

admitted that at Alpha Omega he engaged in nude hugging, fondling, touching and sexual arousal. See BL- 0142. Father Lane admitted that there was touching of genital areas along with touching of all the other parts of the body. See BL- 0142.

Father Lane resigned “probably for poor health” as of August 14, 1999. See BL- 0023. In December of 2002, Father Lane testified in court before Judge Sweeney, who admonished Father Lane for filing a false affidavit with the Court. See Memorandum of Decision, dated November 25, 2002, page 12.

13. ROBERT V. MEFFAN

Father Robert V. Meffan was ordained on September 29, 1953. See Meffan-2 002. He served from 1953 through 1968 as an Associate Pastor at two parishes, St. Anne’s in Bridgewater, Massachusetts and Sacred Heart in Weymouth, Massachusetts, and as an Assistant Chaplain at Metropolitan State Hospital in Waltham, Massachusetts. See Meffan-2 002. In August of 1972, he was transferred and appointed to serve as an Assistant Pastor at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Quincy, Massachusetts. See Meffan-2 0002.

On July 29, 1977, Father Meffan submitted a letter to Cardinal Medeiros in which he stated, “I submit my retirement effective one week after a new pastor has been appointed...to serve at Our Lady of Good Counsel.” See Meffan-2 075. The wellspring of Father Meffan’s desire to resign appears to relate to

philosophical differences between him and the church hierarchy. See Meffan-2 073; -2 083; -2 092-093; -2 151. Father Meffan expressed to Bishop Daniel Hart his view that the “system [is] an evil one because of its emphasis on money. . .”. See Meffan-2 092-093. Meffan refused to engage in certain church fundraising campaigns. See Meffan-2 151. Cardinal Medeiros did not place Father Meffan on retirement status. See Meffan-2 090), but his appointment at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Quincy, Massachusetts was terminated on October 31, 1977 and he was placed on “sick’ leave” status through April, 1978. See Meffan-2 098-099. Father Meffan insisted that he was not “sick”. See Meffan-2 116.

In the years after Meffan was placed on “sick leave” status, Archdiocese officials, including Bishop Daily, expressed frustration at the “anomaly” of Father Meffan’s situation -- receiving sick leave benefits but not being sick. See Meffan-2 118-119. In January, 1979, Bishop Hart, having met with Meffan, reported that Father Meffan was operating his own ministry and engaging in counseling outside the scope of the RCAB structure:

Ministry- He told me he sees many people for individual counseling. The next day, for example, he had six appointments. More and more are seeking him out now that he has a more permanent living arrangement. He says Mass at Nursing Home regularly, baptizes on some occasions, teaches CCD high school courses, helps out on weekends at St. Elizabeth’s Parish, Milton; St. Bonaventure’s Paris, Manomet; and other places. He is as busy as he ever was, doing priestly work, as distinct from fund-raising. He is completely satisfied with his present ministry. He feels he is

more a priest than he was two years ago. "God has been good to me. While it was not easy at first, I am very happy now."

See Meffan-2 121; -2 123-124.

Cardinal Medeiros, although dissatisfied with Meffan's "arrangement," took no action to return Father Meffan to an active status within the RCAB. See Meffan-2 129. In 1984, it appeared that Father Meffan was ready to accept a Church assignment, see Meffan-2 156, but he confided in Bishop Hart that he was compelled to complete what he described as his "mission" (involving his private ministry) and that a Church assignment would be incompatible with that "mission". See Meffan-2 159. Cardinal Law, "with reluctance" assented to Father Meffan's wish to complete his "mission" and his "sick leave" status was extended to late 1985. See Meffan-2 163.

On December 16, 1985, Father Meffan was appointed by Cardinal Law to the position of Parochial Vicar at St. Teresa's Parish in Pembroke, Massachusetts, thus ending his eight-year private ministry. See Meffan-2 177. Within two months, there was an allegation that Father Meffan sexually abused a minor. See Meffan-2 181; -2 257. In January 1986, Father Meffan was accused of sexual abuse involving a 17-year-old girl. See Meffan-2 181; -2 257. (although there is little documentation, it appears that the same victim came forward years earlier, in 1980, and that Bishop Daily was made aware of the abuse then. See Meffan-2 146. Father Meffan was confronted concerning the substance of the allegations

and although his denial was “accepted,” Bishop McCormack noted that “Bob [Meffan’s] reactions were such that the allegations might well be true: not upset, but matter of fact-- no desire to know who – no indignation- no dry mouth.” See Meffan-2 184. Father Meffan, despite this allegation, was permitted to remain in active ministry for the next seven years. See Meffan-2 002. In 1993, there were additional reports of sexual abuse. See Meffan -1-2; -2 215-216; -2 233-234; -2 257. Two victims of Father Meffan who reported their abuse as minors were young female students at Sacred Heart School in Weymouth, Massachusetts where Meffan served and the “allegations all revolved around spiritual advice given to vulnerable young girls which encouraged liberal interpretation of the scriptural image of the **Bride and Bridegroom.**” See Meffan-1-2;-2 257. One of the young victims reported that Father Meffan “used to suggest to her that she imagine Christ touching, kissing and having intercourse with her”. See Meffan-2 257.

Notwithstanding that the 1993 allegations were first raised in January, Father Meffan was still in active ministry as of July, 1993. See Meffan-1-2;-2 215-216; -2 233-234; -2 259;. The RCAB sought to have Meffan undergo residential treatment at St. Luke’s Institute, but he refused. See Meffan-2 263.

Finally, on July 8, 1993, Father Meffan’s church assignment was terminated. See Meffan-2 265. The Review Board recommended that he receive counseling and live in a “structured environment” See Meffan-1 284, yet he was

allowed to live alone at White Horse Beach in Plymouth, Massachusetts. See Meffan-2 288. Predictably, upon receiving a request by Father Meffan in 1996 for Senior Priest/Retirement status, Cardinal Law granted the status and wrote:

This letter provides me with an opportunity to thank you in my name and in the name of the people of the Archdiocese for the ministry which you have offered in both hospital and parish settings over the years since your ordination in 1953. **You have worked over these years to bring God's Word and His Love to His people.** We are truly grateful for your priestly care and ministry to all whom you have served during those years. Without doubt over these years of generous care, the lives and hearts of many people have been touched by your sharing of the Lord's Spirit. We are truly grateful. See Meffan-2 329.

In July 1996, Father Meffan wrote a letter to Cardinal Law and expressed his "thanks for your time, your kindness and especially your pain." See Meffan – 2 349. Father Meffan enclosed a rambling letter, signed by Meffan as "Prisoner of Love" in which he said "I was trapped, a prisoner of love in a cell of allegation." See Meffan –2 350.

14. ROBERT MORRISSETTE

Robert H. Morrissette was ordained at St. John's seminary in May 17, 1975. See Morrissette-2 011. His first assignment was at St. Mary's Parish in Lynn, Massachusetts as an associate pastor effective June 3, 1975. See Morrissette-2 011. In November of 1976, Father Morrissette was moved to St. Joseph's Parish in Salem, Massachusetts to serve as associate pastor until December of 1984. See Morrissette-2 011. He was immediately moved that