

Fr. Birmingham was present at the Chancery Office to be confronted by the two boys and their fathers who had accused him of improper conduct. Fr. Hurley, the pastor, had come to Chancery a few days before to bring this matter to official attention and Msgr. Sexton interviewed Fr. Birmingham to acquaint him with their complaint. Fr. B. denied them and today's meeting was arranged.

Present were Msgr. Sexton, Msgr. Finnegan, Fr. Hurley, Fr. Birmingham, [redacted] and [redacted]. [redacted] related how his son [redacted] told that Fr. B. "put his hands inside his pants and touched his private parts." It had also happened "last year" in the sacristy and in the kitchen. [redacted] had erection and "Fr. B. asked if it felt good." One occasion Fr. B. asked if he was ticklish - but the janitor walked in and no touches took place at that time.

[redacted] - told similar story regarding his son, [redacted]. The incidents happened on two occasions. Most recently, about a month ago, when altar boys' meetings had started. [redacted] went to his mother and told the story. She told [redacted] and it was brought to pastor's attention.

Fr. Birmingham at first claimed these accounts "were not true." He claimed the circumstances were different. These two boys had been concerned with mutual sex play - but Msgr. Sexton and [redacted] spoke up to restrict Fr. B. to the alleged incidents themselves. Fr. B. then said that, with [redacted] "it was a spontaneous gesture of grabbing him around the waist." Did not touch his p/parts. [The boy answered, in reply to question by Msgr. Sexton, "Fr. B.'s hands were inside my pants, inside my underwear]. Fr. B. then was questioned regarding the incident with [redacted] and he "did not remember", "honest to God"

It was then brought out that these incidents could have involved other boys with Fr. B. A [redacted] of [redacted] police had stated it could have happened to his boy. These two boys and an [redacted] said "this had happened to all the boys." The [redacted] boy had said that Fr. B. had once tickled him. Fr. Hurley pointed out that another boy had denied it.

The [redacted]'s boy had told his father "it did happen and it did occur twice" - "Fr. B. put his hands inside my pants and touched my pr/parts."

Msgr. Sexton asked for and received Fr. B.'s apology for the "impropriety".

Further talk with the boys' fathers and Fr. H. indicated that this knowledge is widespread. Boys have talked of it. Parents (of at least 5) are aware of it. Boys won't go to altar boy meetings, CCD, etc. [redacted] "not a real practicing Catholic, wife very upset, etc. etc." Msgr. Sexton told Fr. H. to speak with Mrs. [redacted]

Msgr. Sexton assured the fathers that Fr. B. would be transferred immediately. Fr. B. asked if he could stay until Feb. so it would appear to be a routine transfer, and he had many projects, etc. etc.

Msgr. Sexton pointed out that this was impossible and that Fr. B. was to make immediate appointment with Cath. psychiatrist to get to the root of this problem and seek help from his Spiritual Director. He was given the name and phone no. of Dr. Quinn (?) and told to make the appointment right away. His transfer would be in the mail within a day or so - and he would be placed on sick leave, in all likelihood - and the people were to be told that he had been "working too hard" and "needed a rest." Every effort would be made to send Fr. H. a replacement, but "we're short of men at this time of year." Msgr. Sexton pointed out, and, possibly, he might not get help until Ordination in Feb.

But, in any event, Fr. B. is to be transferred.

TJF