



DIOCESE of BRIDGEPORT

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OFFICE OF
CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

May 3, 1990

To: File of Father Charles T. Carr

From: Father Bronkiewicz
Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Religious

Re: Summary of Allegations of Sexual Misconduct and
Diocesan Response

On October 19, 1989, Mrs. W. Boyd Surran, [REDACTED], Wilton, Connecticut, 06897 ([REDACTED]), met with me to relate, on behalf of her son, Christopher, an incident which allegedly took place in the spring of 1982, involving Father Charles Carr, then Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton, Connecticut.

According to Mrs. Surran, Father Carr had taken a group of boys out for the day. Upon returning to Wilton, Father Carr had taken the other boys home, but instead of taking Christopher home, he had driven to the church parking lot and parked the car. While in the car, Father Carr allegedly began to tickle Christopher in spite of resistance on Christopher's part. Eventually, Christopher asked him to stop and to take him home. According to Mrs. Surran, who again relayed this to me on behalf of her son, it was obvious to Christopher at the time that Father Carr started trying to get his hands into Christopher's trousers. Mrs. Surran related the incident to the Pastor, Father Michael C. Palmer. At the time Father Palmer instructed Father Carr not to go near Christopher under any circumstances. Unfortunately, Father Palmer did not report the incident to either the Bishop or the Vicar for Clergy and Religious at the time. When Father Palmer confronted Father Carr, he denied the allegation. It was not until October of 1989, therefore, that the Diocese became aware of the alleged incident which took place in the spring of 1982.

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In the course of investigating the Surran allegation I telephoned Msgr. Andrew T. Cusack, my predecessor as Vicar for Clergy and Religious, to ask him if he knew of any other incidents, or any other similar accusations, against Father Carr. He informed me about another allegation that surfaced during Father Carr's assignment as a member of the faculty of Immaculate High School, Danbury, Connecticut, during which time, Father Carr resided at Saint Mary Parish, Bethel, Connecticut. Father Carr was assigned to Immaculate High School and to residence at Saint Mary's, Bethel on June 29, 1984. At some point during this assignment, Father Carr took two 8th grade boys to the movies. During the movie, Father Carr began to rub the leg of one of the boys who were seated on his left and right. The father of one boy had thought of reporting the alleged incident to the police, but reported it instead to the Pastor of Saint Mary in Bethel, Father Peter DeMarco, who, in turn, referred the parents to Msgr. Cusack, then Vicar for Clergy and Religious. Msgr. Cusack referred Father Carr to William Larkin, Th.D. for counseling/therapy. On September 20, 1985, Father Carr was transferred from the faculty of Immaculate High School, Danbury, to Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, East Norwalk, Connecticut, where he assumed the responsibilities of Parochial Vicar. Father Carr remained in therapy with Dr. Larkin for approximately three years. However, there are no written reports or evaluations of his progress in therapy in our files.

As a result of the Surran allegation, and the discovery of the second alleged incident in Bethel, we asked Father Carr to comply with the Diocesan policy, that is, a thorough psychiatric evaluation at the Institute of Living, Hartford, Connecticut. Father Carr was quite resistant to the idea of psychiatric evaluation because he had been in therapy at the request of the Diocese for a period of three years. Dr. Larkin, who is no longer on our official list of therapists, advised Father Carr not to comply with the Diocesan policy. However, Father Carr finally agreed and on January 10, 1990, was evaluated at the Institute of Living. The Diocese received a full report of that evaluation, dated January 31, 1990.

On April 3, 1990, Rev. Michael C. Palmer, Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilton, Connecticut, informed me of a meeting he had with Mr. M-025, Wilton, Connecticut, 06897 (M-025). The alleged series of incidents involved Father Carr and M-024, one of the M-025's sons. M-024 is

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presently about 19 years of age, and is an acknowledged alcoholic. He has been in a counseling/therapy relationship and the series of alleged incidents involving Father Carr surfaced in his counseling relationship. According to Mr. M-025, Father Carr developed a close relationship with the family, particularly with the [REDACTED] boys. He would take them to the movies quite often. He seemed to develop a closer relationship with M-024 than with the other boys. In 1981 when M-024 was in sixth grade, Father Carr, during these movie outings would be seated next to M-024, and would run his hands along M-024's thigh, but, according to Mr. M-025, never touched or attempted to touch his groin or genitals. At the time, M-024 tried to tell his parents that he did not enjoy being with Father Carr and tried to indicate to his parents that Father Carr was much too tactile with him. The parents, for whatever reason, did not take the protest seriously. Moreover, Mr. M-025, in his conversation with me, reported that one of his other sons had told him, at some point, that there was another family in Our Lady of Fatima Parish who had asked Father Carr never to return to their home, suggesting there might have been another incident or incidents involving another family in the parish.

In response to the M-024 allegation and the developing pattern of accusations, and in accordance with the policy of the Diocese, relating to sexual misconduct, we asked Father Carr to return to the Institute of Living for an in-patient evaluation, which he began on April 23, 1990. On April 11, 1990, Father Carr was granted an indefinite leave of absence from his assignment as Spiritual Director of Central Catholic High School, Norwalk, and as resident at Saint Philip Parish, Norwalk. Father Carr is still at the Institute of Living.

Mr. Michael Dolan, Diocesan Legal Counsel, has been informed of each allegation.

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presented to me by Mrs. Swoboda

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This incident occurred in the spring of 1982 when my son was 11 years old and a student at Our Lady of Fatima School in Wilton. Father Charles Carr was assistant pastor. One morning Father Carr called our house and said that since it was a school holiday he was taking several boys from the parish to Long Island to visit his sister and would our son like to go along, which he did. It was well after dark when my son returned. Even though it was a chilly evening my son was drenched with perspiration and was shaking. I held him close to me to calm him down and asked him what was wrong. He said that when they had returned to Wilton, Father Carr had taken the other boys home but instead of taking Chris home he had driven to the church parking lot and parked the car. By this time it was quite dark and to go to the church parking lot was cut of the way to our home.. He began to tickle my son in spite of Chris asking him to stop and take him home. It became obvious what he was trying to do when he started trying to get his hands into Chris' pants. Chris fought him and screamed at him, calling him "pervert". Chris finally doubled himself up against the door with his back to Father Carr and Father Carr started pounding on Chris' back and laughing this maniacal laugh. He finally gave up and brought Chris home. The next day Chris stayed in bed because he felt sick from the whole experience. Father Carr called on the phone and when Chris answered he told him he was going to get him and was again laughing this crazy laugh.

All the details of this incident were reported to the pastor, Father Michael Palmer. He told Father Carr not to go near Chris under any circumstances. He said he was going to try to get a new assistant but until he did he wrote out schedules of the masses and the celebrants so that Chris would not have to attend a mass Father Carr was celebrating.