

OFFICE OF SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE SERVICES
ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

SEXUAL ABUSE INTAKE REPORT

Date Report Taken: May 4, 2006

Time: _____ Phone In Person

Received By: Amy Peterson

Person Reporting:
Phone Number:
Address:

[REDACTED]

REDACTED

Allegations made by:
(if not same as above)

Name:
Address:
Phone:

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]
Age at time of
Allegations: Seven years through 15/16 years

Allegations Against: Father Lawrence Murphy

Time Period: 1963 through 1971/72
Where: St. Johns School for the Deaf
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Reported: (Previously? To Whom?) The only person [REDACTED] has shared this information is with his wife.

Alleged Abuse:

[REDACTED] reports he began attending St. John's School for the Deaf at a very young age. He thinks he was three years old. He states that he remembers being fearful of the priests and nuns. He all he remembers before the age of seven is being afraid because of the garments priests and nuns wore. His first memory of sexual abuse is at the age of seven. He recalls sleeping in the dorms. He said there were bunk beds. He stated that he was sleeping and he said he was lightly tapped and when he looked saw Murphy with his finger against his mouth, indicating that [REDACTED] should be very quiet. Father Murphy then proceeded to put his hands on [REDACTED] penis underneath his pajamas. He said that this happened occasionally over the years. [REDACTED] states that the nun that supervised his dorm room was unable to keep control and so there were high school boys that would come in during the evening to assist with bedtime rituals, like bathing, getting into pajamas etc. [REDACTED] recalls that in the evening, the high school aged boys would have all the younger boys pull down their pants and they would hit them with their hands. On one of these evenings, he recalls that Murphy witnessed this and said "you must have been bad". [REDACTED] said he would face his bed, put his hands up against his bed and wait for his turn to be hit on the buttocks as the older students went down the line. [REDACTED] reported that Tom Tannehill, an older student at the school, while both were in their pajamas, touched [REDACTED] genitals with his hands. [REDACTED] states that this seemed to be normal and he didn't know anything was wrong with this behavior. [REDACTED] states that he was often rambunctious and often seen as a bit of a troublemaker. He remembers in seventh grade, [REDACTED], another student would tell on him. When [REDACTED] was in eighth grade, he remembers another dorm supervisor, not sure of the name [REDACTED] came into the room told him to pull down his pants and touched [REDACTED] penis masturbating him. [REDACTED] said that when they had to go to confession, there was always a long line for Father Zerkel and so he would go to Murphy. He said Murphy would ask him if he masturbated and he said yes, then Murphy would say "I never touched you, I've never done that". When [REDACTED] finally went to Zerkel for confession after Murphy left the school, he confessed that he masturbated and remembers being surprised when Zerkel said that he didn't need to know that and that it was normal part of life.

History:

[REDACTED] is the only deaf child in his family. He said he never felt close to his brothers and sisters because he grew up at St. Johns. His parents are very Catholic and devout and have never asked him if he was abused by Murphy and he has not disclosed this to them. He says for a long time he thought he was one of a few, until recently, when he read the article in the paper about Murphy. He says that until he began dating and he left St. Johns he thought that what he had experienced there was normal. He didn't realize until later that it was wrong. He has always denied being abused when asked by others in the deaf community. He recalled a conversation with Tom Tannehill when Tom reported that he had been

REDACTED

abused by Murphy. [REDACTED] did not disclose his abuse in that conversation. [REDACTED] says that what happened to him at St. Johns has made him very uncomfortable in church and with the Catholic Faith. He has not been able to recover that faith. He feels that this has been a great loss. He said he will go to events at church but always sit in the back. [REDACTED] states that his wife has always been understanding and very supportive of his needs. [REDACTED] and his wife have three children, one being deaf. He stated that he would never let his deaf child attend a school that was residential because of his fear that the same thing might happen. At this time, [REDACTED] gets most of his support from his wife and children. He says he rarely sees his parents or siblings, only at birthdays and other special events. He has no desire to share this information with any of them.

Next Steps:

Victim Assitant Coordinator provided information about the Archdiocese support for therapy and about the mediation system. VAC will be available ongoing for support as needed.

Archbishop Timothy Dolan

Bishop Richard Sklba

Fr. Curt Frederick (Clergy)

Fr. Al Veik (Religious)

Rick Tank (Non-Cleric)

Barbara Anne Cusack

District Attorney

Diane Knight