

1 St. Joseph's, has there --

2 A. None whatsoever.

3 Q. After you left -- we'll now go back  
4 to going through the parishes. The sabbatical you  
5 took after St. Joe's you went to Santa Barbara.  
6 Correct?

7 A. That's right.

8 Q. Did the bishop -- strike that.  
9 When was the first time that the  
10 Bishop confronted you? When I say bishop, I'm  
11 talking about Frank Rodimer. When was the first  
12 time that you were ever confronted by the bishop  
13 about your abusing these young boys?

14 A. In approximately 1984, September, I  
15 received a call to come down to the office and the  
16 bishop told me that he had some disturbing news  
17 and he said that a young man had come forward to  
18 Father Lash and Father Drury that I had abused him  
19 while I was at St. Joseph's and the bishop said  
20 his name was Mark Serrano. He said "is this  
21 true?" And I says "yes, Bishop, it is." I never  
22 denied it, outright, said "yes, it's so." The  
23 bishop said "well, Jim I want you to know that  
24 you're not the only one."

25 Q. Meaning that you're not the only

1 one who's abused other boys in his diocese?

2 A. He was telling me that there were other  
3 priests who had done this.

4 Q. Did he ever offer any counseling to  
5 you?

6 A. No. Only about a year-and-a-half later  
7 around December of 1985 he set up an appointment  
8 for me to see Gregory Colucci.

9 Q. We'll get to that, but let's go  
10 back to that meeting with the bishop.

11 Did the bishop ask you how many  
12 other boys you abused?

13 A. I told him approximately 12.

14 Q. Did he ever ask you the names of  
15 those?

16 A. No, he didn't.

17 Q. And at that time -- how long did  
18 the meeting last, do you recall?

19 A. Approximately 20 minutes.

20 Q. Who else was at that meeting?

21 A. No one.

22 Q. So it was just you and the bishop?

23 A. That's right.

24 Q. And when you left, you went back to  
25 the parish?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. Now you said that about a  
3 year-and-a-half later then the bishop offered you  
4 counseling. Correct?

5 A. That's right.

6 Q. What was it that caused the bishop  
7 to offer you counseling a year-and-a-half later  
8 and not at that meeting when you first admitted  
9 the abuse?

10 A. It goes back to an incident where Father  
11 Mars the pastor at IMH --

12 Q. IMH meaning?

13 A. Immaculate Heart of Mary that was --  
14 thought it would be a good idea for me to be  
15 photographed on the altar at the children's mass  
16 in approximately early October.

17 Q. Early October of what year?

18 A. Of 1985.

19 Q. So this would have been after the  
20 meeting with the bishop?

21 A. That's right. The bishop had seen me in  
22 September of 1985. I had applied to be a pastor  
23 in Sussex and the bishop told me this is not a  
24 good idea because, the way he put it, Mark was  
25 still making noise.

1 Q. Mark Serrano?

2 A. That's right. And he didn't know what Mark  
3 was going to do, whether he was going to tell his  
4 mother or father. Mark was receiving counseling  
5 from Father Colucci, so the bishop said "how are  
6 you doing in the parish?" I said "I'm doing  
7 pretty good. I have an AA meeting started for the  
8 young crowd and things were going pretty well" and  
9 so he said he gave me his blessing and said "fine  
10 we'll leave it at that", then this picture was  
11 taken in October, what followed next was Mark told  
12 his father at Thanksgiving time.

13 Q. The picture that you're talking  
14 about, that you're referring to, is a picture in  
15 The Beacon --

16 A. It wasn't in The Beacon until late 1985,  
17 around December.

18 Q. This is a picture of you serving  
19 mass with children, many children around the  
20 altar?

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. Up until this point, the bishop had  
23 indicated to you that Mark Serrano had not told  
24 his parents; is that correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. And what was the bishop's feeling  
2 about Mark not telling his parents and your  
3 situation with going to the Sussex County parish?

4 A. I think he felt in control of the situation  
5 as long as Mark didn't tell his parents.

6 Q. And was the bishop trying not to  
7 have Mark tell his parents?

8 A. I think the fact that he was having Father  
9 Colucci do therapy with Mark was a way of keeping  
10 things under control so to speak.

11 Q. So the bishop did not want Mark to  
12 tell his parents?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. And that was to maintain some  
15 control?

16 A. Yes. And as he said in the old days to  
17 avoid scandal.

18 Q. So the bishop wanted to avoid the  
19 scandal of the abuse?

20 A. That's right.

21 Q. Now, you said that the bishop had  
22 indicated to you. Going back to that first  
23 meeting, that there were other priests in the  
24 diocese who had abused young children. Correct?

25 A. Yes, that's right.

1 Q. And did you feel as though the  
2 bishop's -- that the bishop at that time had  
3 wanted to avoid scandal with regard to all of  
4 this?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So now what happened -- let's go  
7 back. So you didn't take the job in the parish in  
8 Sussex County?

9 A. No, someone else got the job in Sussex, so  
10 I stayed at Packanack Lake.

11 Q. And you continued not receiving --

12 A. That's right.

13 Q. -- counseling?

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. What, if anything, happened next?

16 A. So Mark told his father about what had gone  
17 on at Thanksgiving time, and then Mr. Serrano, in  
18 turn told Mrs. Serrano. They had a meeting with  
19 the bishop because they were very upset and the  
20 Bishop told them that I was receiving therapy,  
21 counseling I should say, from Father Colucci.

22 Q. The bishop told Mr. and Mrs.  
23 Serrano that you were receiving counseling?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Were you receiving counseling?

1 A. I wasn't receiving counseling until I would  
2 say the second or third week of December.

3 Q. So, in fact, the bishop lied to Mr.  
4 and Mrs. Serrano?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did the bishop tell Mr. -- did the  
7 bishop then get you counseling? Is that what led  
8 to the Bishop getting you counseling?

9 A. I believe so because he felt pressured by  
10 the Serranos.

11 Q. But for Mr. and Mrs. Serrano coming  
12 forward, you would not have gotten the counseling?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. What happened after that? Now  
15 you're getting the counseling?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But you're still at Immaculate  
18 Heart of Mary; is that correct?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. And then what caused you to leave  
21 Immaculate Heart of Mary?

22 A. Okay. In mid January I made a retreat in  
23 Morristown with a group of alcoholic -- recovering  
24 alcoholic priests and while I was there I met  
25 Father Ryan who was a recovering alcoholic himself

1 and he was my sponsor in AA and everything seemed  
2 fine, but when I came home there was a letter on  
3 my desk that I was to leave Immaculate Heart of  
4 Mary immediately, no ifs, ands or buts. I was not  
5 told where to go, where to receive any counseling,  
6 where to live, where my next paycheck was coming  
7 from. I had no direction whatsoever, I was just  
8 put out and left hanging.

9           What had caused this was that in  
10 late December the picture that was taken in  
11 October of me with the children was published in  
12 The Beacon shortly after Christmas I believe and  
13 this, in turn, upset the Serranos so much that  
14 they went down to the bishop and demanded my  
15 removal from the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

16           Q.       And in fact did the bishop have you  
17 removed from Immaculate Heart of Mary?

18           A.       Yes.

19           Q.       How was it he had you removed from  
20 Immaculate Heart of Mary?

21           A.       Simply by a letter. There was no official  
22 notice published in the paper. The people in the  
23 parish were puzzled by it because there was no  
24 announcement made whatsoever and they didn't know  
25 where I was. I called Father Ryan to see if he

1 could help me and he made arrangements for me to  
2 go up to St. Paul's Abbey in Newton just so I  
3 would have a place to hang my hat.

4 Q. Were you still receiving counseling  
5 at this time?

6 A. No.

7 Q. The counseling that the bishop had  
8 you go to, was that for counseling because of  
9 abusing boys?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And how long did you have that  
12 counseling?

13 A. I had about three sessions with Father  
14 Colucci.

15 Q. And that was it?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And did you stop because the bishop  
18 had only allowed three sessions? What was the  
19 situation with regard to your stopping?

20 A. I don't remember going back that far now.

21 Q. Is it possible that you stopped  
22 because the bishop had you removed from the  
23 parish?

24 A. No, I think what it was, was an evaluation  
25 by Father Colucci and after the third session, he

1 made a report to the bishop and I think that's  
2 where it ended. I don't remember cutting off  
3 abruptly and saying I don't like these therapy  
4 sessions and I'm not going back or anything like  
5 that, but it was just a way for Gregory to come up  
6 with an assessment of me to get to the bishop.

7 Q. Gregory Colucci?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. And then what happened -- so you  
10 have three sessions and after that the bishop --  
11 you receive a letter from the bishop advising you  
12 to leave Immaculate Heart of Mary immediately?

13 A. That's right.

14 Q. And you said, I think in your  
15 words, you were left high and dry; is that  
16 correct?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. And what, if anything, happened at  
19 that point?

20 A. I took up residence in St. Paul's Abbey in  
21 Newton, I stayed there for approximately two weeks  
22 and my classmate Father Elso E-L-S-O called me and  
23 said, "Jim, why don't you come over and stay with  
24 me at Green Pond in St. Simon's Church", so I  
25 stayed with Father Elso for about a week, but I