

Editor's Note:

Readers may find the descriptions in this deposition transcript offensive.

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON

In re:)
) No. 04-37154-elpl1
ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF)
PORTLAND IN OREGON, AND)
SUCCESSORS, A CORPORATION)
SOLE, dba the ARCHDIOCESE OF)
PORTLAND IN OREGON,)
)
Debtor.)

VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF ROBERT PAUL
Taken on behalf of the Defendants
March 7, 2005

13:21:03 1 where you would lose control -- and again, I'm going

13:21:08 2 to say like -- where you really lost your temper.

13:21:13 3 Do you remember that term, "flipped out"?

13:21:16 4 A After I got in MacLaren, I do.

13:21:19 5 Q Okay. Did you see that pattern of

13:21:26 6 flipping out being a persistent pattern up until at

13:21:32 7 least you went to Hillcrest, from the beginning --

13:21:37 8 A Just prior -- I went to Camp Florence

13:21:39 9 before I went to Hillcrest.

13:21:43 10 Q Right. That's correct.

13:21:43 11 A Just prior -- I had to keep my nose clean
13:21:46 12 for a while, and then they sent me to Camp Florence.

13:22:14 13 Q Do you recall the date that you first met

13:22:16 14 Father Sprauer?

13:22:18 15 A The date?

13:22:19 16 Q Yeah, approximately.

13:22:20 17 A No.

13:22:22 18 Q Do you remember the year?

13:22:24 19 A '72.

13:22:26 20 Q Okay. Do you remember what time of year
13:22:28 21 it was?

13:22:31 22 A I can remember it being wet and cold
13:22:36 23 outside.

13:22:37 24 Q Okay. Do you remember what -- I think the
13:22:39 25 complaint in one instance, or the amended complaint,

13:22:42 1 talks about in spring of 1972?

13:22:45 2 A No, it was later than that.

13:22:48 3 Q As you sit here, do you have your best

13:22:52 4 estimate as to when that would have been?

13:22:55 5 A Yeah, it was closer to the holidays,

13:22:58 6 Thanksgiving, Christmas.

13:23:00 7 Q Was it prior to you going to Camp

13:23:02 8 Florence?

13:23:05 9 A Yes, I believe so.

13:23:06 10 Q Okay. Do you remember that these episodes

13:23:23 11 in which you flipped out actually predated your ever

13:23:27 12 meeting Father Sprauer?

13:23:29 13 A Yes.

13:23:30 14 Q Huh?

13:23:30 15 A Yes.

13:23:35 16 Q Do you remember getting in a lot of fights

13:23:37 17 with your fellow juvenile inmates prior to -- prior

13:23:42 18 to meeting Father Sprauer?

13:23:46 19 A Yes.

13:24:14 20 (Exhibit No. 2 marked.)

13:24:48 21 Q I marked this one, because it had some

13:24:52 22 pre-MacLaren incidents on it and I just wanted to

13:24:56 23 know whether or not that was consistent with your

13:24:58 24 recollection.

13:24:59 25 I hand you what's been marked as Exhb.

14:14:43 1 A We were talking back and forth.

14:14:47 2 Q Do you remember the subject matter that

14:14:48 3 was being said about your grandpa and your father,

14:14:51 4 what the topic was?

14:14:54 5 A No, I don't.

14:14:57 6 Q Do you remember anything in the discussion

14:14:59 7 that he was having with you at the time that he

14:15:01 8 placed his hand on your leg?

14:15:05 9 A No, I don't.

14:15:06 10 Q What happened next after he placed his

14:15:08 11 hand on your leg?

14:15:09 12 A He was rubbing my leg.

14:15:11 13 Q Okay. He started rubbing your leg?

14:15:13 14 A Yes.

14:15:14 15 Q When he started rubbing your leg, what was

14:15:16 16 your reaction?

14:15:17 17 A I was scared.

14:15:23 18 Q Did you feel it was strange that a male

14:15:26 19 priest would be rubbing your leg in his office?

14:15:30 20 A I felt it was kind of strange that any man

14:15:33 21 was rubbing my leg like that.

14:15:44 22 Q At the time that you entered his office,

14:15:46 23 was there anyone else around, any other individuals?

14:15:49 24 A Not that I noticed.

14:15:54 25 Q Did anyone see you go into the building

14:15:58 1 that his office was located?

14:15:59 2 A I don't know.

3 Q Once he started going back to his touching
14:16:12 4 you on the leg and rubbing your leg, why did you

14:16:18 5 feel it was strange that he was rubbing your leg? I

14:16:21 6 don't mean to mischaracterize it, "not liking it,"

14:16:25 7 but you didn't like him rubbing your leg, right?

14:16:28 8 A No.

14:16:28 9 Q And you thought it was odd, right?

14:16:30 10 A Yes.

14:16:34 11 Q You thought it was inappropriate?

14:16:37 12 A I thought he was trying to calm me down in
14:16:40 13 the beginning.

14:16:43 14 Q What happened next?

14:16:48 15 A He placed one of my hands on his leg and

14:16:51 16 told me it was all right.

14:16:52 17 Q And what was your reaction to that?

14:16:54 18 A I -- I was scared.

14:16:57 19 Q You knew that was wrong, didn't you?

14:17:01 20 A I might have.

14:17:02 21 Q Okay. And what happened after that?

14:17:16 22 A It didn't -- it -- I got up and after we
14:17:22 23 finished our little talk, nothing happened the first
14:17:25 24 time.

14:17:25 25 Q Okay.

14:17:26 1 A You know, and I left. I didn't say
14:17:28 2 nothing to nobody, because I didn't want somebody --
14:17:30 3 because I'd already been in enough trouble there. I
14:17:34 4 didn't want them to think, "Well, you're just making
14:17:36 5 this up to get somebody else in trouble," so I kept
14:17:39 6 it to myself.

14:17:40 7 Q Okay. Did you -- so you never told
14:17:42 8 anybody about the fact that Father Sprauer putting
14:17:46 9 your hand on -- strike that.

14:17:50 10 you did not ever tell anybody of Father
14:17:54 11 Sprauer putting his hand on your leg and rubbing it,
14:18:01 12 and likewise, him putting your hand on his leg, you
14:18:06 13 never said -- you never told anybody about that?

14:18:09 14 A No, I did not.

14:18:11 15 Q Did you inquire of any of the other
14:18:13 16 juvenile inmates that were there, whether or not
14:18:18 17 they had had similar experiences?

14:18:20 18 A No.

14:18:22 19 Q What I'm getting at, did you -- I realize
14:18:25 20 that you said you didn't say what had happened to
14:18:26 21 you on that occasion, but did you make any inquiries
14:18:29 22 about, "What do you think about this Father Sprauer?
14:18:33 23 Do you think he's a little odd? What kind of guy do
14:18:37 24 you think" -- did you ask any questions of your
14:18:40 25 fellow juveniles at that time about Father Sprauer?

14:31:18 1 Q And when was the next time that you do
14:31:21 2 I understand that each of the times that you
14:31:25 3 allege sexual abuse by Father Sprauer had occurred
14:31:30 4 in his office?
14:31:31 5 A Yes.
14:31:44 6 Q When was -- when was the next time that
14:31:46 7 you were asked to see Father Sprauer in his office?
14:31:51 8 Do you remember the day?
14:31:52 9 A No.
14:31:52 10 Q Was it still prior to Camp Florence?
14:31:55 11 A Oh, yes.
14:31:56 12 Q Was it still wet and --
14:31:58 13 A Yes.
14:31:59 14 Q Was it during the day?
14:32:00 15 A Yes.
14:32:01 16 Q And where were you when you -- what caused
14:32:05 17 you to go see Father Sprauer -- I'm sorry, strike
14:32:08 18 that.
14:32:10 19 What occasioned you to see Father Sprauer?
14:32:16 20 A I don't recall what the exact reason was
14:32:18 21 that time. I believe I was in school at the time.
14:32:25 22 Q Lord High School?
14:32:26 23 A Yes.
14:32:29 24 Q And how did you know to contact Father
14:32:31 25 Sprauer? Why was that -- if you were at Lord High

14:34:37 1 So it was approximately a week between the
14:34:39 2 time when he rubbed your leg and you rubbed his leg?
14:34:43 3 A Yes.
14:34:44 4 Q Do you remember when -- and you felt it
14:34:46 5 important to go see Father Sprauer again.
14:34:47 6 Is that fair?
14:34:48 7 A Yes, I looked up to him as a -- as a
14:34:51 8 person that I could confide in.
14:34:52 9 Q Did the experience that you had had with
14:34:55 10 him the previous time cause you any concern about
14:34:59 11 going and seeing him the second time?
14:35:01 12 A No.
14:35:06 13 Q You still felt comfortable seeing Father
14:35:09 14 Sprauer at that time?
14:35:10 15 A Yes, I believe so.
14:35:16 16 Q And again, you can't remember the date?
14:35:21 17 A No.
14:35:21 18 Q Again, was it still wet and cold?
14:35:25 19 A Yes.
14:35:25 20 Q Was it still prior to Camp Florence?
14:35:28 21 A Yes.
14:35:28 22 Q All right.
14:35:29 23 A All the incidents happened prior to Camp
14:35:30 24 Florence.
14:35:32 25 Q Okay. Do you know how far -- how far in

14:35:38 1 front of -- so that I can get a -- remember, I
14:35:41 2 wasn't there and I'm not making fun of it, I wasn't
14:35:45 3 there. I suffer from the same handicap, because I
14:35:48 4 don't have any recollection other than my relying on
14:35:50 5 the documents.

14:35:53 6 In terms of time, how far away was Camp
14:35:55 7 Florence at that point in time, a couple months?

14:36:04 8 A To the best of my recollection, I went
14:36:06 9 from MacLaren to Camp Florence to Hillcrest.

14:36:09 10 Q Okay.

14:36:10 11 A I don't remember going back to MacLaren
14:36:13 12 from Camp Florence.

14:36:14 13 Q Okay.

14:36:17 14 A I could have, but in such a short period
14:36:21 15 of time, I don't recall going back to MacLaren.

14:36:23 16 Q You do it okay. But you do recall if you
14:36:26 17 went back to MacLaren, you weren't abused after Camp
14:36:29 18 Florence by Father Sprauer?

14:36:31 19 A After Camp Florence?

14:36:32 20 Q Yeah.

14:36:33 21 A No.

14:36:33 22 Q Okay. Going to the second occasion that
14:36:36 23 you had in which you went to Mr. Berry and got a
14:36:47 24 slip to go over and see Father Sprauer, what
14:36:47 25 happened?

14:41:34 1 keep on going?

14:41:36 2 A We can go.

14:41:37 3 This is when he took his out.

14:41:38 4 Q "Took his out." are you talking about took

14:41:41 5 his penis out?

14:41:42 6 A Yes.

14:41:43 7 Q Okay. Then what happened?

14:41:45 8 A He put my hand on it.

14:41:46 9 Q He put your hand on it, okay.

14:42:07 10 Go ahead and take your time. I know this

14:42:09 11 is --

14:42:28 12 A He had me rubbing it up and down, and this

14:43:06 13 is what happened several times.

14:43:09 14 Q Okay. I'm sorry, Mr. Paul, but obviously

14:43:18 15 this -- this type of testimony, though difficult for

14:43:21 16 you, it's obviously very important for this

14:43:25 17 litigation, taking the nature of the litigation,

14:43:28 18 okay?

14:43:28 19 A Yes.

14:43:29 20 Q All right. When Father Sprauer pulled his

14:43:33 21 penis out and had you rub it up and down, was he

14:43:43 22 already erect?

14:43:46 23 A He was getting there.

14:43:48 24 Q Okay. And did he guide your hand or did

14:43:55 25 he just put his penis in your hand and have you -- I

14:44:00 1 mean, did he assist you with --

14:44:03 2 A Yes.

14:44:04 3 Q And what was your response to that, what

14:44:07 4 was your reaction to that, not response?

14:44:14 5 A I know now that it was wrong.

14:44:25 6 Q You knew it was wrong then, didn't you?

14:44:25 7 A No.

14:44:27 8 Q Okay. Was that the first time that any

14:44:34 9 male had ever forced you to put your hand on another

14:44:43 10 male's penis?

14:44:44 11 A Yes.

14:44:51 12 Q Did you pull your hand back?

14:44:54 13 A No.

14:45:04 14 Q Did Father Sprauer say anything to you as

14:45:06 15 he placed your hand on his penis?

14:45:10 16 A I can't recall.

14:45:12 17 Q So that I -- but he did guide your hand

14:45:17 18 and show you what he wanted you to do?

14:45:20 19 A Yes.

14:45:22 20 Q And at that point in time in your life,

14:45:26 21 had you masturbated before?

14:45:30 22 A Myself?

14:45:31 23 Q Yes.

14:45:31 24 A Yes.

14:45:32 25 Q Okay. And did you -- through his conduct,

14:45:39 1 ~~is that the type of action he was asking you to~~

14:45:42 2 ~~participate in.~~

14:45:44 3 ~~A Yes.~~

14:45:54 4 Q And did he say anything to you in the

14:45:56 5 process of your masturbating him?

14:46:00 6 A What was that again?

14:46:01 7 Q Did he say anything to you during the

14:46:05 8 course of your masturbating him?

14:46:08 9 A Not that I can recall.

14:46:09 10 Q Can you remember what the size of his

14:46:11 11 penis was?

14:46:12 12 A No.

14:46:20 13 Q You had certainly taken showers with other

14:46:23 14 men before.

14:46:24 15 A Yes.

14:46:25 16 Q For athletic reasons, PE there at Smith

14:46:30 17 cottage, things of that kind, had you not?

14:46:33 18 A Yes.

14:46:33 19 Q Did his penis appear large, medium, small?

14:46:38 20 A I was in there with a bunch of kids, so

14:46:41 21 yeah, it appeared a little bit bigger than the rest

14:46:45 22 of ours.

14:46:46 23 ~~Q Okay. And did that result in ejaculation?~~

14:46:56 24 ~~A Yes.~~

14:47:02 25 ~~Q And again, during this masturbation,~~

14:47:04 1 ~~Father Sprauer said nothing to you?~~

14:47:07 2 ~~A. Not during.~~

14:47:07 3 ~~Q. Okay. And when you ejaculated, when he~~
4 ~~ejaculated, did the ejaculate, the sperm, did it get~~
5 ~~on your hands?~~

14:47:20 6 ~~A. Yes.~~

14:47:23 7 ~~Q. Did it also get on Father Sprauer?~~

14:47:26 8 ~~A. Yes.~~

14:47:29 9 Q Did it get on the floor?

14:47:31 10 A I don't know.

14:47:45 11 Q How long did it take you to masturbate
12 Father Sprauer before he ejaculated?

14:47:51 13 A I'm guessing somewhere between five and
14 ten minutes.

14:48:01 15 ~~Q. After he ejaculated, did he say anything~~
16 ~~to you?~~

14:48:05 17 ~~A. He said something along the lines of,~~
18 ~~"Don't tell anybody."~~

14:48:14 19 Q And what was your response to that
20 request?

14:48:17 21 A I didn't say nothing to anybody.

14:48:19 22 Q Did you tell him, "Okay, Father, I won't"?

14:48:27 23 A I might have.

14:48:48 24 Q After he told you not to tell anybody, was
25 there any other conversation that he had with you?

14:48:54 1 A Not that I can recall, not that day.

14:49:00 2 Q Do you recall what you were thinking at

14:49:01 3 the time that you were masturbating Father Sprauer?

14:49:04 4 A No.

14:49:06 5 Q Do you remember whether or not you liked

14:49:07 6 or disliked doing it?

14:49:09 7 A No.

14:49:10 8 Q You don't remember whether or not you

14:49:12 9 liked or disliked it?

14:49:13 10 A At that point, no.

14:49:14 11 Q Okay. Did you at any time pull your hand

14:49:24 12 back?

14:49:27 13 A I couldn't do it. His hand was on mine.

14:49:35 14 Q Did he ask you to firmly take hold of his

14:49:39 15 penis?

14:49:42 16 A He told me to wrap my fingers around it.

14:49:45 17 Q Okay. And you did?

14:49:46 18 A Yes.

14:49:46 19 Q Okay. And during the course of this

14:50:00 20 masturbation, did it ever come a time in which he

14:50:04 21 removed his hands so he was hands free and you were

14:50:08 22 alone doing the masturbation?

14:50:10 23 A Not this time.

14:50:12 24 Q Okay. Did you say anything derogatory to

14:50:30 25 Father Sprauer after he ejaculated?

14:50:33 1 A No, I did not.

14:50:49 2 Q And after he said, "Don't tell anyone,"
14:50:55 3 did he say anything other than that?

14:50:59 4 Something about "This is our little
14:51:01 5 secret."

14:51:05 6 Q Did he say anything other than that,
14:51:07 7 "Don't tell anyone, it's our little secret," did he
14:51:12 8 say anything other than that?

14:51:13 9 A I don't recall.

14:51:13 10 Q Did he ask you whether or not you liked
14:51:15 11 it?

14:51:15 12 A No.

14:51:19 13 Q Did he ask you whether or not you enjoyed
14:51:21 14 it?

14:51:22 15 A No.

14:51:26 16 Q Did you feel frightened at that time?

14:51:29 17 A No.

14:51:34 18 Q What were you thinking?

14:51:37 19 A I don't know.

14:51:41 20 Q Other than saying, "Don't tell anyone,"
14:51:44 21 and "This is our little secrete," did Father Sprauer
14:51:49 22 say anything other than that?

14:51:51 23 A Not that I can recall.

14:51:53 24 Q And you said nothing likewise that you can
14:51:55 25 recall?

15:06:50 1 Q Okay. Why did you want to see Father
15:06:52 2 Sprauer that time?
15:06:53 3 A Because I was having problems with a guy
15:06:55 4 on the campus.
15:06:56 5 Q Do you remember who the person was that
15:06:57 6 you were having a problem with?
15:06:58 7 A I don't.
15:06:59 8 Q Again, do you remember the date?
15:07:00 9 A No.
15:07:01 10 Q Other than the fact that -- do you
15:07:03 11 remember whether or not it was still wet and cold
15:07:05 12 out?
15:07:05 13 A Yes.
15:07:06 14 Q And it was still prior to Camp Florence?
15:07:08 15 A Yes.
15:07:09 16 Q Okay. And you went back to the same
15:07:15 17 office that you'd been before?
15:07:17 18 A Yes.
15:07:18 19 Q And people were in close proximity to his
15:07:23 20 office at that time?
15:07:24 21 A Yes.
15:07:25 22 Q When you came in his office, did he shut
15:07:27 23 the door?
15:07:28 24 A Yes.
15:07:28 25 Q Did he shut the door on each occasion that

15:26:13 1 you bolted out?

15:26:15 2 A Yeah, I don't remember undoing a lock.

15:26:22 3 Q And you then ran back to Smith cottage?

15:26:25 4 A Yes.

15:26:26 5 Q And did you tell anybody?

15:26:28 6 A Yes.

15:26:28 7 Q And who did you tell?

15:26:29 8 A I talked to Mr. Worley about it, or tried

15:26:33 9 to.

15:26:34 10 Q Okay. And Mr. Worley, he was a -- one of

15:26:39 11 the supervisors in the cottage?

15:26:41 12 A The cottage counselor.

15:26:43 13 Q The cottage counselor.

15:26:57 14 And what was Mr. Worley's response?

15:26:59 15 A For me to get the hell out of his office

15:27:02 16 and not talk like that about somebody in the

15:27:05 17 priesthood, you know, the religion.

15:27:07 18 Q Okay. What -- what details did you tell

15:27:14 19 Father -- I'm sorry, strike that.

15:27:16 20 What details did you tell Mr. Worley?

15:27:19 21 A I told him that he wanted me to put my

15:27:22 22 face down on his dick.

15:27:24 23 Q Did you tell him about the previous

15:27:27 24 instances --

15:27:29 25 A No.

17:17:05 1 STATE OF OREGON)

17:17:05 2 County of Multnomah)

17:17:05 3

17:17:05 4 I, Aaron M. Thomas, Certified Shorthand
17:17:05 5 Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter, and
17:17:05 6 Notary Public for the State of Oregon, do hereby
17:17:05 7 certify that ROBERT PAUL personally appeared before
17:17:05 8 me at the time and place mentioned in the caption
17:17:05 9 herein; that the witness was by me first duly sworn
17:17:05 10 on oath and examined upon oral interrogatories
17:17:05 11 propounded by counsel; that said examination,
17:17:05 12 together with the testimony of said witness, was
17:17:05 13 taken down by me in stenotype and transcribed
17:17:05 14 through computer-aided transcription; and that the
17:17:05 15 foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true and
17:17:05 16 accurate record of said examination of and testimony
17:17:05 17 given by said witness, and of all other oral
17:17:05 18 proceedings had during the taking of said
17:17:05 19 deposition, and of the whole thereof.

17:17:05 20 Witness my hand and Notarial Seal at
17:17:05 21 Portland, Oregon, this 20th day of March, 2005.

17:17:05 22

17:17:05 23

17:17:05 24

17:17:05 25

Aaron M. Thomas
Oregon CSR 04-0388