

assisting us pull off the robes. We thought Father Lavigne was a cool guy. He didn't act like a priest. He acted like a playboy, very carefree and never serious outside the church. We would cruise with him in a car which was a convertible. I didn't know whose convertible it was, but he also drove a funeral-like car. either dark blue or black, with four doors. It could have been a cadillac. We usually drove to Friendly's. I didn't go with him as often as Danny did. I do remember that there were Playboy magazines in the convertible, under the driver's seat. Father Lavigne gave them to us to look at and in fact encouraged it.

We played street hockey alot (sic) on Lumae St. in Springfield. I can remember very clearly that on many occasions, we would be in the middle of a game, well before supper time, everybody would be having a good time, all of a sudden I would see Danny crying and I would look up to Prouty St. which was about five houses away, and see Father Lavigne parked in the big four-door car, but he wouldn't come out of his car or park any closer like he was trying to conceal his identity. Danny would say "I have to go" and he would run to the car crying with no further explanation. Danny told me that Father Lavigne was his uncle and that's why I never thought any more about it. This would happen alot. And Danny was with Father Lavigne alot (sic). Where Father Lavigne parked his car on Prouty St. was only about five houses from the Croteau house. I know that Father Lavigne did not bring Danny home to his (Danny's) house as he went the opposite direction. They drove towards Sunrise Terrace down Lumae St.

I know Danny seemed to latch on to Father Lavigne because he didn't have many friends, and it seemed like his father was never home. We never went to Danny's house.

The above statement is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge."

statement reveals that Lavigne had often given Danny alcohol and, according to even encouraged it. This contradicts Lavigne's claim that he had never given Danny alcohol. The information that Lavigne had in the past given Danny both alcohol and chewing gum is consistent with the findings of the autopsy which showed both the presence of chewing gum in his stomach and a blood-alcohol content of .18 percent. statement also reveals that Danny was often alone with Father Lavigne. Further evidence of this is the fact that Danny slept overnight at Lavigne's parents house on the night of April 7. This information contradicts Lavigne's claim to investigators that whenever he took Danny somewhere, it was with his brothers or a group of kids. In light of these inconsistencies, this officer believes Lavigne has intentionally misled investigators by downplaying his level of involvement with Danny.

I know from my experience and training that a perpetrator of a crime will often lie to or mislead investigators in an attempt to conceal their involvement in the crime. A perpetrator will often intentionally fail to disclose pertinent details or facts in order to prevent being associated with persons who are named in the investigation. If the investigation confirms that a suspect did in fact know the victim or accomplice, the suspect will often downplay his relationship with this person. For example, a perpetrator may explain that he or she had not seen the victim in a long time and did not know him or her very well. This is done in an attempt to prevent the focus of the investigation from shifting toward the perpetrator.

statement reveals that Father Lavigne would often park five houses away from the Croteau residence and wait for Danny to come over to his car. In his statement, details how Danny would often start to cry upon seeing Father Lavigne. In this officer's opinion, the above information suggests that an unusual relationship existed between Father Lavigne and Daniel Croteau, a relationship harboring deep-seated emotional ties.

I know from my experience and training that cases of child molestation invariably involve strong emotional feelings on the part of the victim. These emotions are extremely powerful and may range from feelings of guilt and shame, to rage and hatred toward the assailant. The victim feels he or she cannot share this secret with anyone and as a result, they may often feel isolated and alone. Danny's reaction to seeing Father Lavigne parked on the street is a strong indicator of this type of emotional turmoil.

The following is a statement made by Carl and Bernice Croteau on May 27, 1993 regarding the relationship between Danny and Father Lavigne. This statement illustrates that Danny and Father Lavigne spent a great deal of time together and that Danny often stayed overnight at the rectory. Furthermore, this statement reveals that this relationship had been continuing at the time of the murder:

"Danny became acquainted with Father Lavigne when he became ass't Pastor at St. Catherine's of Siena. Our four other sons were altar boys at the time and serve mass with Father. Father would come to our home an visit 3 or 4 times a week. He would some times take one son for a ride or to visit his mother and father's home. At times he would call an ask if he could stay over night dropping him off in the morning. At first Danny wasn't usually included. Danny became an altar boy taught by Father Lavigne and was an altar boy for 5 years or better. Danny serve mass with Father Lavigne mostly every Sunday while Father was at St. Catherines. Father Lavigne would pick Danny up on Friday or Saturday evening two or three times a month

during school year and three times a week during school vacation time. They were always alone during these trips and over night stays, this continue when Father Lavigne was transfer to St. Mary's parish in Springfield. He Father Lavigne continue to visit our family home and continue to take one of our son's on rides or trips. However Danny was the one Father most frequently took for rides and kept him over night. The over night stays happen when Father Lavigne would call around 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm an asked to keep Danny over night. This hour was late for our sons. This relationship continue until Danny's murder. Father always pick Danny up alone and dropped him off alone. There were times that we didn't know that Danny was with Father Lavigne until Father would call us to tell us he was with him and wanted to keep him over night, this would happen occasionally. This statement is written from the best of our knowledge."

On Monday, April 17, 1972, two days after the body of Daniel Croteau was found, a telephone call was made to the Croteau home. Carl Croteau Jr., then nineteen years of age, answered the telephone. He has stated the caller said, "We're very sorry what happened to Danny. He saw something behind the circle he shouldn't have seen. It was an accident." The caller then hung up without saying anything further. Carl Croteau Jr. made an initial statement to Chicopee Police on August 7, 1972 in which he stated that he felt the voice could have been Father Lavigne's voice in disguise.

In a subsequent interview with this officer on April 22, 1993 Carl Croteau Jr. made the following statement:

"The following is my statement regarding a telephone call I had received on April 17, 1972. This is in reference to my brother Daniel Croteau's homicide investigation.

On Monday, April 17, 1972, at approximately 1:00 or 1:30 PM, I was at my home at 106 Fernclift Avenue, Springfield. I was standing in the kitchen between the living room and the kitchen doorway. The house was full of family and friends. The phone rang. I was the closest to it so I picked it up.

I said hello. There was a long pause and I said hello again. After I repeated myself, the person on the other end of the phone said, "We're very sorry what happened to Danny. He saw something behind the circle he shouldn't have seen. It was an accident". This was a male voice and it was very familiar to me. At that point I got a little panicky because I realized I was talking with somebody who obviously knew something about my brother's death. The only thing I could think of to say was, "Who is this?" After several times asking, "Who is this?", the party in question hung up.

My father had come over to me while I was on the phone. He was saying, "Take it easy, who is it?" When I hung up I was

a little distraught and my father said, "Take it easy, if another call comes in just take it easy and keep them on the phone as long as you can."

At this point my father called the Chicopee Police or the State Police, I'm not sure which and reported the call. I went downstairs to change to get ready for the wake. During the week after the phone call, it was bothering me because I recognized the voice on the phone but I just couldn't place the face with the voice at the time because of all the emotion and activity that was going on with the wake and the funeral. We're a big family and there was a lot of activity and commotion going on in the house.

The realization of who the voice was came during a conversation with the Chicopee Police. I believe I was speaking with a Captain of the Chicopee Police and Lieutenant Fitzgibbon of the State Police. This conversation took place at my parent's home. That's when they informed us that Father Lavigne was the chief suspect. Immediately I realized that the voice on the phone had been Father Lavigne. The officers asked me if I thought that the voice on the phone could have been Father Lavigne. I told them that I felt it could be and the only reason I hesitated was the shock of who they were telling me the chief suspect was in my brother's death. There was a lot of emotion at that moment and it was a shock affect. Father Lavigne had said the funeral mass and the final prayer at the cemetery. I really didn't want to believe it. He was a trusted friend, someone you could go to as a counselor or confidant, someone you could talk to. The officers asked me to come down to the station to give them a statement which I eventually did. Most of the conversations that took place during the first two weeks were more of a question and answer type conversation. They took notes but they never asked me to sign anything at that time.

At this point, I am as confident, if not more confident that that was indeed Father Lavigne's voice on the other end of the line when I received that phone call on April 17, 1972. I hear that voice everyday of my life and I'll never forget it. There is no question in my mind that the voice was that of Father Lavigne.

I knew Father Lavigne very well at that time. I was an alter (sic) boy at St. Catherine's of Sienna with my brothers including Danny when Father Lavigne was there. I would say that at the time I probably (sic) had conversation with Father Lavigne on the phone at least once a week. We were associated through both church activities and outside activities such as camping, overnight trips, trips to the mountains, fishing, things of that nature. He was a family friend at the time. I talked to him on the phone when he was at St. Catherine's rectory and St. Mary's rectory. I talked to him on the phone when he was at his parent's house in Chicopee. He would stop

by the house on occasion and pick one of us up at times for incidental things, to go for rides, or to go to a movie or to look for antiques. And there were times he would come by the house just to talk, to stop and visit. I knew him very well at the time. There is no question in my mind that the voice on the phone was that of Father Lavigne's."

During the telephone call to Carl Croteau, Jr., the caller made reference to, "the circle." "The circle" refers to an area located directly behind the Sixteen Acres Library which is located at 1187 Parker St., Springfield, in the center of the Sixteen Acres section of the city. In the late 1960's, the city had developed a wooded area behind the library and created a small sitting or reading area. A circle was made with benches around a large oak tree. Area youths began to congregate at the circle and eventually this group of kids became known as "the circle gang."

The "circle" was located in Daniel Croteau's neighborhood, less than one half mile from his home. Furthermore, St. Catherine's Church which is where Father Lavigne was first assigned and where he first came to know the Croteau boys is located one half mile from the circle. All three locations are located within a half mile radius. And in speaking with Carl Croteau Jr., he has stated that while growing up, he and his brothers were very familiar with "the circle."

The Circle Gang became so notorious in the area due to their rowdy behavior, that a book was written about them in 1969. The author of the book is identified as James A. Coleman, a local writer and professor of physics at American International College. Professor Coleman was very active with the youth in the Sixteen Acres neighborhood and wrote the book as a way of better understanding the problems associated with adolescence. He is now retired and still resides in Springfield. (Refer to statement and book references Addendum G)

In his book, "The Circle," Professor Coleman illustrates what life was like in the Circle Gang from the perspective of one of the members of the gang. Although the names of the characters in the book have been changed, the story is based on fact. The setting of the book accurately depicts what the center of Sixteen Acres looked like at that time including the library, A&P shopping center and Friendly's store.

In chapter thirteen, Professor Coleman introduces a character named Father Ravine. Father Ravine is assigned to what is referred to as St. Jude's Church and becomes closely associated with the boys who are members of the Circle Gang. Father Ravine is well liked by the Circle Gang and gets them more involved with church activities. Eventually however, the book describes how Father Ravine is transferred to another parish and how this upsets the Circle Gang.

On May 6, 1993 this officer interviewed Professor Coleman about his book, "The Circle." The purpose of this meeting was to confirm if Coleman in his book, was actually referring to Father Richard Lavigne when he used the character name, Father Ravine. As a result of this meeting, Professor Coleman confirmed that the character Ravine was based on Father Lavigne and he further stated that the role of Ravine in the book accurately depicted the true to life relationship between Lavigne and the members of the Circle Gang. He further stated that he knew Danny Croteau from the area but that Danny was not a member of the Circle Gang. Coleman also confirmed that St. Jude's church was a synonym for St. Catherine of Siena on Parker Street where Father Lavigne was first assigned and where he first associated with the Circle Gang. This information establishes a close association between Father Lavigne and the Circle Gang of Sixteen Acres. This association is relevant in light of the phone call to Carl Croteau Jr. in which the reference was made to "the circle."

On March 12, 1993 this officer interviewed

is currently

has stated that when he was younger he served as an altar boy at St. Mary's parish when Father Lavigne was assigned there. He has said that Father Lavigne became very close with his family and that Lavigne would often stop at his house for dinner or just to visit. would often go on overnight trips with Father Lavigne to his parent's house, or to Ashfield, MA where Father Lavigne had just built a house.

recalls being in Father Lavigne's car one day traveling along Parker Street, Springfield near St. Catherine's church. has described Father Lavigne's car at the time as a 1962 Maroon colored Ford Mustang. states that as they drove along Parker Street, Father Lavigne was talking about a group of youths who were causing trouble in the area near the House of Television which is near the corner of Parker Street and Wilbraham Road. states, "I got the impression that he (Father Lavigne) knew who these kids were or some of whom they were and that he had some dealings with them. I don't remember specifically any names or what his dealings with them were but the name of the whole group that sticks out in my mind was, 'The Circle'. That must have been mentioned more than once because that stands out in my mind." This is important to note as the telephone call which was received by Carl Croteau Jr. on April 17, 1972 made reference to "the circle."

The information supplied by is important as it further establishes a tie between Father Lavigne and the Circle Gang. Although he does not recall exactly when this conversation with Lavigne took place, has stated that his

relationship with Father Lavigne was contemporaneous with the time of the murder of Daniel Croteau. In statement, he also makes reference to an incident in which Father Lavigne had given him alcohol. states that while on an overnight stay at Father Lavigne's parents house, Father Lavigne took him downstairs to the basement and offered him what thought was a glass of water. Father Lavigne then made a drink for himself. After one sip out of his drink, found out that it was a martini and he practically spit it out. He states that Father Lavigne then laughed. He states that was the only time Father Lavigne offered him liquor.

This information describes an incident when Father Lavigne took downstairs to the finished basement of his parent's house in Chicopee. While downstairs, Lavigne gave what he thought was water but instead was a martini. On April 7, 1972, Danny Croteau stayed overnight in the basement of Lavigne's parents house and returned home sick and vomiting the next day. During interviews with Lavigne about the night of April 7, he denied giving Danny alcohol, but as revealed by statement and numerous other statements on file, Lavigne has in the past given many boys alcohol, including Danny. The statement by Danny's mother that he came home the next morning sick after being with Lavigne should be noted.

On May 10, 1993 this officer received a letter from which is dated May 3, 1993. This is a supplemental statement to the initial statement he made to Trooper Mosman on December 31, 1991. In his first statement, described being molested by Lavigne during an overnight camping trip he had went on with the Croteau family in Goshen, MA when he was about ten or eleven years old.

In this supplemental statement, states that this incident occurred during the summer of 1968. He describes the following:

"To whom it may concern,

I recently had an opportunity to speak to my brother regarding the weekend I, was sexually molested by Richard Lavigne. We began this discussion with my inquiry of wether (sic) or not had been molested as well. He was not.

As we spoke of that weekend in Goshen, Ma. a fog seemed to lift from my memory. He spoke of things as he remembered them and those same memories came rusing back to me clear and true. We both agreed upon the recollection of Danny Croteau, being the youngest one there, as the focal point of name calling and mild ridicule by his 3 brothers, Joe, Michael and Greg and the 3 boys from my family, It was obvious that Danny was frustrated and upset that Lavigne joined in the taunting. He also seemed upset at not being the focal point of

Lavigne's attention. More than once Danny threatened Lavigne with the words "I'll tell...! I'll tell!" This had an obvious effect on Lavigne. He began to pay more attention to Danny and ordered us to stop the name calling. He also showed a change in behavior due to the threats. At one point Danny and I were vieying (sic) for Lavigne's attention when I pushed him to the floor. Lavigne reacted violently by slapping me across the face so hard it knocked me down to the floor.

I think the change in Lavigne's behavior on that summer weekend 25 years ago was a direct result of Danny Croteau threatening to tell. At the time I thought "I wonder what he has on Lavigne". That night I was molested by Lavigne and I then figured that Lavigne must have molested Danny too.

I failed to recall any of this because I buried everything about that weekend due to the shame and guilt I felt. The discussion I had with my brother on April 17, 1993 was the first time I had spoken about that weekend in detail with him. His recollections stirred many memories I had buried.

If Danny Croteau had begun threatening Lavigne with exposure as early as 1967 or 1968, who knows how serious these threats became by the time he was murdered in 1972? I believe they became too much for Lavigne to handle. I believe the violence he displayed in striking me in 1968 was displayed again in 1972 when he lost control of it and murdered Danny Croteau. Only God and Richard Lavigne know for sure."

The report filed by Trooper Mosman of Hampshire CPAC has been included within this affidavit for one specific purpose. The statements of victims contained within her report demonstrate a long term and widespread pattern of sexual assault and molestation committed by Father Lavigne upon these boys. Based on these statements, this pattern emerges and reflects Lavigne's life-long attraction to prepubescent boys. Beginning when he was seventeen years old and continuing before and after the murder of Danny Croteau, this sexual attraction and fixation on boys led to Lavigne's indictment in Greenfield Superior Court in 1991 on multiple counts of Rape of a Child and Indecent Sexual Assault on a Child. This type of behavior has not been confined to one period of his life nor limited to one specific parish where he has been assigned. Rather, this behavior has persisted throughout his adult life and at three separate parishes where he has worked with children.

In reading Trooper Mosman's report, it is clear that the pattern which emerges contains specific, identifiable characteristics which are repeated time and again with each subsequent victim. This is highlighted by the following:

Statements on file show that for the most part, Father Lavigne's victims have been altar boys under his supervision. Further, these boys are often brothers of the same family such as the the the the
the and Joseph and Gregory Croteau. Often, Lavigne