

Archdiocese of Boston  
Assistant to the Secretary for Ministerial Personnel

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: File  
FROM: Rev. Brian M. Flaherty  
DATE: July 11, 1988  
RE: Rev. John J. Geoghan '62

This is an updated summary of allegations concerning Father Geoghan:

- 1980 February 9: Assigned at Saint Andrew, Forest Hills since June 4, 1974; Rev. John Thomas, Vicar in Jamaica Plain came to Bishop Daily; had been to Bishop Riley. Woman from Blessed Sacrament, Jamaica Plain (later determined to be Mrs. [redacted]) reported "homosexual activity" with her sons and nephews (ages 6-11) (later determined to be 7 boys). Father Geoghan "admits the activity but does not feel it serious or a pastoral problem." Transferred, counseling mandated. Cardinal Medeiros approved. Saw Doctor Brennan for psychoanalysis; Doctor Mullins for psychotherapy.
- February 12: Sick leave until assigned to Saint Brendan, Dorchester February 25, 1981.
- 1982 July 24: Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] (Mrs. [redacted] sister) and [redacted] came to see Bishop Daily, referred by Father Thomas. Mrs. [redacted] son (previously molestee) met Father Geoghan at an ice cream parlor in Jamaica Plain. Seen there again with another youngster. Bishop Daily sent for Father Geoghan. He explained that he was in the area for a wake; visited the widow; took her son out for ice cream.
- August 10: Letter to Cardinal Medeiros from Mrs. [redacted] "Angry. 7 boys in the family have been violated". Why is he still functioning?
- August 23: Bishop Daily saw Father Geoghan. Allowed to go on his planned sabbatical in Rome; see the Cardinal on return.
- September 6: Another letter from Mrs. [redacted] Why is nothing being done?
- 1984 September 17: Father James Lane, Pastor and Charles McGahey, Parochial Vicar at Saint Brendan's came to Chancery to complain. Father Francis Cichery of Blessed Sacrament in Jamaica Plain said that Father Geoghan was still seeing Dussourd children. In Dorchester "Fr. G's language, although not gross or vulgar, was imprudent and inappropriate". Father Lane stated that it is a pastoral problem. Asked that he be terminated at Saint Brendan's.
- September 18: Father Geoghan between assignments until November 10. Assigned to Saint Julia Parish, Weston. Monsignor Rossiter, the Pastor, aware of past allegations.
- December 11: Doctor Mullins - Father Geoghan "fully recovered".
- December 14: Doctor Brennan "no psychiatric contraindications or restrictions to his work as a parish priest."

EXHIBIT  
LOW 40  
6/7/05 KAS

- 1989 March 6. In a memo of Father John McCormack dated March 6, 1989, it is referenced that there were two SIA's taken out on Father Geoghan, one 8 years ago; one 2 years ago; 1. [redacted] brought to us by Dr. Kolbar. Boy named [redacted]. Not as serious as the others. Father Geoghan patted the boy on the rear end while the boy was changing in the bedroom.  
2. [redacted] kid ([redacted]) was practicing fellatio on his three year old brother. Kid said Father did it. Took two years to disclose. Father Geoghan would show up when kid was asleep. Lights off. Mother couldn't press charges. Boston Police investigated. Father Geoghan denied it. Too many discrepancies; dropped it. Father Geoghan insists that charge was fondling at the pool. In this conversation, Father Geoghan tells Bishop Banks, "I don't have the sexual attraction for children that I had before. I have been chaste for the last 5 years."
- April 3: Father Geoghan sent to Saint Luke Institute for evaluation. Diagnosis: homosexual pedophilia.
- April 28: Memo by Bishop Banks of conversation with Doctor Brennan: "you better clip his wings before there is an explosion; you can't afford to have him in a parish." Told by Bishop Banks on April 28 that he had to leave ministry. Placed on sick leave May 24. Admitted to The Institute of Living on August 10.
- November 4: Discharged. Diagnosis: "Atypical pedophilia in remission". Recommended that he be returned to assignment; keep in touch with psychiatrist. "Moderately improved". Returned to Saint Julia's, Weston on November 17.
- November 30: Letter by Bishop Banks to Institute for Living. Unhappy with Discharge Summary. Different from what he had understood and based his decision to allow Father Geoghan back to work.
- December 12: Letter to Bishop Banks explaining Discharge Summary: "The probability that he would act out again is quite low. However, we cannot guarantee that it could not re-occur. It is both reasonable and therapeutic for him to be reassigned back to his parish."
- 1990 November 23: Note from Bishop Banks: "I would recommend him for a parish (as a pastor), but decision left up to (Bishop Hughes) and (Cardinal Law)."  
December 7: Letter from Doctor Brennan: "no psychiatric contraindication to Father Geoghan's pastoral work at this time."
- 1991 October 23: Mrs. [redacted] from Salvation Army complained of Father Geoghan proselytizing at pool; there with a young boy
- 1992 July 3: [redacted] called Father Fred Ryan at Chantry. In confidence said a gentleman she met at Mass named [redacted] said Father Geoghan molested his two sons in the 60's at Blessed Sacrament in Saugus (Father Geoghan was there 1962-68). Father Geoghan contacted one of the sons within the past year. The boy said he'd call him if he called again. Hearsay and vague.
- 1993 January 12: Father Geoghan appointed Associate Director of the Office of Senior Priest
- 1994 January 31: Letter to Cardinal Law from [redacted] concerning [redacted] family. Sister Camienne made contact.  
April 4: [redacted] wrote complaining about sexual abuse of her son by Father Geoghan at Saint Paul, Hingham, (Father Geoghan there 1967-74). Father Geoghan denied the allegations.  
June 6: Review Board: The Board recommended that there be no parish ministry or weekend ministry in a parish for the present. There shall be an outpatient assessment to see how he is presently doing and to structure an appropriate aftercare program for him.