

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rev. Charles Higgins ✓
FROM: Sister Rita McCarthy, CSJ RVM
DATE: July 1, 1999
RE:) (Rev. Joseph P. Reilly dec.)

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At the suggestion of Rev. Kenneth Loftus, SJ of St. Ignatius Church Newton, I called and set up an appointment for today. We met in a small reception room at the Chancery. [] wanted to present his complaint in the context of his life experience.

[] told me he is a recovering alcoholic, sober since 1982. He suffers from mild depression, medicated with Zoloft. He lives with his wife and together they have had [] children, [] boys and one girl. Their age range now is from 21 to 33. They are all college graduates. [] graduated from [] in 1958 with a BA in []. His mother went to [] school and was a []. His father took courses at [] College and was a [] in Milton where the family lived.

[] told me he feels that he has abdicated his role as an authority figure in his family letting his wife make all the decisions. He has recently discussed this with his children and apologized to them and explained to them that he had grown up in a cold, abusive and unloving family. He further describes his family of origin as dysfunctional with physical abuse present. The family was lacking in warmth and any display of affection.

The family dynamic led to a lack of ability to experience intimacy or a show of emotions. [] wanted me to understand that even now his "anger" towards Father Reilly is a calculated anger, not emotive. At the time of public revelations about John Porter, []'s one-time incident with Father Reilly surfaced.

Father Reilly started a boys choir at St. Agatha Parish in Milton. [] was very musical and even conducted the choir at times. He was very involved and trusted Father implicitly. One night Father insisted on driving [] home and even allowed [] to drive. [] believes he was probably 16 years old and had just started driving. Father told him to stop the car a short distance from [] home. Suddenly Father grabbed him and started kissing him. This went on for about five minutes during which time [] tried to fight him off and get out of the car. Father told him to just drive to his home, and he let [] out. [] did not tell his parents what happened. He simply went to his room and to bed. He sublimated the event and never talked about it to anyone until he went to Father Loftus recently for spiritual direction.

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knows his life on the surface appears quite normal but in fact he needs help due to the complexity of his emotional development. Before he can derive the kind of comfort and spiritual growth he desires through the process of spiritual direction he needs counseling. I gave him a list of therapists, which we went over together. He signed a waiver in my presence. I asked him to call me when he had chosen a therapist.