

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

Date Report Taken: June 21, 2007

REDACTED

Time: Phone In Person

Received By: Amy Peterson

Person Reporting:

Phone Number:

Address:



Allegations made by:
(if not same as above)

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Date of Birth:

Age at time of

Allegations: Seven - Ten years old

Allegations Against: Father Lawrence Murphy

Time Period: 1968/1973(74)

Where:

Reported: (Previously? To Whom?) Parents

Alleged Abuse: [REDACTED] began this interview stating that he is deeply ashamed about his experiences at St. John's School for the Deaf. He was sent by his parents to St. John's at around the age of seven. His family lived in [REDACTED] WI. [REDACTED] had attended another deaf academy prior to his going to St. Johns. The academy taught verbal skills, not sign language. When his parents transferred him to St. John's he didn't sign, which made him feel even more isolated and vulnerable at St. John's where the communication modality was signing. He reported his first memory of Murphy being in a dark hallway of the school with Murphy walking towards him dressed all in black with the white collar. [REDACTED] said his parents were devout Catholics and switched schools because they had heard about St. Johns and wanted [REDACTED] to go to the Catholic School. [REDACTED] said during his first night sleeping in the dorms, he was molested by Tom Tannehill. According to [REDACTED] Tom was one of the dorm supervisors at that time. [REDACTED] stated that he was terrified and cried during the incident. He also said that it seemed that Sister Martha whose room was next to the dorm, must have known what was going on but never opened her door to protect him. [REDACTED] stated that Tom sexually molested him throughout the years at the school but stated that there were too many incidents to remember an exact number. [REDACTED] stated that at this time he did not want to do a formal complaint against Tom, because he isn't sure he could handle the possibility of going to court. [REDACTED] reported that it was very difficult for him to describe the sexual acts that he experienced with Murphy. He stated that there were times when Murphy would perform oral sex on him and force [REDACTED] to perform oral sex on him. [REDACTED] stated that over a period of a few years, there were so many incidents he said someone was molesting him or other boys daily. [REDACTED] stated that his family was wealthy and his father gave a lot of money to the school. When [REDACTED] attempted to tell his parents, they didn't believe him or understand him. [REDACTED] is the only deaf child to hearing parents. He said that when he would try to tell his mother what was happening Murphy would intentionally interpret the wrong messages to her. He would try to tell her in front of Murphy but Murphy would misstate what [REDACTED] was trying to sign. [REDACTED] father invited Murphy to go fishing with the family during the summers. [REDACTED] said that his father made him share a hotel room with Murphy. [REDACTED] stated that he objected but that his father insisted. He tried to avoid Murphy on the fishing trips by hanging around with his brother. On these trips, Murphy would abuse him in the hotel room. [REDACTED] stated that while he was a student at St. Johns, he was touched in Murphy's office and in his dorm room repeatedly over a period of several years. He stated that even during confession Murphy made him talk about masturbation and confess the sexual acts he was forced to engage in with the Tom Tannehill and the other boys in the school. [REDACTED] said the only thing that eventually saved him from the situation was that a friend's mother convinced [REDACTED] mother what Murphy had done to the boys and then eventually she believed it happened. [REDACTED] stated that although his mother eventually believed that he had been sexually abused, she never told [REDACTED] father. She didn't speak of it at all and [REDACTED] felt alone and ashamed as a result.

History:

[REDACTED] stated that the sexual abuse at St. John's severely damaged him. He said he wet the bed until he was fourteen years old. He stated that he would be awake at night trembling with fear that Tom Tannehill or Lawrence Murphy would come into the dorm room and molest him. He also stated that he was isolated at home and his mother didn't understand him and was confused and frustrated by his emotional outbursts when he would try to tell her what was happening at the school. [REDACTED] stated that he ran away from St. John's on so many occasions that he was seen as rebellious and emotionally

troubled. [REDACTED] stated that his education was completely sabotaged by the trauma of the molestation. He can only read at a second grade level. He stated that he lived in complete fear and as he got older, he got very angry. He still experiences flashbacks. [REDACTED] stated that in addition to the fear and shame of the sexual molestation, the math teacher [REDACTED] would physically abuse the boys. He said that he was afraid all of the time at St. John's. He also stated that he was told by other students to keep his mouth shut about what was happening. [REDACTED] states that he is deeply ashamed and has a lot of anger stored up because when he tried as a child to protect himself, no one stepped forward to help, even though he believes other adults at the school knew.

Next Steps:

[REDACTED] would like to begin therapy to deal with the anger and flashbacks. VAC gave him a referral. [REDACTED] would also like to receive compensation for the damage he suffered as a result of the sexual abuse at St. John's. VAC gave [REDACTED] the contact information for Eva Soeka.

- Archbishop Timothy Dolan
- Bishop Richard Sklba
- Fr. Curt Frederick (Clergy)
- Fr. Al Veik (Religious)
- Rick Tank (Non-Cleric)
- Barbara Anne Cusack
- District Attorney

Intake form
Ap/Revised 12/27/06