

OFFICE OF SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE SERVICES
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE
SEXUAL ABUSE INTAKE REPORT

Date Report Taken: October 26, 2007

Time: Phone x In Person

Received By: Amy Peterson

REDACTED

Person Reporting:
Phone Number:
Address:



Allegations made by:
(if not same as above)

Name:
Address:
Phone:

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
Age at time of
Allegations: Ten through thirteen

Allegations Against: Father Lawrence Murphy
Time Period: 1970 to 1973
Where: St. John's School for the Deaf, Milwaukee WI
Reported: (Previously? To Whom?)

James Heidenthal who was an adult staff person at St. Johns. James then went on to tell parents of those students who were abused by Murphy. James also told [REDACTED] parents.

Alleged Abuse:

[REDACTED] was sent to St. John's at the age of ten. He was sent there because his father had heard from other parents of deaf children that St. John's was a good school and they were enrolling their children there and taking them out of the Minnesota School. [REDACTED] stated that he arrived at St. John's and was scared. He did not realize it was a residential school and that he would be staying there for long periods of time unable to visit his parent, because they lived 700 miles away. [REDACTED] described the dorms he stayed in as one big open room with lots of beds. He said that there were rooms with doors in the corner of the dorm where the staff stayed. [REDACTED] said that some of his friends from Minnesota were at St. John's and they helped him learn the ropes. He continued to be very homesick through the first year. Early in his stay, [REDACTED] said that bedtime was early and he often couldn't sleep and would lay in bed awake. Most nights it was completely dark, however he would often see a shadow of someone walking through the dorm. He said one night stood out because it was a full moon and more brightly lit in the room and he could see that the adult was taking a student out of the dorm. One of the students in the bed next to him told him that this always happens and to get used to it. He watched as the student went out of the room with the adult but he couldn't make out who the adult was. One night during the first year, [REDACTED] said the regular dorm supervisor wasn't there and there was a replacement person. He said again he noticed the shadow come into the room and he thought it was the fill-in supervisor. He got up to go to the bathroom and saw Father Murphy with another student. [REDACTED] said that Murphy told him to be quiet and go back to bed. [REDACTED] said he didn't understand, went back to bed and didn't think anything of it. After Christmas break, [REDACTED] said he was sleeping when something woke him up. It was Father Murphy and he gestured to [REDACTED] toward him. He took [REDACTED] into the bathroom and began to touch [REDACTED] penis. While doing so, he said to [REDACTED] doesn't this feel good? [REDACTED] reported that he was terrified and didn't know what to say but a reluctant yes. [REDACTED] said that he began crying and Father Murphy comforted him and kissed him on the head and sent him back to bed. [REDACTED] said he cried and cried that night. Approximately two to three weeks later, [REDACTED] said he saw another boy crying and although he didn't talk to him, looking back, he thinks that the same thing probably happened to him.

In [REDACTED] second year, he said that on one occasion, he saw two boys "playing with each other" and thought they must have learned that from Father Murphy. They weren't in [REDACTED] group of friends and were a little younger. [REDACTED] still stayed in the same dorm although some of his friends moved into the older dorm. Tom Tannehill became the dorm supervisor and [REDACTED] said he would touch the boys. He was a former student and was hired by the school. Tom would threaten [REDACTED] with demerits. He would say that if [REDACTED] wouldn't do what Tom wanted that he would get lots of demerits. Tom would say things like "how will you explain the demerits to your parents." Tom would have [REDACTED] touch him and also perform oral sex on him. Tom would also touch [REDACTED] genitals. This happened in the dorms throughout the entire second year. [REDACTED] said that when he did refuse, Tom would give him demerits and he remembers going home for Easter break and his father asking him what all the demerits were for. He didn't tell his father the real reason and made up other excuses.

By the third year [REDACTED] moved into the junior dorm. He was in training to be an altar boy and there was a schedule posted. After one of the Masses, Murphy was alone with [REDACTED] and one other boy. [REDACTED] said Murphy told them to close the door. He then had them remove their gowns and take their pants off. [REDACTED] stated that he thought Murphy was going to spank him, but in the light of day, Murphy touched their genitals. [REDACTED] said he tolerated it, but felt sick. The other boy said it was alright. [REDACTED] stated that he thought this student was from California.

After this incident, he would say he was sick when it was his turn to be an altar boy. He said they would take his temperature and when it was normal ask what was wrong and wonder why he was sick. He said that he got out of performing Mass whenever he could. Finally Jim, a teacher at the school, asked [REDACTED] what was wrong, stating "you're sick all of the time." [REDACTED] said he told Jim about what Tom was doing. According to [REDACTED] Jim must have told Murphy, because he came to [REDACTED] and asked why he told Jim about what Tom had done. Eventually, [REDACTED] said he told Jim about Father Murphy too. Jim didn't want to believe it, so he asked a few other students who confirmed [REDACTED] story. [REDACTED] said he felt safe with Jim and that Jim began to tell the parents of other students in Minnesota what was going on. He drove many of them home to their parents. He drove [REDACTED] home and instructed [REDACTED] to tell his parents about the abuse. [REDACTED] said he couldn't and wasn't yet ready. Jim gave him a couple of weeks to tell his parents and when he didn't, Jim phoned [REDACTED] parents and told them about the abuse.

History:

[REDACTED] stated that he was the only deaf child of the family. He said he felt completely vulnerable at St. John's School. He wanted to go there and be with his other deaf friends from Minnesota. [REDACTED] brought year books to this reporter which had pictures of him and the friends that were in his class. [REDACTED] said when his father found out about the abuse, he just said that there would be no punishment and to keep it quiet. Since the abuse occurred, [REDACTED] has refused to go to any church. His current wife is Catholic and his daughter, age seven, is just beginning Catholic School. He said that seeing her so young and vulnerable, like he was, made him want to do something about what had happened to him. He had also talked to others who encouraged him to come forward, including his mother. They had seen the article in the Journal Sentinel about St. John's and Father Murphy. He stated that he has not told his wife about the abuse yet. She doesn't know he is meeting with this reporter. He is very uncomfortable sharing his story. He said he has been ashamed of what happened and still is. He is angry and got very tearful when he talked about the conversation with his father when the abuse came out. He said that his father is deceased, but his mother is still living although in poor health. He wants to get this off of his chest. He is hoping to one day share this story of abuse with his wife. He no longer goes to deaf functions or reunions because it is too uncomfortable for him, knowing that many attending had been abused.

Next Steps:

[REDACTED] wants to get this behind him. He believes that reporting the abuse will help. He also stated that he would like to pursue mediation and that he would like Sherwood to be his mediator. He stated that he had talked to other deaf friends who had gone through mediation and they had recommended Sherwood. This reporter will assist [REDACTED] as needed. When offered the opportunity to meet with the Archbishop, he declined for now. He doesn't want to retell his story and is very uncomfortable with clergy and stated that it was difficult for him to meet at the diocesan building in La Crosse. He did say however that he would like a letter of apology sent to him and his mother from the Archbishop.

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archbishop Timothy Dolan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bishop Richard Sklba | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fr. Curt Frederick (Clergy) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fr. Al Veik (Religious) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rick Tank (Non-Cleric) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barbara Anne Cusack |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Attorney | | |

Intake form
Ap/Revised 8/9/07