

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

December to Assumption Parish in Bellingham and was assigned as the parochial vicar for nearly ten years. See Morrissette-2 011. During this time Father Morrissette molested five known victims until he was placed on sick leave in the middle of 1993. See Morrissette-2 011.

During Father Morrissette's time at Saint Mary's he served as the Juvenile Court Chaplain of the District Court of Southern Essex in Lynn, Massachusetts. See Morrissette-2 014. He also participated in the Campus Ministry Program at Salem State College in Salem, Massachusetts during his assignment at Saint Joseph's Parish. See Morrissette-2 023. Early on in Father Morrissette's career his peers had concerns about him being around children, especially young boys. Handwritten notes by Bishop Daily describe Father Morrissette as taking part in "suspicious conduct." See Morrissette-2 028.

At the end of 1984, several allegations were made about Father Morrissette's behavior which included two reports of abuse by Father Larry Rondeau at Saint Joseph Parish in Salem. See Morrissette-2 032. Father Rondeau had heard from Father Ray Plourde that Father Morrissette was looking to transfer and nobody could figure out why. Father Rondeau also stated that Father Morrissette had admitted the allegations to him, but had "denied it to the Bishop." See Morrissette-2 032. A few weeks later, Father Morrissette was interviewed and admitted that the allegations made about sexual behavior were

in fact true, and that he had also been involved in a “gay scene.” See Morrissette-2 034. Father Morrissette was advised by an RCAB supervisor that he would be immediately transferred and that he was to seek an evaluation at the House of Affirmation. See Morrissette-2 034.

Alexander O’Hanley, a psychiatrist, was contacted in December of 1984. See Morrissette-2 036. After evaluating Father Morrissette, Dr. O’Hanley felt that Father Morrissette had “no bad history, just recent. Just a problem the past three years.” See Morrissette-2 036. He also determined that Father Morrissette had a “homosexual orientation.” See Morrissette- 2 060. In a letter sent to Bishop Banks with regard to Father Morrissette’s treatment, Dr. O’Hanley stated that “assignment to parish ministry is sound and reasonable” and that he should continue in his therapy, but continue with his day to day relationship building within the ministry, which had posed an ongoing problem for him. See Morrissette-2 037.

Immediately following the receipt of the evaluation, Bishop Banks reinstated Father Morrissette and transferred him to Assumption Parish in Bellingham, Massachusetts as parochial vicar in December of 1984. See Morrissette-2 040. During his assignment at Assumption Parish, Father Morrissette continued to receive treatment from Dr. O’Hanley, who reassured

the archdiocesan supervisors that Morrissette was suitable to continue on with his pastoral duties. See Morrissette-2 043-044.

In July of 1985, Father Morrissette requested to be allowed to take a trip with a group of young boys to the mountains for skiing. See Morrissette-2 029, 050. Due to the fact that they were going skiing, Father Morrissette requested that the trip be overnight. Father Arthur Bergeron told him that “going away with youngsters was all over for him.” See Morrissette-2 050. Father Bergeron also voiced his concerns to Bishop Banks who placed a typed memo in the archdiocesan file. See Morrissette-2 029, 050.

In 1988 Bishop Banks met with Father Morrissette to discuss rumors in regard to activities that he had taken part in with [REDACTED], a former seminarian, who had referred to Father Morrissette as his lover. See Morrissette-2 049. Bishop Banks confronted Father Morrissette about the allegation that was reported to him by Father Richard Matte, who was assigned with him at Assumption Parish. See Morrissette-2 049. Father Morrissette denied that he had any relationship with Mr. [REDACTED] and reiterated the fact that “there was not a problem with any young people and that the whole thing was behind him.” See Morrissette-2 049, 055. Father Morrissette also states that Father Matte was the individual who “encouraged all of them to come by to visit frequently,” and

acknowledges the fact that he knows that he will never be trusted again due to his actions in Salem. See Morrissette-2 056-057.

The Priestly Renewal Advisory Board recommended Father Morrissette to attend a semester at the Vatican II Institute for Clergy Education in Menlo Park, California to attend in the fall of 1993. See Morrissette-2 062. In a letter sent to Father Morrissette on March 27, 1991, Cardinal Law expressed his hope that the program would offer him the “opportunity for the kind of renewal in mind, body and spirit” so that him would be able to return to the parish “refreshed and strengthened.” See Morrissette-2 062.

Before his departure to California, Cardinal Law ended Father Morrissette’s appointment at Assumption Parish upon the recommendation of the Personnel Board of the Archdiocese in May of 1993. See Morrissette-2 065. He also informed Father Morrissette to stay in touch with the Clergy Personnel Office up his return so that he can be re-assignment in December of 1993. See Morrissette-2 065.

Prior to the time that Father Morrissette was scheduled to leave for the Clergy Education Program, rumors and allegations began to surface. In June, Bishop McCormack and Bishop Daily were informed that Father Morrissette had been involved with two young boys, which included touching and fondling. See Morrissette-2 082. In a Review Board Meeting which took place on June 29, 1993,

the board discussed the recent actions of Father Morrissette and determined that he must return to the Institute of Living as well as resume his treatment with Dr. O'Hanley. See Morrissette- 085-087. That fall of 1993, Father Morrissette was put on "Unassigned-Status '00'" and thereafter informed by Cardinal Law that he would be on "Sick Leave effective September 18, 1993" with the understanding that he would be residing at his family home in Lowell and could only celebrate Mass privately. See Morrissette-2 091 and Morrissette-2 099. In Review Board notes dated October 14, 1993 it states the following: "The priest enter into twice-weekly therapy for a period of two to three years. He not receive an assignment in ministry with a further review in one year by an independent reviewer. That he not reside where there is contact with adolescent males and that he be engaged in an academic experience." See Morrissette-2 115.

Father Morrissette began working with a friend to develop a candle company, Marklin Candle Company, in Nashua, New Hampshire in the fall of 1993 and continued to receive therapy with Dr. Rizzuto, paid for by the Clergy Fund, and was diagnosed by his psychiatrist with generalized anxiety and dependent personality disorder. See Morrissette-2 122, 2 214, 2 123.

Despite the allegations, Cardinal Law received several letters from individuals, specifically [REDACTED], expressing their interests in Father Morrissette returning to the parish and serving the community. See Morrissette-2

169, 2 172. Cardinal Law responded by simply stating that at the time he was unable to comment on the situation, and that Father Morrissette was on a “health leave.” See Morrissette-2 169, 2 172.

In November of 1995, Father Morrissette reported to Father Flatley that he would be applying for a position at the Boston Harbor Hotel as a room service waiter, but still had high hopes that he would be able to be assigned back within the ministry. See Morrissette-2 262-263. Within one month Father Morrissette was working at the Boston Harbor Hotel. See Morrissette-2 269.

In the winter of 1998, Father Morrissette became the part time concierge at the Boston Harbor Hotel and an agreement was made between Reverend William Murphy and him that his status would be changed to “Unassigned” and later to be placed on “Sick Leave” status with a Leave of Absence permitted by Cardinal Law for January 1, 1999. See Morrissette-2 300, 2 304, 2 310. Father Morrissette remained on “Leave of Absence” status until January of 2000. See Morrissette-2 006.

15. DAVID C. MURPHY

David C. Murphy was ordained in February of 1963. See Murphy, 2-385. He served as an assistant pastor in three parishes after his ordainment before being assigned in 1966 to serve at St. Monica’s Parish in South Boston, Massachusetts. See Murphy, 2-385. In 1967, Reverend Francis Sexton,