

CLAIMANT NO. 5 - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is currently 30 years old. He is single. He was an altar boy at St. John's the Evangelist in Beverly, Mass beginning in the fifth grade. Incredibly, Father Cotter was transferred to this parish around 1975 where he took over directing CYO and altar boy activities.

Beginning when [REDACTED] was approximately 13 years old Father Cotter began fondling the child's penis and causing [REDACTED] to fondle his [REDACTED]. He is able to recall approximately four or five episodes and then recalls being in constant fear of being further molested by Father Cotter.

Father Cotter made himself a sexual presence in the "modern" confessional where priest and confessor faced each other directly. Cotter sat with his legs spread wide and opened and closed them in an attempt to constantly bring [REDACTED] attention to his crotch. Cotter placed his hands on his own thighs and caressed them; he dangled his hands between his legs, and pressed them against his crotch. An erection was often visible, especially when he stood after absolving [REDACTED] of his sins.

In confession [REDACTED] told Cotter that he was attracted to men. Father Cotter said he could help cure him by using a number of therapies. There wasn't enough time to do this in the confessional so he said they would have to meet at the rectory. In an office at the rectory he discussed [REDACTED] sexuality. Again he made himself a sexual presence, e.g. tight fitting black pants, spread legs, self-caressing, and erections. He had [REDACTED] explain his sexual fantasies, which he did in graphic detail. [REDACTED] realizes now that Father Cotter was aroused by them. After several months of this [REDACTED] told Father Cotter he had fantasies about him. Father Cotter asked [REDACTED] for details and he gave them.

After hearing [REDACTED] fantasies over a number of months, Cotter one day asked [REDACTED] to ask him if he was gay. [REDACTED] was surprised by his request, but did ask -- Cotter said yes, he was gay. At that moment fantasy and reality converged and [REDACTED] became extremely anxious. That day Father Cotter asked [REDACTED] to help him unload chairs back at the school. He didn't want to but Cotter insisted. Against [REDACTED] pleas, Cotter forced him into a cafeteria bathroom. He pulled down [REDACTED] pants and proceeded to fondle his [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Cotter pulled down his pants and revealed his erect, uncircumcised

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[REDACTED]. He insisted that [REDACTED] touch it. After some time they pulled their pants up. Cotter then threatened him that if [REDACTED] ever told anyone it would ruin both their lives.

A few weeks later [REDACTED] returned to the rectory for continued "treatment". Cotter didn't understand how [REDACTED] and wanted [REDACTED] to show him. They went to Father Cotter's room, [REDACTED] undressed, laid on the floor, and masturbated while Father Cotter watched him. He said he would buy [REDACTED] male pornographic materials.

While [REDACTED] was in the 7th grade Cotter taught religious class once a week for an hour or so. One day Cotter sent [REDACTED] to get art supplies. He followed him into the room, closed the door, and began caressing him, pressing his body squarely against [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] recalls feeling extreme anger and powerlessness. He specifically remembers Cotter telling him that he loved him. He begged [REDACTED] to come see him in the rectory. [REDACTED] doesn't remember how he got away.

Another incident [REDACTED] recalls occurred while he was standing in the school yard during recess one afternoon. Cotter noticed bird excrement on [REDACTED] shoulder and insisted on helping to clean it up. Against [REDACTED] protests he took [REDACTED] into the boiler room where there was a sink. He wiped [REDACTED] shoulder with a cloth and began feeling [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] pressing his [REDACTED] up against [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] believes that after this last incident he was successful in avoiding Cotter, but the fear of being further molested lasted until the day he graduated and left. He never went to church again.

I have included some very powerful poetry that [REDACTED] has written regarding his experiences. I have also included a forensic report prepared by Dr. John Daignault at my request outlining the extensive harm caused by Father Cotter's outrageous and immoral conduct.

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