

Rev. George Rosenkranz '62

7/23/81

Received a call prompted by Fr. Wm. Helmick from Mr. Tim Barry, special police security officer at Sears Roebuck Store, Peabody. (Fr. Helmick had been told of incident by an unnamed priest) and had spoken to me). Mr. Barry related circumstances of Fr. Rosenkranz case. Fr. Rosenkranz went to men's room on Tues. P.M. at Sears - two others were in stalls: one left - went to Mr. B. - claimed someone was molesting him. Mr. B. went to men's room - verified presence of 2 men in stalls. - pretended to leave - returned quietly and found Fr. R. on knees - doing immoral action with another man - in stall - presumably, Mr. B. asked Fr. R. to come out - he refused - Mr. B. broke door and brought Fr. R. out - he says - Fr. protested - refused to identify self - had no identification - was cuffed - later brought to Peabody District Police Station - charged with felony "unnatural & lascivious act". - Fr. R. called lawyer who it turned out, was Judge Gannon of Saugus. - then Mr. B. heard Fr. R. identify self. Fr. R. was released on bail - for court appearance next day.

I spoke with Mr. O'Neil later, Personnel Manager of Sears who apologized that matter had gone as far as it did - but it had to because Fr. R. refused to identify himself. He said in cases like this it was a question of seeing court psychiatrist and case dismissed.

I made little comment except to say I would investigate.

7/24/81 - I met with Fr. R. at Chancery from 2 P.M. to 3 P.M. approximately - Fr. R. denied charges - said it was a case of being in "wrong place at wrong time" - was upset and angry - felt he was treated unjustly - talked about charging officer re: arrest - was placed in contact with Atty. Byden Bly of Saugus who told him not to worry - that everything would be alright - case would be dismissed. There is to be a court/trial on Sept. 2 but Fr. R. was told "not to worry" - that everything would be alright. Fr. R. expressed concern to me about his effectiveness at the parish if people know or heard of allegation etc.

I told him in light of his protestation of innocence I would support him. Possibly he would have to be changed if people began to think ill of him - or his pastoral effectiveness deteriorated because of malicious people in the parish or community. I indicated that we can't contact (court?) nor the media - we have to adjust and do the best we can - even in (?). Priest are vulnerable. Always used to be ???

Fr. R. had called B. Mulcahy but could not reach him at the time. He will keep me informed.

(Bishop Daily)

ROSENCRANTZ - 0440