

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rev. Charles Higgins
FROM: Sister Rita McCarthy, CSJ
DATE: May 20, 2000
RE: [REDACTED] (Rev. William Scanlan)
DOB: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] brought their daughter [REDACTED] to St. Catherine Norwood Rectory to meet with me today. The parents waited in a front room while I interviewed [REDACTED] in the dining room. [REDACTED] was dressed in casual and loose-fitting clothes. She is a [REDACTED] girl with a [REDACTED] build. She is the [REDACTED] child of [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] seemed to come willingly for the interview, yet she showed resistance about sharing her story all over again. She was not in any way unfriendly or discourteous. She simply said she was not ready to talk about it again and turned her head away avoiding eye contact. Throughout the interview [REDACTED] continued this posture although occasionally I made a point of engaging her in eye contact. As we talked, she became very flushed and was obviously uncomfortable.

[REDACTED] attends [REDACTED] Church in Stoughton, although she is a parishioner in another parish. She has great faith and is involved in the Teen Life Program. Nancy Goggin is the youth minister at this church. Nancy arranged for what I understand was a 24-hour fast in the church overnight in the church. At four o'clock in the morning Nancy noticed that [REDACTED] was not sleeping and was restless. Nancy asked [REDACTED] if she would like to talk about what was bothering her. ([REDACTED] communicated to me her vulnerability at that hour, as being in a rather weakened state.) She told Nancy about the rape, and Nancy advised her to report it to the Brockton Rape Center. [REDACTED] followed up on that suggestion and met with a counselor named Susan a number of times.

This is [REDACTED] account to me of her experience with Fr. Scanlan. When [REDACTED] was twelve years old, she was transferred to the Middle School. She told me that she felt very alone there and was depressed. A friend of the family suggested to her parents that she talk to Fr. Scanlan, which she did. She started seeing him in the fall of 1996, every other Sunday in his office. She recalls that on a Sunday sometime around St. Patrick's Day in 1997 (probably March 16 which was a Sunday) Father took her upstairs to his bedroom. She said he fondled her and penetrated her with his penis.

Right after that BOS-02 self-mutilated and was hospitalized for eight days at Pembroke Hospital for depression. BOS-02 remembers that she came home on Good Friday in 1997. The staff at Pembroke Hospital prescribed Zoloft. They had been giving it to her at the hospital. She told me that when she came home, she took a bunch of the pills at once. Then she stopped taking them completely. She said that she did not like Pembroke Hospital and that they did nothing to help her. They just put her on medication. She also told me that she did not tell them at the hospital about the rape.

██████ had no occasion to encounter Fr. Scanlan again because he left the parish a few months after this alleged incident.

██████ seems to have an obsession about suicide. She mentioned at one time that she spoke to a Fr. Mike who asked her to talk to teens about suicide. She also mentioned that today was the anniversary of the suicide of a friend, ██████, who hung herself a year ago.

At the time BOS-02 father was working at the ██████. She told me this was one of the reasons she did not report the event about Fr. Scanlan.

I had talked with the parents on May 15, 17 and 19. They informed me that ██████ had received A's in school until she transferred to Middle School (which seems to validate what BOS-02 described as an unhappy time for her). Then her marks dropped drastically. Mother told me that Pembroke Hospital ruled out PTSD. However, we know that BOS-02 never told them about an incident of rape. The ██████ family have hired Attorney ██████ whom they describe as a very good Catholic who has six children of his own. Mrs. ██████ is a very good friend of Sister Ricci, CSJ. They believe ██████ will help them and handle the case with discretion. They also told me the allegation has been reported to DSS, but they have not heard anything from this agency.

██████ wrote out a slip giving me permission to speak with Susan at the Rape Center and also with Nancy Goggin. Nancy's number is 781-961-6555 BOS-02 told me that Nancy would give me Susan's number if I needed to speak with her.

This was a very difficult interview. BOS-02 has already spoken with so many people about what she perceives as a very difficult and painful situation. She has spoken about it to Nancy, Susan at the Rape Center, a couple of her friends, to you, Fr. Higgins at length, and has skirted talking about it to her parents. In fact, she asked me not to tell her parents she was raped. Yet they do know she went to a rape center. During the periods of time in the interview when she was speaking more freely, I tried not to interrupt the flow of her account by interrogating her with questions.

[REDACTED]

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I recommended to BOS-02 that she talk with Nancy Hoort at Catholic Charities. In this way she could talk consistently to one person. Nancy could also see her parents at a different time so that they will know how to help BOS-02

After interviewing BOS-02 I met with her and her parents for a short time. I explained that I would be sending them a waiver to sign for the counseling and that I would be keeping in touch with them.

Parents: [REDACTED] and BOS-02

Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]