

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend Ronald Paquin  
St. John's Parish, Haverhill

I met with [redacted] and [redacted] parishioners of St. John's, Haverhill, on Thursday evening, August 23, 1990 to receive their complaints about Father Paquin.

[redacted] age 23, lives at [redacted] telephone number [redacted].

[redacted] age 22, lives at [redacted], telephone number [redacted].

[redacted] revealed the following:

At around age twelve to thirteen, Father Paquin would gather around a group of young boys who would be friendly with him for a period of a few months or a year or two. He would invite them down to the rectory frequently. Often they would be encouraged to sleep overnight when the pastor, Father O'Neil, was away. He would call them up if they were not showing up at the rectory. The boys he surrounded himself were often vulnerable boys whose folks were separated, divorced or as in [redacted] instance, [redacted]. When they slept overnight, he would ask different boys to sleep with him in bed. He said that healthy boys avoided him because they sensed that he was odd.

[redacted] complaints about Farther Paquin are that he gave him his first beer at age twelve. He gave him two beers that time and he was sick all night. He had to ask him to stop putting his hand on his lap. Father Paquin lied to him about his father wanting Father Paquin to take over his role in his life. Father Paquin spent a lot of money on him. He gave him a stereo. At age fourteen he let [redacted] drive his white Toyota Celica from New Hampshire to [redacted].

[redacted] was friendly with Father Paquin for a couple months at age thirteen. He was devastated at the time because his mother and father just divorced after [redacted]. Father Paquin told him how mature he was and how he had his feet on the ground. He took him bowling, along with a lot of other boys, and to eat out. He remembers one night Father Paquin spent \$95 on him and another boy at the [redacted]. He drove the car home from the [redacted]. Father Paquin put his hand on [redacted] lap. [redacted] complained "I don't like to be touched." Father Paquin said "That's fine."

When they dropped the other boy off, Father Paquin told him that it was the first time that he was alone since [redacted]. He said: "Would he want to stay at the rectory? [redacted] used to sleep overnight sometimes." When he got ready for bed, Father Paquin complained that [redacted] never wore sweats to bed like [redacted] was wearing. [redacted] said that he took his sweats off. During the night Father Paquin grabbed him in his private parts. [redacted] objected. Father Paquin said "I won't do that again." [redacted] never went back to church at St. John's again. This was ten years ago.

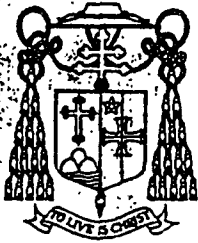
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Other observations:

1. [REDACTED] on the way from New Hampshire to Boston. Friends that were [REDACTED] say that they were drinking the night before and Father Paquin [REDACTED]. They say the accident was reported as slipping on ice.
2. [REDACTED] mother doesn't like Father Paquin and didn't want [REDACTED] to be hanging around him. [REDACTED] brother said that Father Paquin was asked to leave Methuen because of rumors about his relationships with young boys.
3. Kay King is the cook at the rectory and she cooked for the boys often when they stayed overnight.
4. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] he was touched by Father Paquin while sleeping with him in a tent. He broke away from him. Many other boys complain about Father Paquin touching them on the lap, giving them beer to drink.
5. [REDACTED] was from Middleton. He stayed with Father Paquin often at the rectory over a period of two years and slept in bed with him. One time a friend reported that he saw them in bed with their pants down.
6. Some adults say "What is the story with Father Paquin?" Some other adults say that he takes money from the collection.
7. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are both angry about Father Paquin continuing to do this over the years and nobody ever intervening. They felt that it was about time that someone spoke up and this is why they reported it to Father Sweeney. [REDACTED] father is friendly with Father Sweeney. They both said that if the Church dug into this matter, they would find plenty of information about Father Paquin.

They found him to be manipulative. Telling vulnerable boys how wonderful they were and how they had their feet on the ground. He often told them not to say anything about what they did together, that they needed to be discreet.

They said he had a book of pictures which he used to use to teach boys about sex. They would laugh about the pictures and he would tell them they were not mature enough and put the book away.



CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE  
2101 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE  
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135

September 10, 1990

Reverend Ronald H. Paquin  
Saint John the Baptist Parish Rectory  
110 Lincoln Avenue  
Haverhill, MA 01830

Dear Father Paquin:

I am writing to advise you that upon the recommendation of Reverend John B. McCormack, Secretary for Ministerial Personnel, I am ending your assignment as Parochial Vicar at Saint John the Baptist Parish in Haverhill and I am placing you on Sick Leave. The effective date of this course of action is September 11, 1990.

I realize that at this point it is impossible for you to attend to the health concerns which you have and at the same time be available to care for others and their needs. It would be my hope that this action which relieves you of parish responsibilities would also relieve you of any stress that might arise from feeling obligated to duties which are impossible to fulfill at this time.

Please be assured that you have my prayers and my full support. If there is anything which I am able to do for you, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Please send written notification that you have received this letter to Most Reverend Robert J. Banks, Vicar for Administration, and Reverend James J. McCarthy, Clergy Personnel Director.

With my warmest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Archbishop of Boston



cc: Reverend John B. McCormack

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Reverend Ronald Paquin  
St. John's Parish, Haverhill  
September 7, 1990

I met with Father Paquin this morning to report to him our decision about his continued ministry and our perception of his handling of the young boys in the parish.

RCAB  
Redacted

1. 
2. I spoke with the psychologist at Southdown. I reported to him the complaints of the boys and the response he made. . The length of his stay would depend upon his investment in addressing the problems that surround his handling of young boys.

3. My own opinion: - I think there is a serious concern how he has expressed his care and concern for young boys. It seems to be from mixed motives. It seems that he does have a true concern for them, but also he has his own needs of affection which get expressed in unhealthy ways. I think he opened himself up for justified criticism in that he allowed certain personal behavior and legally restricted activities as being okay with boys: sleeping with an adult, touching a boy on his abdomen and near his pubic hair, letting young boys drive his car when they are below age, giving or providing beer to boys at a young age. He needs to look at why he relates to young boys in these ways when most parents, teachers, coaches and other adults don't relate to young boys in this way. He needs to come to grips with this kind of behavior.

4. Conclusion:

The Archdiocese is responsible for Father Paquin and for his ministry.

Therefore, it wants to provide treatment to Father Paquin to enable him to handle his human desires and needs in a morally, socially, acceptable way and in a healthy way. In terms of his ministry, the Archdiocese can't continue him in pastoral ministry until he undergoes residential treatment.

5. Decisions

Father Paquin's assignment ends at St. John's, Haverhill, Tuesday, September 11. His residential treatment will begin at St. Luke's Institute on September 26. He will be placed on sick leave.

Between September 11 and 26 I will provide a residence for him to live at. I do not think it is good for him to live alone and told him so.

I told him the Archdiocese wants to assist him in every way it can.

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CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend Ronald Paquin

Currently, Father Paquin is living at St. Joseph's Parish, Lincoln (259-8364) and enrolled in the clinical/pastoral education program at Holy Family Hospital in Methuen under the supervision of Reverend Gerald Wyras (687-0151). The program began the first part of September and will end November 27. He hopes to continue in the second quarter program which begins December 3 and ends February 20.

In early August, Father Sweeney reported to Father McCarthy that he had heard that Father Paquin had seen the son of a woman who lives in [REDACTED]. Previously, he had lived with her in [REDACTED].

On September 23, Father Sweeney called me to inform me that [REDACTED] is nervous about Father Paquin being at St. Joseph's Parish, Lincoln. He also reported that he heard some youth from Methuen want to call a lawyer about Father Paquin being at Holy Family Hospital.

Father Sweeney informed me also that Father Paquin has been visiting a young man named [REDACTED]. He is age fifteen or sixteen. He was 'romancing him' when he left [REDACTED]. He comes from a broken home. His father is violent. Father Paquin has brought the boy to visit his mother in [REDACTED]. He has been sighted visiting the boy's home on [REDACTED] four times.

He also reported that the two friends of Father Paquin in the parish: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have left the parish because they see Father Sweeney as the 'bad guy.'

On September 25, I spoke with Father James Carroll at the urging of Father McAuliffe. He is a priest at St. Monica's in Methuen.

The following is a summary of his report:

It seems that Father Paquin was close to young boys in the parish. Sometimes he would have kids in his room until five or six in the morning. Six or seven boys were involved in counseling because of their relationship with Father Paquin. One of them, after being in counseling, moved to Florida, another would not go to Mass anymore and a third would never let his son go with a priest after his experience with Father Paquin.

The specifics seem to be that they would go on trips with Father Paquin and he would give them 'pot.' Sometimes he would talk about the 'birds and the bees' - that is, sex - with the boys and would encourage them to masturbate in front of him.

Father Carroll is upset that Father Paquin is working at the hospital in the Pastoral Education program. He thinks that it will cause some upset in the community. Already a probation officer, [REDACTED], is upset that Father Paquin is in the area. It seems that [REDACTED] learned from [REDACTED] about Father Paquin's experiences in Haverhill.

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██████████ telephoned me ██████████ and asked that I return the call and I left a message on the tape. He never returned the call back.

I spoke with Father Sweeney on April 27 and told him about the efforts to help Father Paquin find a ministry in which he would not be in contact with youth. I wondered if ██████████ and ██████████ would find it difficult if he continued to try to do this in Methuen through the rest of this program which ends in November. He said that he would speak with them.

I spoke with Father Paquin on Saturday, September 28 and reported to him my conversations with Father Sweeney and Father Carroll. He was upset. He thinks Father Sweeney is vicious and is behind all the complaints of ██████████ and ██████████. He is surprised about Father Carroll's observations. He does not admit to any of them.

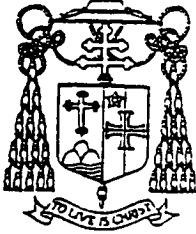
I told him that it is clear people are still upset with his behavior in the past and that he needs to accept this whether he sees it as vicious or not. I told him to remain out of Haverhill while such feelings are so strong and not to be visiting ██████████ either. He said that much of his support group is in Haverhill. I told him that he would need to meet with them away from their homes. He seems resistant but also agreeable.

He said that he would speak with Father Carroll. I told him that if he did, to do it in confidence. He will also ask one of his friends ██████████ to speak to Father Sweeney about not fanning any upset in the Haverhill area.

*10/6 Spoke w Bobbie Auliffe to get reading on how things feel in Methuen regarding Ron P.'s presence + Fr Carroll's reaction. He has heard nothing except Fr Carroll's concerns - which could be mostly based on sheer rage. We think Fr Carroll gets easily excited. JBM.*

JBM:mo'l  
3690M  
9/30/91

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1221  
10/16/92  
CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE  
2101 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE  
BRIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02135

October 16, 1992

[REDACTED]  
Haverhill, Massachusetts 01830

Dear Mr. & Mrs. [REDACTED]

It was sad to receive your letter concerning Reverend Ronald Paquin and the report your son made to you about him. Such reports are disturbing and upsetting and I appreciate the courage you took to inform me about his report and your concerns.

I have asked Reverend John B. McCormack, the priest whom I have delegated to handle such matters on my behalf, to look into this matter. I want to assure you that we take such reports seriously and will act on it promptly.

Knowing that such news is upsetting, I would encourage you to talk to your parish priest if you thought it would be helpful or to Sister Catherine Mulkerrin who assists Father McCormack in these matters. If you think your son would like to talk with Father McCormack, please encourage him to contact him.

I will keep you in my prayers and ask that you pray for the Church. If there is something else I can do for you, please let me know.

With warm personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Edward Cardinal Ginn*  
Archbishop of Boston

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend Ronald Paquin

February 27, 1993

1. How often have you been in contact with the client over the past six months?

Two or three times.

Have these contacts been initiated by them or by you?

By me.

2. How would you characterize the relationship between the client and yourself?

I would characterize our relationship as cordial and, hopefully, helpful. We have respectful and frank conversations.

Personally, I am wary that Fr. Paquin has done things in the past in the area of sexual misconduct which he is unable to take responsibility for nor share with the person to whom he is responsible, namely, me. He seems to be more concerned about not being understood and being 'victimized' by those who have reported him than he is about the negative impact he has had on those whom he has allegedly involved in sexual misconduct.

He does not take initiative to share information about himself until he is confronted with the issue by someone else. Thus, my concern is that he tells only what he thinks needs to be told and will hold back other information.

My sense is that Fr. Paquin is also wary of me and that I am the 'messenger of bad news,' (namely, reports which I receive about him) and the person who makes recommendations about his assignment in ministry. My sense is that he also sees me as one who works at being fair and understanding.

I find Fr. Paquin to be a good person with a generous heart. He wants to please others. One of his great liabilities is that he needs to see himself in a good light. In doing this, he is always painting a good picture about himself.

3. How would I describe his progress in recovery?

His psychiatrist describes him as doing well in therapy. He is beginning to tap into his own difficult experiences in growing up and his anger about them.

I view him as one who is outwardly cooperative but inwardly resistant to engaging others in his life issues - Fr. Paquin runs his own life and 'uses' others (in the good sense of the term) as he considers it appropriate. His problem is that he rarely sees it as appropriate. I wonder about his level of trust and whether it has increased. I question that he has a sufficient level of prudence and judgment to make responsible decisions in ministry. I wonder how involved he is in his peer support groups, Emmaus, SSA and the like.

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4. What other information are you aware of that is relevant to his assessment?

There are three points I think it would be helpful for you to know;

- a) He included on the support group, which St. Luke encouraged him to form, a young man who it turned out has accused him of sexually abusing him for a couple years as a minor.
- b) He has a very large personal debt. I think it is about \$20,000. Someone to whom he owes money called the Chancery about it.
- c) Several persons from the media have made inquiries about him. Nothing has appeared in the newspaper or television.

As a closing note, I am concerned that Fr. Paquin could become terribly depressed as he faces these realities and ones similar to them. I am not sure how to help him with these issues without overwhelming him. I think one has to walk a thin line between helping him admit to and deal with these issues while at the same time defend himself from becoming terribly overwhelmed and debilitated.

JBM:mo'l  
5580M  
2/27/93

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ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON  
RECEIVED

JAN 9 1995

OFFICE OF  
MINISTERIAL PERSONNEL

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Reverend John B. McCormack  
FROM: Bernard Cardinal Law  
RE: Reverend Ronald H. Paquin  
Review Board Case # 42

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I have reviewed the report and the recommendation of the Review Board regarding Reverend Ronald H. Paquin.

I accept the Review Board's recommendation, and direct the Office of the Delegate to implement the recommendation.



Remarks:

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Personal and Confidential  
Review Board  
June 6, 1994

Case # 42

Allegation:

Within the past four years there have been eight allegations of sexual molestation of young boys, often in the rectory. It is presumed that there may be a number of other victims in parishes in which the priests was stationed. Some incidents occurred as early as 1964 either while the priest was a seminarian or just prior to entering.

There have been several reports of seeing the priest in the company of ~~xx~~ young teenage boys since being placed on administrative leave. <sup>his</sup>

There have been some investigations of this priest's activities by media but to date nothing has been published.

Complainant:

All of the complainants were in their early teens at the time of the initiation of the alleged incidents of abuse. A number of the complainants allege the abuse lasted over a period of a year or two, some longer.

Response:

For the most part the priest finds it difficult to admit to Archdiocesan authority the extent of involvement as presented in the allegations. He does admit to some aspects of the allegations.

Background Priest:

The priest is 51 years old and alleges that he himself was a victim of sexual abuse by a priest. He had a long term friendship with this priest through the seminary and after ordination.

Impressions:

The priest shows no empathy for any of his alleged victims.

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Action to Date:

The priest has completed assessment and inpatient treatment. He is currently living in a priests residence. He is involved in regular psychotherapy and part time employment.

Recommendation:

That he not be allowed any public ministry and that he continue living in a supervised setting and continue working with a therapist and S.A. meetings. Also that he be encouraged to be involved in some activity and seek laicization.

000243

REVIEW BOARD MEETING

October 21, 1999

Chancery - 6:30-8:30 P.M.

**Case #42**

The Board accepts the recommendation of the Delegate and restates the Board's earlier recommendation that the priest be "encouraged . . . to seek laicization". In addition, the Board agrees with the recommendation that a formal unilateral laicization process be initiated if the priest does not pursue this option voluntarily.

There was an abstention by one member of the Board due to concerns about the process of unilateral laicization.

000230


**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Reverend William F. Murphy  
**FROM:** Bernard Cardinal Law  
**RE:** Reverend Ronald H. Paquin  
Review Board Case #42

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I have reviewed the report and the recommendation of the Review Board Regarding Reverend Ronald H. Paquin.

I accept the Review Board's recommendation, and direct the Office of the Delegate to implement the recommendation.

Date: 5/13/97 

000234

Case # 42

This is a case that has been to the Review board on three previous occasions.

The initial complaint was:

"Within the past four years there have been eight allegations of sexual molestation of young boys, often in the rectory. It is presumed that there may be a number of other victims in parishes in which the priest was stationed. Some incidents occurred as early as 1964 either while the priest was a seminarian or just prior to entering. There have been several reports of seeing the priest in the company of young teenage boys since his being placed on administration leave.

There have been some investigations of this priest's activities by media but to date nothing has been published."

The Board's recommendation was:

The Board recommends that the priest not be allowed any public ministry and that he continue living in a supervised setting and continue with a therapist and SA meetings. He is to be encouraged to be involved in some activity and to seek laicization.

In March, 1997, the case was returned to the Board by the Delegate with a recommendation, based on some therapeutic improvement, "that the priest be approved for work within the Church which does not involve public ministry or contact with minors."

The Board recommendation was:

The Board recommends that the priest be retested, including a repeat of the testing battery as ministered in July, 1990, for comparison to the original testing and to find evidence of personality growth. We should also obtain a report of his residential treatment and follow-up at St. Luke's Institute. Action be deferred until the retesting and analysis is complete.

In May, 1997, the Delegate recommended that "the priest engage in work within the church which does not put him in contact with minors".

"The Board approves the Delegate's recommendation. The Board further recommends that the priest engage in work within the Church which does not put him into contact with minors. The work within the Church would not be pastoral ministry. The priest should contact the research Assistant to the Delegate in order to locate suitable work under close supervision. The priest will continue to reside in the supervised living program."

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Since that recommendation, the priest has been doing limited work with hospitalized elderly and has been living in a restricted residence. he has continued in psychotherapy.

However, there have been additional complaints of sexual misconduct from the past that are consistent with the priest's background. These are not allegations of recent behavior.

**Recommendation:**

It is the Delegate's recommendation that an earlier recommendation be revisited with the priest and that he be "encouraged....to seek laicization". The possibility of maintaining the priest in even limited ministry and in a supervised residence are not feasible and it is further recommended that a formal unilateral laicization process be initiated if the priest does not pursue this option voluntarily.

000233



REVIEW BOARD  
March 3, 1997  
CONFIDENTIAL

CASE # 42

1. Allegations: The priest is alleged to have acted inappropriately with ten young, vulnerable teenage boys with whom he had established relationships during two separate assignments. The activity involved inviting the boys to sleep over at the rectory when the pastor was away, inviting the boys to sleep with him in his bed, encouraging them to sleep without clothes, providing them with beer, showing them instructional sex manuals and touching them on or around their genitals, masturbating them, performing oral sex on them and having them masturbate him.
2. Complainant: Out of court settlements have been reached with the complainants.
3. Response: The priest admitted all except the invitation to sleep without clothes, showing the boys sex manuals and touching their genitals.
4. Background of Priest: The priest is a 53 year old of average intelligence whose own history involves sexual abuse by a priest. His father was an alcoholic.
  - 4a. Impressions: The priest at first resisted the therapy but shortly began to engage the process which has helped him to grow more aware of himself, his drives and needs. He successfully completed the treatment at St. Luke's and has been faithful to therapy and twelve step group attendance.
5. Action to date: The priest was sent for a psychological evaluation shortly after the allegations arose, and residential treatment at St. Luke's shortly thereafter. He trained for hospital ministry (including three units of CPE) and lived in a rectory after his discharge. [REDACTED] He has been faithful to Continuing Care at St. Luke's
6. Future Plans: The priest is currently working at a secular job. He would like to become involved in work for the Church which would not compromise his restrictions
7. Delegate's Recommendation: That the priest be approved for work within the Church which does not involve public ministry or contact with minors.

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: File  
FROM: Reverend John B. McCormack *JBM*  
DATE: December 7, 1994  
RE: Reverend Ronald Paquin

On December 5, 1994 I spoke with Dr. Thomas Gutheil who reviewed for me his observations about the psychological and psychiatric reports sent to the Archdiocese. I had asked him as a consultant to review these and give me his observations. He said he would send them in writing. The following is a list of some of his observations:

1. [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]
6. [REDACTED]
7. [REDACTED]

*ACFB  
Redacted*

JBM:ah

000222

Review Board Meeting  
June 6, 1994  
Chancery 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Case \$42

The Board recommended that the priest not be allowed any public ministry and that he continue living in a supervised setting and continue with a therapist and SA meetings. He is to be encouraged to be involved in some activity and to seek laicization.

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