at Mercy Hospital. She recalls his constant attention, hugging and holding her. She recalls two trips with him and other members of the sodality. She does not know what happened the first time but found it strange she had awakened without her underpants on which she always wore and the

second time she awoke during the night with Father reaching under her night dress and touching her. She was 12 or 13 at this time and avoided Father from that point on. XXX feels she is doing fine and did not need counseling at this point.

Father Lawrence Sabatino was born in 1924 and ordained in 1955. He died in 1990 at the age of 65. Father suffered from diabetes a good part of his life. He served in Portland, Millinocket, Lewiston, Brewer, Brownville Jct and Pittsfield.

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Robbin, Leanne

From: Frederick C. Moore [fmoore@rkmllegal.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 07, 2003 10:49 AM
To: Robbin, Leanne
Cc: Frederick C. Moore
Subject: Fr. Sabatino

Here is the information you requested on Father Sabatino:

Q 1) What were the restrictions placed upon Father Sabatino in 1958?:

A. The victim's parents had come to the Bishop and reported that Fr. Sabatino played a game with their daughter in which he pretended to be the big bad wolf and pressed his body against her, apparently fully clothed. Whatever restrictions Bishop Feeney placed upon Father Sabatino during face to face meetings with him would not necessarily have been reduced to writing. A formal warning threatening suspension, on the other hand, would be in writing, and Bishop Feeney did place such a formal warning in the file. There is a letter in the file dated September 18, 1958 to Father Sabatino from Bishop Feeney which states:

This letter, as I promised, confirms the oral advice and warning that I gave you privately in my office, Thursday, September 18, 1958.

As a result of complaints against you by [REDACTED] Lewiston, Maine, I forbid you under penalty of suspension, to be incurred "ipso facto", to visit the [REDACTED] home, or to seek the companionship of [REDACTED] "to play games". I also extend the penalty of suspension for any kind of visit within the limits of Saint Patrick's parish, Lewiston. If for any reason, a business errand should call for your presence in the same territory, you will first consult me and get my permission.

I repeat my warning that you are to abandon all familiarity under the name of "playing games" will [sic: probably should have been "with"] girls of all ages, young and mature.

With every good wish, I am
Yours sincerely in Christ,

Bishop of Portland

Q 2) Who was notified:

There would be no record of this information, but we assume that at least the pastor was notified as there are complaints in the file from Father Sabatino about how he was treated by the Pastor (Sabatino was an assistant) and that the Pastor didn't trust him.

Q 3) Is it correct that until his death there were no other accusations?

This is probably correct. The first clear accusation in the record after 1958 was not reported to the Diocese until 1993, three years after Father Sabatino's death. However, there is an ambiguous memo in the file in 1971 referring to "incidents". In all fairness, that term could refer to incidents of inappropriate touching although it appears from the context more likely to refer to incidents where Sabatino had been in the presence of young girls; the memo is cryptic but appears to be addressing the question of whether his presence with them occurred outside the line of duty and was therefore cause for concern. Also, since he was under formal threat of suspension in the event of further inappropriate touching, one would hope that he would have been suspended if there were a recurrence. If you need to review the 1971 memo yourself and don't have it, let me know.

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Q 4) List of assignments:

Assistant – Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, Portland:	June 17, 1955
Assistant – St. Martin of Tours, Millinocket:	September 1955
Assistant – St. Patrick, Lewiston:	September 1956
Assistant – St. Peter, Portland:	September, 1958
Assistant – St. Joseph, Brewer:	November, 1970
Administrator – St. Francis Xavier, Brownville Jct:	September 1974
Pastor – St. Francis Xavier, Brownville Jct:	December 1974
Pastor – St. Agnes, Pittsfield:	November, 1978

Died: August 6, 1990.

If you have any other questions, please give me a call.

Fred.

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ATTORNEY GENERAL

Investigation Division

Date: May 9, 2002

To: Brian MacMaster, Chief

From: Det. Bruce Densmore,

Subject Report of sexual abuse by clergy

On May 7, 2002 I returned a call to [REDACTED]

Date of Call: May 7, 2002

Name of Alleged Victim: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Allegation:

Name and Position of Alleged Perpetrator: Sabatino, Roman Catholic Priest

Date of Offense:

Witnesses:

Present Location of Alleged Perpetrator: Unknown

Synopsis: [REDACTED] reported that when she was 5-6 years of age, Father Sabitino abused her. [REDACTED] said that she has no recollection of the abuse itself but did recall her mother removing her from Father Sabitino's vehicle. She said that she was setting on the floor, crouched under the dashboard in the front passengers compartment when her mother removed her from the vehicle. Essentially, the following information was reveal to [REDACTED] by her mother [REDACTED].

- > The victim was in the 1st grade attending St. Patrick School in Lewiston. Fr. Sabitino would remove her and he brother from the school in the afternoon and drive them to a place in Lewiston known as Thom Craig, Bird Sanctuary. Fr. Sabitino would send her brother off to pick strawberries and he would keep [REDACTED] with him.
- > [REDACTED] was examine [REDACTED] now deceased.
- > The allegation was reported to the Roman Catholic Diocese in Portland and Sabitino was removed from St. Patrick's and placed elsewhere.

Not having any recollection of the allegation, [REDACTED] was asked to reduce the information she had received from family to written form and forward the information to this office. [REDACTED] agreed to the request.

[REDACTED]

May 14, 2002

State Attorney Generals Office
Attn: Bruce Densmore - Investigations Dept.
6 State Street
Augusta, Maine

Dear Mr. Densmore,

I apologize for the delay in sending this info to you - it is much harder to write what occurred than I thought it would be.

While I was a first grade student @ St. Patrick's School in Lewiston, Maine, I was abused by a priest by the name of Sabitino (sorry, I do not know his first name and have yet to ask my mother). While I do not have any memory of what occurred I do have a very vivid memory of the following:

-sitting in a car under the dashboard - the man telling me go get up and not be a baby - watching my mother coming to the car (I can still see her face & the look she had while walking to the car). I do not remember getting out of the car or being taken home. My next memory is @ [REDACTED] I remember being on a table (not sitting but kneeling on the table w/ my head down on my arms and not wanting to be there. I remember not wanting to have the doctor touch me - he told me he was going to check me out using his finger with a midget on it (I remember him h\showing me his finger with a rubber thing on it. During the exam I remember telling him over and over that I had to pee - I was very insistent about this - he kept telling me that it was because of what he was doing - that it was only a feeling of having to pee. I kept telling him I wanted to get down to pee - he finally told me to go ahead & try to pee and I remember trying to and nothing happened. When I was about 9 yrs. old I remember finding a pill bottle with my name on it. I remember asking my mother about it and she said I sometimes had bad dreams and these pills helped me to sleep. I have since found out that for years I had nightmares and would wake up screaming about "large noses" trying to get me

I do not have any other memory of what occurred. I have bits of pieces of memories but they are all very confusing & these feelings have always left me feeling afraid so until now, I have not consciously tried to remember them.

I relay the following from my mother [REDACTED] marriage after by dad died)

- My brother [REDACTED] (he is 2 years older than me) told her that the priest had taken me - he did not know where - she went to school and found me sitting on the floor of the car under the dashboard - she spoke to the priest and took me home. I would not talk about what happened. She gave me a bath and continued to ask me what happened. At some point while I was crying I said to her "don't you know that bone hurts". She then called the doctors office and was told to bring me in. After the exam she and my father went to the Lewiston Police station to report what had happened. My parents were told that they needed to contact the Parish or Archdiocese as they could do nothing - this was handled by them. My parents contacted the Archdiocese in Portland and then met with them the following day. They removed the priest and told my parents that he would never again be placed in a parish or have any dealings with children.

In speaking with my brother [REDACTED] he remembers another time that the priest took me - he was with me and the priest took us to a place called (Thornsraig ? - a bird sanctuary area in Lewiston). He told my brother to go pick strawberries and kept me with him. My brother remembers coming back to the car and seeing me on the hood of the car with the priest kissing me and me trying to push him away and crying. My brother asked him what he was

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doing to his sister - the priest told him to go back & pick strawberries - my brother replied to the priest that he could not find any and to leave his sister alone. My brother has always felt guilty because he let the priest take me. He felt that he should not have let me go with the priest.

My mother has always tried to discuss what happened with me but, I never wanted to. I figured if I could not remember what happened I did not need to. I realize that I must attempt to remember. I feel guilty that I did not pursue this earlier because maybe I could have prevented another child from this abuse. I wanted to believe that the church would keep him away from children - they did not. They even put him in a parish in the Detroit Maine area. My mother found this out when she and my step-father attempted to be married in his parish(1988) The parish priest was willing to marry them until he was told my mothers name - he told my step-father that he could not marry them because [REDACTED] had only been a widower for a little over a year. When my mother found out the priests name (Sabitino) she realized that it was him. She did not tell my step-father because she felt he would do something to the priest.

I know I should have contacted the Archdiocese at this point but, I could not - I did not want to remember. Now I have lost my chance to confront him . I feel guilty & betrayed by the church.

Sorry if this letter rambles on. Thank you so much for taking the time to discuss this with me. If you need more information my brother [REDACTED] asked me to pass on to you that he is willing to help in any way. I am in the process of seeking professional help - as painful as I know this will be I do need to remember.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

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Sabatino, Lawrence
Sabrina

April 7, 2002

APR 09 2002

PROBATION
ATTORNEY

Dear Ms. Anderson,

I am writing this letter to you for the purpose of disclosing the name of a deceased priest who had sexually molested me, and others who I can't speak for.

I am 49 years old, and grew up in South Portland. I have an older brother and five younger brothers & sisters. We all attended Holy Cross School, and as a family, we attended Holy Cross Church.

When I was approx. 12 years old, 1965 or 1966, a family moved next door to us in South Portland. Through that family, my family met Father Lawrence Sabatino, a parish priest from St. Peter's. He and his dog would often visit both families, and he would always bring "day-old" baked goods to both homes. He convinced my parents to allow their children to join a "Society" at St. Peter's, as the neighbor kids were involved in. The "Society" consisted of going to a large rec-hall type room at the parish house or rectory. There was very little church-related activity. He would "play games" and

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✓ Father Lawrence Sabatino (deceased - on list previously reported)

[REDACTED] reported that from about the age of 12 to 17, Father Sabatino would touch her breast. He would sometimes touch her legs but mostly it was her breast. She has been offered counseling. [REDACTED] indicated that it happened to all the girls and they could not talk about it.

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DOUGLAS J. ALOFS
DARBY C. UREY

OF COUNSEL

JAMES S. KRIGER

May 20, 2002

Sabatino

RECEIVED

MAY 21 2002

Stephanie Anderson, Esq.
District Attorney - District 1
Cumberland County Courthouse
142 Federal Street
Portland, ME 04101-4151

Child Protective Intake
Department of Human Services
221 State Street
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Report of Possible Abuse of a Minor

Gentlepersons:

I am writing in my capacity as counsel for the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portland to report a case of possible abuse of a minor. [REDACTED] contacted the Diocese to report that she had been abused beginning when she was in the 7th grade (which would be in the late 1960s), by Father Sabatino, who is now deceased.

[REDACTED] grew up in Portland. She states that Father Sabatino would touch her on the breast and leg. She reports that the breast touching occurred at St. Peters. The leg touching would occur in a car. She states that she reported the abuse to her father, who thereafter would not allow her to be alone with Father Sabatino. She also reports that she believes that other girls were abused.

The Diocese has offered counseling to [REDACTED]

Please do not hesitate to call if I may be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,



Thomas R. Kelly

TRK

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April 1, 2002

Stephanie Anderson, Esq.
District Attorney - District 1
Cumberland County Courthouse
142 Federal Street
Portland, ME 04101-4151

Child Protective Intake
Department of Human Services
221 State Street
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Report of Possible Abuse of a Minor

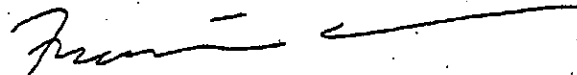
Gentlepersons:

I am writing in my capacity as counsel for Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland to report a case of possible abuse of a minor. [redacted] came to see [redacted] the request of her daughter, [redacted]. She named three girls whom she believed were abused by Father Lawrence Sabatino, who died in 1980. The girls were [redacted] who was born in 1954 and was abused around 1964 in the 5th grade; [redacted] born in 1945 who was abused in the 3rd grade around 1953; and [redacted] born in 1953 who was abused when she was in the 6th grade around 1964. [redacted] did not mention specifically what happened to the girls and may, in fact, not know.

[redacted] was asked to encouraged the girls to come forward to tell their own story and to receive an offer of counseling.

Please do not hesitate to call if I may be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,



Frederick C. Moore

FCM/jbh

APR 02 2002

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March 21, 2002

OF COUNSEL

JAMES S. KRIGER

Stephanie Anderson, Esq.
District Attorney - District 1
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142 Federal Street
Portland, ME 04101-4151

Child Protective Intake
Department of Human Services
221 State Street
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Report of Possible Abuse of a Minor

Gentlepersons:

I am writing in my capacity as counsel for the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portland to report a case of possible child abuse. [REDACTED] Portland recently wrote to the Bishop and reported that she was a victim over 30 years ago at the age of 7 or 8. She did not specify what happened. She reports that she went to St. Peter's Church and was abused by Father Sabatino, who died in 1990.

In keeping with the Bishop's policy, [REDACTED] has been offered counseling at the expense of the Diocese.

Please do not hesitate to call if I may be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,


Frederick C. Moore

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2002

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FCM/mh

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March 11, 2002

Bishop Gerry,

Pedophilia victims speak out and yet are we really being heard? I don't think so! I was ashamed of your behavior in recent weeks, in regards to the subject of removal of the two priests for their past actions. I cannot believe that all this cowardice has gone on, and that you are and have been the root of it. I thought the job of the Bishop was to lead or shepherd the flock, not put serious decisions in the hands of people who are no more qualified than I am to decide the fate of a parish.

Being a victim myself over thirty years ago, I applaud the fact that people have come forward and opened themselves up for all to see the hurt, anguish and despair that most of us have felt.

I have two daughters that attend Catholic school, one of them having made her sacraments of initiation. I am ashamed to say that I do not want my daughter left alone with a priest while she confesses her sins. How ironic the people we tell our sins to and ask forgiveness from are the people that have violated us. Who will forgive them? I know it won't be me.

When something like this happens to you as a child, 7 or 8 years old, how do you think your decision making process forms after that? What a mess certain parts of my life have been. If not for my faith in God I wouldn't have survived. I certainly did not find my faith in the Catholic church. I had a flashback just recently in the midst of all the uncovering that has taken place. Imagine this Bishop, I went to sodality at St. Peter's church as a small child and you had to pay a fee to belong. I wonder what the going rate is today to fondle a child, I think back then it was 35 cents. Do you think Father Sabatino has been forgiven for his sins? I don't think so.

So in closing I will say this Bishop, I hope when all is said and done, our leader is a Shepard not a sheep. When you put your head on your pillow at night, I hope you can rest. I know that I can, my children are safe and sound, because I am minding my FLOCK. The question is, are you?

Always in Christ
[REDACTED]

RECEIVED
MARCH 22 2002
ATTORNEY

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March 10, 2002

Bishop Gerry,

I am writing in response to the Pedophilia epidemic within the Catholic Church. I would first like to say that as a victim myself, I am appalled at the way you have NOT dealt with the situation. It was only this past Saturday that you were pressured to make a decision [REDACTED] I will commend you on making the right decision, although I do not believe it was your own. You can not stop here, as I believe that God is empowering us all to make a clean sweep of these perpetrators.

If the Catholic diocese needs to close churches, for lack of priests, then so be it. The church itself is only a building, we can maintain our faith in God in our hearts. Maybe with some input to Rome from all of us we can turn the church around and start heading in the right direction. We need to start allowing priests to marry if so desired. God would not have created us as sexual beings, if he did not want us to be just that "sexual beings." You must stop employing pedophiles and also homosexual men as ministers of our faith.

Our faith teaches us that no form of abuse is exceptable and yet you allow these men to be moved about communities as their punishment. You teach us that homosexual behavior is unexceptable and yet the good majority of your employees are homosexuals who have active relationships.

Our faith is very judgmental when it comes to wrong doings. For example, a Grandfather, Father, Stepfather, Uncle, etc. who commits such a heinous act would be shunned by us and the criminal justice system would punish him for his abuse. Yet the church protects a man who wears a collar and commits the same heinous act. He still earns a paycheck, still ministers, still has a title, still commits these CRIMES and no one but the next victim knows about him. You, as the head of our church decides what is best for him and have no regard for the victim. You should have demanded that these priests name their victims. What ever happened to your belief in the 10 commandments "Thou shalt not lie" that is what you have done every time YOU have COVERED UP for all of these perpetrators.

On the subject of treatment, I would like to know whom these priests were treated by because if they can be so called CURED in 6 months, I feel as a victim I deserve the same. I was violated about 35 years ago by Fr. Sabatino, and am only starting the healing process. So please Bishop show me the way to heal in only 6 months time, after all my abuse is still an open wound. The permanent scarring will remain with me throughout my life.


Our faith chastises people for adultery, divorce, abortion, just to name a few and yet they won't speak out about sexual abuse. For several years or perhaps longer, this subject has

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22 2002
ATTORNEY
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been tucked away, for what safekeeping? The truth is out now and must be dealt with swiftly and thoroughly. God is working with the VICTIMS not the PERPETRATORS. No more hiding them behind the walls of the church, because God will in fact destroy the church as it stands today if need be. Furthermore, I want my perpetrators name made public. He may be dead, but I am very much alive!

I can honestly say that you are not the leader I want representing my faith and me. We need someone who is not afraid of leadership, in the true sense of the word.

In God I trust.



RECEIVED

MAY 22 2002

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

000100

March 15, 2002

Stephanie:

Received a call this morning from [REDACTED]

She states she was abused by a priest 40 years ago at St. Peter's Church in Portland by Father Lawrence Sabatino, who has since died.

She wrote a letter to "Church World", a Catholic newspaper, about 15 years ago regarding this situation. She also contacted an attorney, but the statute of limitations had passed.

She said this priest was moved over and over to different churches and she said all the families knew of what he was doing, and yet no one did a thing.

She is very upset at the reaction of the church and wants to know if you would call her back to discuss.

Lois

3/15/02 - called 12pm - left msg on machine

000101

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Investigation Division

Date: March 14, 2002
To: Brian MacMaster
From: Det. Mark Walsh
Subject: Abuse by Clergy member

Date of Call: March 29, 2002

Name of Caller: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Name and Position of Accused: Father Lawrence Sabatino, Roman Catholic Priest, St. Peter's, Portland, Maine

Approximate Date of Event: Approximately 1960 or 1961 (a warmer month)

Location of Event: Front Steps of St. Peter's Church, Portland, Maine

Description of Event: Two incidents of the accused hugging the caller. The caller said that she felt that the accused had an erection while he hugged her.

Present Whereabouts of Accused: Deceased, possibly in 1987 or so.

(Note: The caller advised me that she has already made a report of this matter to Cumberland County District Attorney Stephanie Anderson).

[REDACTED] told me that when she was 12 or 13 years old (approx. 1960), she lived on Munjoy Hill and attended a public school, but went to St. Peter's Church in Portland for religious education. [REDACTED] said that on two occasions, she went to religion classes at St. Peter's and afterwards, Father Lawrence Sabatino hugged her and then a friend of hers good-bye. Father Sabatino then gave her and her friend some candy. [REDACTED] said that at the time she knew something was "wrong" when Father Sabatino hugged her. [REDACTED] said that she felt that Father Sabatino had an erection and rubbed it against her as he hugged her.

[REDACTED] said that this happened on two separate occasions. [REDACTED] said that she and the priest were on the front steps of St. Peter's Church when it happened, and the weather was warm. [REDACTED] said she did not tell her parents about what happened at the time.

[REDACTED] said the same thing happened to her female friend. [REDACTED] said she discussed it at the time with her friend about what Father Sabatino was doing and how it was wrong.

[REDACTED] said she did not feel comfortable divulging the name of her friend without consulting her first. [REDACTED] said her friend now resides outside of the state.

[REDACTED] said that she repressed these memories until about 15 years ago, about the time of the birth of her daughter. [REDACTED] said she then felt compelled to talk about what happened. [REDACTED] said about that time (approximately 1986 or 1987) she wrote three letters-to-the-editor in which she revealed what had happened to her, but said she did not name the involved priest. [REDACTED] said she wrote these letters to the Portland Press

Herald, the Bangor Daily News, and a publication called Catholic World. [REDACTED] said she thought that only Catholic World published part of her letter and provided a reply in the publication. [REDACTED] said that maybe the Bangor Daily News published her letter, but she wasn't sure of this.

[REDACTED] said she did not report the matter to the Catholic Church once she remembered what had happened to her and her friend. [REDACTED] said that in 1986 or 1987, she did call the Diocese to find out what the status of the offending priest was. [REDACTED] said that she was told that Father Sabatino had been transferred to Fairfield, Maine. [REDACTED] said about a year after she called the church to find out where Father Sabatino was, she read in the newspaper that Father Sabatino had died.

[REDACTED] said as an adult she also confided to her parents what had happened to her. [REDACTED] said that her parents told her that it did not surprise them, as Father Sabatino was "known for things like that" and was also rumored to have had a girlfriend.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Investigation Division

Date: March 18, 2001

To: Brian MacMaster

From: Det. Bruce Densmore

Subject: Report of sexual abuse by clergy

On March 18, 2002, I returned a telephone call to [REDACTED]

Date of Call: 03/15/02

Name of Caller: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Name and Position of Accused: Fr. Sabatino, Deceased, Roman Catholic Priest, St. Peters Church, Portland, Maine.

Approximate Date of the Alleged Conduct: 1963/64

Location of the Alleged Conduct: St. Peters Rectory, Portland

Description of Alleged Conduct: Numerous acts of sexual contact i.e., touching of genitals through the clothing, both hand and penis contact by the perpetrator and coerce hand to penis contact by the victim. [REDACTED] recollection at this point in time is that no direct physical contact occurred during the alleged violations.

Present Whereabouts of Accused: Deceased

Synopsis: [REDACTED] reported that in 1963/1964, when she was age 9, she was the victim of unlawful sexual contact perpetrated by Fr. Sabatino. The alleged sexual contact occurred once per week during catechism classes that were held at the parish rectory. Generally, the violation occurred during playtime when the group played a game known as Hide & Go Seek. Reportedly, Fr. Sabatino would engage in the unlawful contact while hiding with [REDACTED] in various hiding places, i.e., closets, behind window drapes and in the cellar of the rectory. [REDACTED] said that during the hiding periods, Fr. Sabatino (always robed) would either rub his hand or erect penis against her "private parts" and at other times he would take hold of her hand and place it on his erect penis that was under the robe. [REDACTED] said at the time she was lead to believe that if she did not do what the priest told her to do that she would not go to heaven. Although, [REDACTED] did not realize it at the time, she said that she now believes that Fr. Sabatino's continued pressing and rubbing of his "hard penis" against her was for sexual gratification through ejaculation. [REDACTED] said that there were no witnesses to the alleged unlawful contact.

[REDACTED] said that she filed a compliant with the Portland Diocese on March 30th 1993. She said that she [REDACTED] at that time and was informed that Fr. Sabatino was deceased and that she [REDACTED] would not permit [REDACTED] to review

records. ██████████ said that when she went to the Diocese in 1993 she was accompanied by a reporter from Channel 8 News. She said that her name at that time was ██████████

000105

Stephanie:

Received a call from [REDACTED]

She states she was abused in 1963-64 by a priest at St. Peters Church, Federal Street, in Portland. His name was Father Sabatino. He has since died. She filed a complaint with the church in 1993. She says she was the first female to go public in Maine about this situation. She, at that time, went to the Diocese to see the records, and they refused to show them to her. They offered her counseling, but she refused. She did not feel comfortable.

She went for disability in 1995 (for a physical problem) but they gave her the disability on mental grounds instead. She was only on disability for about 4-5 months.

She doesn't trust anyone with authority. Has nightmares of someone chasing her in black. She does not ever get dressed or undressed in front of her husband. She's afraid of the dark.

She would like to talk to you whenever you have time. She thinks you're wonderful to even be dealing with this whole situation.

She would like to somehow talk to others who have had similar situations, to put some type of closure to her ordeal.

I gave her SNAP number, and [REDACTED] name and number, as you suggested.

Lois

2/26/2002

000106