

CONFIDENTIAL

Memo to File
W-007

Mr. W-007 contacted this office in late August 2004 after a friend of his strongly urged him to report to the Catholic diocese the abuse he suffered back in the 1960's. I met with Mr. W-007 on September 13, 2004 at St. Ann's Parish at 10:00 in the morning. Our discussion lasted about 1 hour and 40 minutes. The discussion was pleasant. Mr. W-007 was respectful, mature, and unemotional in his relaying his account of the abuse and his problems, at least in part caused by the abuse. The communication between us was excellent.

In addition to hearing what Mr. W-007 had to say, I tried to apologize on behalf of the church, acknowledging the fact that we had mismanaged the abuse issue in the past, particularly in regard to the priest he had spoken of. I encouraged him to call me at any time should he have any need for further discussion, spiritual direction, or advice he thought I could give him. In addition to offering an apology, I also advised him of the policy of the Diocese, to provide assistance for on-going counsel, therapy, and spiritual guidance; our willingness to pay out of pocket costs for any professional services he would require; and our willingness to pay for out of pocket costs he had to absorb up to this time related to therapy, counseling, or testing related to the abuse.

He reported that the abuser is Fr. Frank DeLuca. Mr. W-007 stated that he was 12 or 13 when the abuse occurred. He described how Father paid particular attention to him in little ways, expressing thanks for the boy's faithfulness of serving Mass, asking him to help do errands around the rectory or for him. At one point he was invited to help count the collection. One day Father said they needed to do some things at the rectory that involved several hours so he should ask his parents if he could stay overnight. Permission was given. That night the first abuse was committed. He made reference to yet another abusive incident on a trip to Salisbury. Fr. DeLuca asked Mr. W-007's parents if he could ride down to Salisbury with the priest. It would be an overnight. He also made mention of Father allowing him to drive his brand new 1962 black, red interior, Chevrolet. All in all, although he did not go into any detail, in answer to my question, Mr. W-007 said that the abuse occurred five or six times. He described himself as having been ashamed. He tried to avoid Father whenever possible. He went on to Salesianum. I asked him if he suffered any kind of cruelty or abuse by priests at Salesianum. No abuse. One priest did hit him with a trigonometry book. He reacted and pushed the priest. I think he also hit the priest, for which he had been suspended.

He never told his parents of the abuse because he thought (a) they would not believe him; (b) because of the high regard they had for priests. He had an uncle who was a priest and an aunt who is a religious nun. It was also during a time when you just did not say anything about such things. He is aware of at least one more victim whom he named to me (who has yet to come forward). He did warn his brother to stay away from Fr. DeLuca, but did not indicate why. In later years, raising his own boys, he forbade them to serve Mass as a protective step.

He knew the name of the Bishop who administered the Diocese at the time of the abuse. And he also knew that Fr. DeLuca obviously was transferred. I stated that Fr.

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DeLuca was transferred, that diocesan officials at that time probably were aware of the abuse, but that is the way it was handled. I apologized for the cover up and for the church's inability to cope appropriately with the situation. He expressed thanks for my candor. I also shared with him the fact that another case involving Fr. DeLuca had come to light in the late 1980's or early 1990's (need to check the files) and at that time, the then Bishop, removed Fr. DeLuca from ministry permanently. Fr. DeLuca has not able to function publicly as a priest since then. In view of the Charter, the present Bishop also restricted Father even further, forbidding him from representing himself as a priest, wearing the collar, etc.

Mr. [W-007] is 55 years of age. He is married with two sons, I believe he said they were ages [redacted] and [redacted] both are students at the University of Delaware. He is a member of St. John the Beloved Parish in Wilmington, DE (it appears he is a lifelong member ... he grew up there and there is where the abuse began). He is a salesman for [redacted]. He makes a good appearance. His self expression is concise, vocabulary is good. He was unhesitant explaining the abuse and his personal problems and most willing to share all of his concerns. Mr. [W-007] went to St. John the Beloved Elementary School; he was a server at Mass. He described himself as very service oriented when he was a kid, always willing to help people. He spoke of even having thought about being a priest in the 6th and 7th grades ... prior to the abuse. He went to Salesianum High School for his first three years of high school and he finished his senior year at Dickenson High School. Following his graduation ... I am not sure if it was immediately after graduation or sometime after that ... he and a number of buddies joined the Marine Corps. He gave service to his country in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. In the course of our discussion he did not discuss what went on in Vietnam but did make an oblique remark about having been stationed near the area where Lt. Calley "did his thing." Sometime after returning home from the service ([W-007] stated that he never thought he would come home alive), he married. For the first 10 years of their marriage there were no children. He described himself as getting into the bottle early, perhaps for a sustained period of time for 5 or 6 years. When he and his wife were finally blessed with children he decided to change his life so that he could model appropriately to his children. He had kept the secret of his abuse from anyone and everyone. He said that he lived in fear that people would find out. The abuse was multiple and he apparently blames himself for having allowed it to go on.

[W-007] related that after having had their first child, there was an accident one day where his tea spilled on his little boy. He rushed him to the hospital thinking he had scalded him. It was at that point he broke down and told his wife that he was under much pressure about things that happened in his life, among them the abuse. This was the first time he made a disclosure to anyone.

He suggested that he has been bothered by a number of happenings in his life, but in particular the abuse ... especially when there was pressure. However, he put on a good face, to use his expression, to be supportive to his two boys and to his wife, although he did admit to having a very short fuse, being angry often, and getting upset over little things, particularly with his wife. (He later related that his wife came from a verbally abusive mother.) In recent years he has been suffering from depression ...

probably suffered from depression in the past but did not or refused to recognize it. He was active in his parish; athletics, coaching kids; a member of the Athletic Association. He had not practiced his faith until his children came along. Then he decided that he had to model to them. He returned to church. He says he never went to confession since he was 13 years of age.

He described having to fight with his demons through most of his adolescent and adult life, suppressing the abuse. It was on the occasion of the terrible events of 9-11 that pressure began to build up and his worries were in such an extreme that he lost much sleep, worried about all kinds of things, had flashbacks of what happened in his life. He described his basic approach as protective again of his children, worried that the country would be torn apart, that the President had to reintroduce the draft. He worried about work. He said always his worries and his nighttime dreams included thoughts about the abuse. Finally in the spring of 2004 it got so bad he was fearful of breaking down completely and thus sought the assistance of a psychiatrist and a therapist. He spent some outpatient days at the Rockford Center. He got so depressed that he could not work for a couple months. Currently he is under the care of a psychiatrist at St. Francis Hospital and also a therapist, a woman at the University of Delaware.

I asked him if any of his depression and anger was related to the war or other events in his life and he admitted yes, but stated everything goes back to the abuse.

He described his relationship with his wife as great, saying she is very patient, especially in view of his outbursts of anger which evidently occurred often. He is under medication to control the depression and other psychological issues. His wife has told him recently that the outbursts have become less frequent since he has been taking the medication. The doctor tells him he will not be on medication all of his life, that they will gradually take him off it as he begins to become more calm and comfortable.

We then talked about what the Catholic Diocese could do for him. (Prior to that I again offered apology.) I described our policy. He decided that he would stay with his psychiatrist. However, he does not feel the woman with whom he is taking therapy is helping. I spoke to him about our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Beth Krieger, and I gave him her telephone number. (Subsequently Beth advised he called.) I told him that the Diocese would pay for any out of pocket expenses going forward and I asked him also that if he could possibly determine what his out of pocket expenses had been in the past for abuse related issues, we would consider reimbursing part or all of it.

I advised him of our protocol with the attorney general, that we would report any past abuse reported by an adult provided we had their permission.

We ended the interview with a promise for prayer and once again the invitation to talk with him at any time.

Msgr. J. Thomas Cini