

April 7, 1981

Archbishop Edward O'Meara
1350 North Pennsylvania
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

Dear Archbishop:

concerning the matter of Father Harry Monroe here at St. Patrick Parish. I don't quite know where to start but I became friends with Father Harry shortly after he came here. The extent of our friendship included an occasional game of racquetball or movie as well as weekend camping trips to the local state parks. Shortly after the Christmas of 1979 he invited me to go with him to Indianapolis so that he could show me the sights and see a movie. While there, he offered me liquor as well as pot which I accepted. We both slept together in the same bed which didn't seem strange to me at the time (and which went without incident) except for the closeness in which he slept beside me. In the Spring following which would be last year (I don't remember the exact date) Father Harry and I went camping for two days at Turkey Run State Park. Up to this time I had no suspicions that Father Harry was queer. I had noticed, however, a close affection he showed toward me which I accepted as being the nature of a priest. The first night that we were there we again had liquor and smoked marijuana. Upon turning in we joined our two sleeping bags as one (he had explained to me during previous camping trips that this helped preserve body heat more efficiently) and so we went to sleep. During the middle of the night I woke up because Father was playing with me. I pretended that I was still asleep and nudged him away, pretending that I needed more elbow room to sleep. He moved away but still kept his arm around me. I stayed awake for most of the remaining night and it went without incident. The next day I acted as if nothing had happened but I was distressed that I had to sleep with him another night. That following night I disconnected the two sleeping bags so that they were separate. Father became very quiet when he saw this but he did not question me. That proceeding night went without incident. The following day we returned to Terre Haute and that was the last time that we did anything together. Every time that we would meet in public afterward we would converse politely with each other. I never did confront him concerning that incident and I still act as if nothing happened whenever I see him. It really didn't bother me that much, I guess because it was brief and sudden. It hasn't been until recently that I've spoken to anyone about it when my mother told me about the problems that other boys were having with Father Harry. I hope that this letter has been clear, but if you have any questions then you can contact me.

Sincerely,

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Terre Haute, IN 47803

ph. [REDACTED]

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