

18-09-12026

359th

The STATE OF TEXAS

RECEIVED AND FILED FOR RECORD At 3:23 O'Clock P.M.

SEP 10 2018

COMPLAINT

BARBARA GLADDEN ADAMICK District Clerk MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS By [Signature] Deputy

Affidavit For Warrant of Arrest

Table with 6 columns: Count, Charges, Statute, Degree, DA File #, Agency #. Row 1: 1, INDECENCY WITH A CHILD, 21.11(a)(1), Second Degree Felony, 18F-004427, 18081147

In the Name and by Authority of The STATE of TEXAS:

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Authority, on this day personally appeared Joe McGrew, who after being by me duly sworn, on oath deposes and says: That he has good reason to believe and does believe and charged that heretofore, to-wit: on or about April 09, 2000, A.D., and before the making and filing of this Complaint, in the County of Montgomery and State of Texas, Manuel Antonio La Rosa-Lopez, the Defendant, did then and there, with intent to arouse and gratify the sexual desire of Manuel La Rosa-Lopez, engage in sexual contact by touching the genitals of M.V., a child younger than 17 years of age, with the defendant's sexual organ,

Affiant, Joe McGrew, is a certified Texas Peace Officer employed by Conroe Police Department. Based on his/her own investigation and review of Offense Report # 18081147 and 18081060 and determined the following facts:

On 08/27/18 report 18081060 was filed by J.H., an adult who reported being sexually abused while he was a child under the age of seventeen. In the report J.H. states that during 1998 through 2000 he was a Sacrosant at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, under Father Manuel La Rosa-Lopez ("defendant"). J.H. stated that all during his time as Sacrosant, La Rosa began touching him and making intimate gestures, which increased in frequency and severity. These gestures culminated on or before 10/05/99 when La Rosa called J.H. into the sacristy to move some items from the offices to La Rosa's living quarters. Once in the living quarters, La Rosa showed photographs to J.H. which depicted partially-naked men from La Rosa's seminary. La Rosa sat J.H. on the bed for this. J.H. attempted to leave when he saw the photos, but La Rosa physically prohibited him from leaving. La Rosa then began "fingering" J.H. He unbuttoned J.H. pants, reached inside J.H.'s pants and fondled J.H.'s penis and anus with La Rosa's hands and fingers. The incident ended when J.H.'s sister arrived to pick him up and blew her car horn in the parking lot, La Rosa allowed J.H. to leave. J.H. stated that he was still under the age of seventeen when this incident occurred. Sacred Heart Catholic Church is known by Affiant to be within the jurisdictional limits of Conroe, Montgomery County, Texas.

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J.H. stated that the immediate motivation for his report is the continuing news coverage of the Catholic Priest Sex Scandal. J.H. stated that about one year ago he contacted his local parish, who put him into contact with the Galveston/Houston Archdiocese Victims Assistance Coordinator. He stated that the coordinator is Sister Maureen O'Connell. This led to J.H. being flown from his current residence to Houston and his being interviewed by Sister O'Connell and Cardinal DiNardo. This meeting occurred on 08/08/18. As a result of this meeting, the church offered to provide J.H. with psychological counseling services. The church continues to be in contact with J.H. regarding their investigation. J.H. stated that Sister O'Connell told him that reports had been filed with Conroe Police Department and Child Protect Services. After a thorough search for these records, Affiant has been unable to locate any such reporting.

Affiant asked J.H. if he was aware of any other possible victims. J.H. identified his successor as a Sacrsant, J.H.2. He also identified another family, "LAA".

On 08/29/18 report 18081147 was filed by M.V., an adult who reported being sexually abused as a child while under the age of seventeen. M.V. stated that in 2000 she was attending Sacred Heart Catholic Church, located in Conroe, Montgomery County, Texas. She stated that at that time, Father Manuel La Rosa Lopez was her confessor. M.V. stated that early in the year La Rosa began what she described as "grooming behavior". M.V. stated this was terminology used by her therapist. She stated that the behavior consisted of heavy-petting and kissing. This behavior culminated on or about 04/09/2000 when, after a confession in his office, La Rosa took off his white collar and began kissing M.V. and pressing his erect penis into her "crotch." (clarified to mean her sexual organ) At that time La Rosa told her, "I have to wait until your 16, because I'm trying to fuck you." Then, on or about 04/11/2000, following a practice for a Passion of the Christ play, M.V. and La Rosa were alone in the church kitchen. M.V. stated that M.V. began fondling her, and reached underneath her shirt and her bra to touch her breasts with his hands.

M.V. stated that she believed she was in a romantic relationship with La Rosa, and recorded their trysts in her diary. She used the code name "Felipe" to refer to him. M.V. stated that her father had been reading her diary, and was investigating who Felipe could be. Her father determined that Felipe was in fact La Rosa and confronted M.V. about it, then made a report to the church. This report resulted in visits from the head priest, Father Dave Kennedy (now deceased) and then-Bishop Joseph Fiornza. The result of these meetings is that La Rosa was transferred away from Sacred Heart and M.V.'s father told M.V. to never to speak of it again. Several months later M.V.'s whole family moved to Israel.

In 2010, M.V. had returned to Conroe, TX, and was married. M.V. stated that she observed in a Catholic newspaper that La Rosa had received a promotion, and was in fact assigned his own church in Richmond, TX. This motivated M.V. to follow up with the Catholic

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Church, and she contacted the Galveston/Houston Archdiocese, which put her into contact with Sister Maureen O’Connell. M.V. was interviewed by Sister O’Connell and Cardinal DiNardo. M.V. was advised that La Rosa had been sent to a mental institution and was then placed in an administrative position from which he had no contact with children or teenagers. Affiant has verified through Church media that La Rosa is the Priest of St. John the Fisher Church in Richmond, TX.

M.V. stated that she decided to make a police report because of the perceived duplicity of Cardinal DiNardo (regarding his public statements regarding recent priest sex scandals) and the church’s failure to adequately protect children from La Rosa.

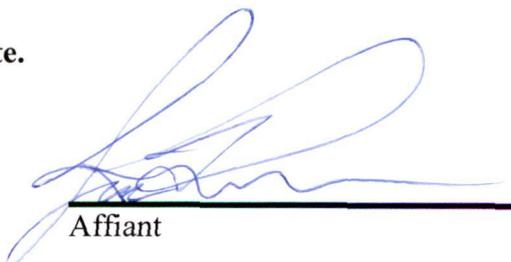
Affiant asked M.V. about the identity of any other potential victims of La Rosa. M.V. identified another boy who was the Sacrosant at Sacred Heart at the same time La Rosa was her confessor. She stated that the boy spent a lot of time with La Rosa, then identified him by name as J.H.2. She further identified the boys of the “LAA” family.

Affiant investigated any ties between M.V. and J.H. through thorough social media searches and questioning and has determined no link between the two victims. Both victims independently cite the current media attention regarding the indictments of priests in Pennsylvania as partial motivators for coming forward at this time.

Given the facts of this case, Affiant believes that Father Manuel La Rosa-Lopez, on or about 04/09/2000 in Montgomery County, Texas, committed the offense of Indecency with a Child by contact, by then and there, with intent to arouse and gratify the sexual desire of the defendant, by touching the genitals of M.V., a child younger than seventeen years of age, with the defendant’s sexual organ, and/or by touching the breast of M.V.

Given the facts of this case, Affiant believes that Father Manuel La Rosa-Lopez, on or about 10/05/1999 in Montgomery County, Texas, committed the offense of Indecency with a Child by contact, by then and there, with intent to arouse and gratify the sexual desire of the defendant, by touching the anus of J.H., a child younger than seventeen years of age, with the defendant’s hand, and/or by touching the genitals of J.H.

Against the Peace and Dignity of the State.



Affiant

Minute

Date: _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me by Joe McGrew, a credible person this 10th day of September, 2018.

[Signature]
Nancy Hebert
Assistant District Attorney
9th Judicial District

BOND RECOMMENDATION: \$ 150,000.00

I, the undersigned Magistrate, have examined the facts, statements and charges set out in the above complaint together with the reasons of the Affiant to believe that such charge is true and correct and after receiving evidence and testimony in support of such charge I find that probable cause exists for the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of the above accused.

[Signature]
MAGISTRATE, PHIL GRANT, 9th D.C.
Montgomery County, Texas

DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2018
PHIL GRANT
PRINTED NAME OF MAGISTRATE

Upon issuance of warrant, to be assigned to the _____ District Court.

Warrant # _____
Bond Amount \$ 150,000.00
FA

Date Issued: _____

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Date: _____