



Peter Pollard
26 Elm Street
Hatfield, MA 01038

June 2, 2002

In December 1987, I wrote a letter to Cardinal Bernard Law to report that I'd been sexually abused by my parish priest, George Rosenkranz, at the Star of the Sea Parish in Marblehead in the mid 1960s. I included details about what had happened and the impact Rosenkranz's betrayal had on my life over the following two decades.

A few days later, I heard from Fr. John McCormack who offered to meet with me. In our first meeting, a few weeks later, Fr. McCormack assured me that my report was being taken seriously. He said Rosenkranz had been suspended and sent off for an evaluation. He said he would meet with me again after the results of the evaluation were known.

I demanded that the priest be prohibited from being with children; that he get treatment and that the Archdiocese make an effort to find other victims.

I returned a few months later for a final meeting with McCormack. Fr. McCormack explained that they'd found that Rosenkranz did indeed have what he referred to as "sexual issues". But, he stressed that they found no indication that Rosenkranz had "any kind of sexual deviancy." Fr. McCormack told me he could find no reason to remove him from pastoral ministry. McCormack said Rosenkranz would have no direct responsibility over children and that he would be required to be in therapy.

I asked if he was saying he didn't believe me. Fr. McCormack said it was possible that individuals growing up in the parish formed relationships with Father Rosenkranz in which he expressed affection that might have been misconstrued as sexual involvement. Fr. McCormack explained that in his experience, child molesters confess when confronted. He said Rosenkranz denied the allegations.

I did not have any contact with Fr. McCormack or the Archdiocese until about five years later, when I was contacted by Sister Catherine Mulkerin. She told me that the Archdiocese had realized that they had mishandled previous sex abuse complaints. She said they had developed new policies.

Sr. Mulkerin stated that Cardinal Law had asked her to review all prior complaints and contact the victims. She said the Cardinal had specifically asked her to contact me. She said they had received another complaint about Rosenkranz and that he had been placed on leave. Sr. Mulkerin said the Archdiocese would be willing to pay for therapy for me as a "pastoral response." I accepted that offer.


Peter Pollard

11 North Street
Hatfield, MA 01038
Dec. 12, 1987

Bernard Cardinal Law
2101 Commonwealth Ave.
Brighton, MA 0213

Dear Cardinal Law,

I'm writing to notify you that I was sexually assaulted by a priest in your diocese 20 years ago.

I was a parishioner at the Star of the Sea Church in Marblehead from early childhood until I graduated from high school in 1969.

I attended the grammar school affiliated with the church. I was an altar boy and active in the CYO and other church activities. For much of that time, I believed I had a vocation to the priesthood. In the course of my exploration of that possibility and of my other church involvements, I became very close to Fr. George Rosencranz. As much as I can remember, he was assigned to Star of the Sea from about 1964 until a short time after I went away to college in 1969.

I viewed him then as a trusted friend, teacher, confidant and guide through a period of adolescent turmoil.

I'm writing now to report that he also sexually abused me on a number of occasions between 1966 and 1969.

In the guise of teaching me about sexuality, he kissed me; had me lie on top of him and kissed me; had me expose myself and discuss sex with him; and on at least one occasion, while on an overnight trip, tried to coerce me into sleeping in his bed with him in a hotel where we stayed in Conway, N.H.

At the time, I was unsettled and extremely confused by his sexual advances, but flattered by his attention and professed respect for me.

During the intervening years, I felt disappointed that he had complicated what I viewed as an otherwise positive relationship.

Now I'm enraged.

I've come to recognize in recent months that this man's abuse has left a profound mark on me. I feel doubly scarred

because he is a priest, a supposed representative of god; the person I was raised to view as the arbiter of morality.

Because he chose to explain his abuse as a form of education, a favor, and because of the apparent ease with which he carried out his campaign, I'm convinced I was not his first victim, or his last. I am astounded to have learned that he was subsequently assigned as an administrator of a boy's school in the diocese.

I'm appalled at the prospect of the damage he may have done in the 20 years I've remained silent.

I have strong reason to believe others in the diocese have also been aware that this man has problems with sexual boundaries. I find it disgusting that he has been allowed to continue to be in the position of a trusted counselor for people in turmoil - that he has undoubtedly counseled children and adults trying to sort through issues of sexual abuse by others.

I feel that he and those in the church who have chosen to tolerate this kind of abuse by members of the clergy have failed miserably in their responsibility to me and other victims. As individuals and as an organization, you have betrayed a sacred trust.

Although I visited Rosencranz once in a parish in Chelsea in about 1971, I have had no other contact with him since 1971.

However, I have scheduled to meet today with him at St. Joseph's Church in Salem, where he is now stationed. I plan to inform him then that I have sent you this letter.

I will also deliver another letter to him, which expresses some of the rage, hurt and betrayal I feel, even now, 20 years later. Although the language used in parts of ... it may be viewed as offensive, I'm enclosing a copy in the hope that it will impress upon you the serious impact of what he did in the name of god. I include it also with the hope that it will stir someone in the church to face a severe and insidious problem and to take steps to prevent him and others to abuse their position of authority by victimizing another child.

Maybe that's idealistic.

But be on notice. If you take no significant action to find appropriate and effective treatment for him and to locate his other victims, I will make every effort to make this information public, even at my own expense.

I am also informing the Department of Social Services and the Essex County District Attorneys office about my

experience with Rosencranz and am suggesting that any reports of sexual abuse by this man should be taken seriously. And I've offered myself as a supportive witness in any action that might arise against him.

If at some point in the future, it comes to light that another child has been victimized by your failure to act, I will strive with all my resources to see to it that you personally and the church as a whole is held in complicity.

Sincerely,

Peter Pollard