

Father Edward M. DePaoli

Father Edward M. DePaoli, ordained in 1970, was convicted in 1986 of receiving child pornography through the mail. A 1985 search by U.S. Postal Inspectors of his rectory room at Holy Martyrs Church in Oreland turned up an estimated \$15,000 worth of pornography. Child pornography – including 111 magazines, 14 8mm films, and 11 videotapes – was seized from under Fr. DePaoli’s bed. At the time he was teaching morals and ethics at an Archdiocese high school.

Father DePaoli’s criminal behavior, and the Archdiocese’s concealment of it, followed familiar patterns, including transfers to parishes where parents were unaware of the priest’s past, official intimidation of a concerned witness, and the filing of records claiming restrictions that were not enforced.

After his arrest in 1986, Fr. DePaoli went for treatment, which proved unsuccessful. He was diagnosed with a sexual compulsion and relapsed repeatedly – purchasing child pornography even while residing at a treatment center.

In February 1988, Archbishop Bevilacqua ignored the advice of the priest’s doctor and the Archdiocese’s Chancellor to keep Fr. DePaoli in Philadelphia for therapy. Instead, he arranged an assignment for the priest in Colonia, New Jersey, where his crime and sexual addiction would be unknown to his parishioners.

Father DePaoli eventually returned to Philadelphia in 1991 and continued to minister until December 2002, though without a formal assignment for part of the time. He was allowed to minister despite reports to the Archdiocese that his addiction to pornography continued, that he made sexual comments about an 8th-grade girl during a sermon, and even that he had molested a 12-year-old girl years earlier.

A nun in 1996 informed officials that she was worried about the safety of the children in her parish. She was fired for speaking out.

Father DePaoli’s ministry, however, continued. The Archdiocese was well aware that he was performing marriages and baptisms, hearing confessions, concelebrating Mass, and preaching nearly every Sunday at Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother in Stowe, where he had resided in the rectory since 1995.

Yet, in December 2002, when news stories reported that the convicted collector of child pornography was still ministering, Cardinal Bevilacqua claimed the priest was being disobedient. The Cardinal had his spokesperson, Catherine Rossi, tell reporters that Fr. DePaoli had been stripped of all his priestly duties immediately after the 1985 incident, but fail to mention that they had been fully reinstated before Fr. DePaoli returned to active and unrestricted ministry in 1988.

After telling a victim he believed her allegation that the priest had molested her, Cardinal Bevilacqua assured the public that he was “not a danger to anyone.”

Father DePaoli is arrested and convicted of possession of child pornography.

On June 27, 1985, United States Customs Deputy Commissioner Albert D'Angelo informed Cardinal Krol that for a year and a half Fr. Edward DePaoli had been receiving an average of three packages a week from outside the country. Father DePaoli at the time was a teacher of morals and ethics at Bishop McDevitt High School and a resident priest at Holy Martyrs Church in Oreland.

Pursuant to a search warrant, customs officials, accompanied by Chancellor Samuel E. Shoemaker, searched Fr. DePaoli's rectory bedroom. They seized 110 magazines, nine videocassettes, and fourteen reels of film depicting child pornography.

Cardinal Krol suspended Fr. DePaoli's priestly faculties and ordered him to Saint John Vianney Hospital. In a letter to the priest explaining the Cardinal's decision, Msgr. Shoemaker noted that "your possession of this illicit material is known to third parties thus creating a public scandal." The Chancellor also pointed out that the purchase of child pornography supported "crimes committed against minors" and contributed to "grave moral offenses."

Cardinal Krol and Msgr. Shoemaker tried to persuade Fr. DePaoli to plead guilty to avoid the scandal and publicity of a trial, but the priest refused. He accused Msgr. Shoemaker of advocating a guilty plea because the Archdiocese feared "other things" might come out at trial. The Chancellor, in a letter to Fr. DePaoli, admitted that the Archdiocese's attorney, John O'Dea, warned that "it has not been unknown for Federal Authorities to seek other information from an indicted person which may assist them in prosecuting other cases."

On November 13, 1986, U.S. District Court Judge Anthony J. Scirica found Fr. DePaoli guilty of knowing receipt in the mails of visual depictions of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Father DePaoli was sentenced to one-year probation conditioned on participation in psychiatric treatment. The form of the treatment was left to the Archdiocese. Against the wishes of the Archdiocese, Fr. DePaoli appealed his conviction. The Third Circuit affirmed his conviction on July 23, 1987.

Father DePaoli obtains child pornography while receiving psychiatric treatment.

“Treatment” did nothing to change Fr. DePaoli. He spent nearly three years in four different treatment centers, and repeatedly demonstrated his disinclination to change:

- Father DePaoli spent 18 months at Saint John Vianney following the discovery of the child pornography. At the end of that time his therapist, Dr. Eric Griffin-Shelley, reported to the Archdiocese that Fr. DePaoli “ha[d] not been involved in therapy in a meaningful way,” that their psychotherapy relationship was “adversarial,” and that there was evidence that Fr. DePaoli was still receiving pornography in the mail.
- Dr. Griffin-Shelley concluded in his Treatment Summary that Fr. DePaoli “need[ed] intensive psychotherapy probably for six to twelve months,” and opined that, “without this, he [was] quite likely to repeat his past behavior and become progressively worse.” Finally, the therapist warned that Fr. DePaoli “could go beyond fantasy in terms of his sexual urges toward children.”
- On January 12, 1987, after Fr. DePaoli was sentenced to one year’s probation with psychiatric treatment, he was sent for a two-week evaluation to Saint Luke Institute, a church-affiliated treatment facility in Suitland, Maryland. There, Fr. DePaoli was diagnosed with a psychosexual disorder. The staff found Fr. DePaoli “in need of extensive psychological work,” and recommended inpatient treatment at the House of Affirmation in Hopedale, Massachusetts.
- Father DePaoli was admitted to the House of Affirmation on May 6, 1987. Six and a half months later, a staff member saw him coming out of an adult bookstore. A search of the priest’s bedroom revealed a stash of pornography books, videos, and a magazine, including child pornography. The Archdiocese received a report of Fr. DePaoli’s misconduct, along with a recommendation that he be transferred to an intensive program designed specifically for sexual addicts.
- In accordance with this recommendation, Fr. DePaoli was transferred on January 24, 1988, to the Sexual Dependency Program at Golden Valley Health Center in Minneapolis. He remained there for five weeks. Upon his release, the doctor treating him, Dr. Arlene Boutin, in a letter to Msgr. Shoemaker, recommended that

he continue in therapy with Dr. Martha Turner in Philadelphia. Dr. Boutin explained that not all areas of the country had doctors familiar with the field of sexual dependency. Therefore, she “strongly recommended that Father Ed be allowed to remain in the Philadelphia area to avail himself . . . of [Dr. Turner’s] knowledge and understanding of the disease process and the recovery associated with sexual dependency.” Dr. Boutin also advised that Fr. DePaoli participate in a sexual addicts anonymous group. Chancellor Shoemaker passed these recommendations on to Archbishop Bevilacqua, along with a suggested assignment as a college chaplain.

Cardinal Bevilacqua ignores the therapist’s recommendation and sends Father DePaoli to New Jersey, where his crime is less likely to be known.

Ignoring the doctor’s and his Chancellor’s advice, Archbishop Bevilacqua chose instead to send Fr. DePaoli to another diocese where his crime might not be known. The Archbishop met with Fr. DePaoli on May 4, 1988. According to a memo Archbishop Bevilacqua wrote recording the conversation, he told the priest: “for the present time it might be more advisable for him to return to the active ministry in another diocese.” The Archbishop explained that this move would “put a sufficient period between the publicity and reinstatement in the active ministry of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.” (Appendix D-19)

Archbishop Bevilacqua gave the order to find another diocese for Fr. DePaoli. Tellingly, getting another diocese to accept this dangerous priest was difficult; other bishops were apparently less willing than Cardinal Bevilacqua had been with Fr. John P. Connor (see the profile of Fr. Connor) to take on a priest who presented a significant risk to their children. The Harrisburg Diocese refused to take him, it was reported to the Archbishop, because “the Philadelphia Inquirer is too widely read in this diocese to avoid a serious scandal.” Scranton would accept Fr. DePaoli only if he was “certified as being O.K.” Finally, Bishop Edward T. Hughes of the Metuchen Diocese in Northern New Jersey agreed to take the priest “for a reasonable amount of time.” Archbishop Bevilacqua

wrote the bishop personally to thank him, saying it was “extremely good of you to provide [Fr. DePaoli] the opportunity to continue his ministry”

In the summer of 1988, Fr. DePaoli – apparently with his full faculties restored – was assigned as a parish priest to Saint John Vianney Church in Colonia, New Jersey. He remained there for three years. Despite the therapist’s warning on file that Fr. DePaoli “could go beyond fantasy in terms of his sexual urges toward children,” there is no indication that any attempt was made to restrict Fr. DePaoli’s access to children. In fact, Fr. DePaoli told Bishop Hughes about his extensive continuing access to children, proclaiming that he was “an ardent supporter of our parish elementary school and C.C.D. programs.” Although scheduled for only one hour of confession weekly, Fr. DePaoli declared it the “high point of my life here” and stated that he “spent 2 to 3 ½ hours proclaiming Christ’s forgiveness.” Even Msgr. Shoemaker, Archbishop Bevilacqua’s Chancellor at the time, acknowledged to the Grand Jury that this transfer put the children in the New Jersey parish at risk.

Father DePaoli returns to Philadelphia after several years and relapses again.

In the summer of 1991, Archbishop Bevilacqua brought Fr. DePaoli back to Philadelphia, assigning him to be associate pastor at Saint John the Baptist Church in Manayunk. No restrictions on his ministry were recorded in Archdiocese files.

On April 28, 1992, Dr. Richard Fitzgibbons, a psychiatrist who had been consulted earlier about Fr. DePaoli’s case, called the Office of the Secretary for Clergy and James E. Molloy, Assistant Vicar for Administration. According to Msgr. Molloy’s notes, other priests had passed along to the doctor reports that during a Mass for school children, Fr. DePaoli told the congregation: “I’d rather imagine what this [8th grade] girl would look like if she were naked from the waist up.” Two weeks later, Fr. Robert T. Feeney, an associate pastor at Saint John the Baptist, reported to Secretary for Clergy John J. Jagodzinski that Fr. DePaoli was receiving pornography in the mail. Father Feeney gave the Secretary for Clergy one of the packages that had recently arrived at the rectory. Monsignor Jagodzinski met to discuss the situation with the Vicar for Administration,

Edward P. Cullen, and soon-to-be-named Secretary for Clergy William J. Lynn, then he interviewed Fr. DePaoli. Monsignor Jagodzinski recorded that Fr. DePaoli at first appeared “incredulous as to why he was being confronted,” but, faced with the physical evidence, stated that what he referred to as his “addiction cycle” had been “activated.”

Father DePaoli was removed from the rectory at Saint John the Baptist, but, despite the fact that he had relied upon the psychological explanation of “addiction cycle” to explain his conduct, he nevertheless resisted the Archdiocese’s efforts to have him returned to Saint John Vianney Hospital. After staying with his parents briefly, the priest was given a residence at Immaculate Conception parish, where the rectory was used to house priests with various problems. Still, the priest avoided hospitalization and lobbied to return to ministry at Saint John the Baptist. He remained in limbo – officially assigned to Saint John, but living at Immaculate Conception – for six months. The pastor and priests at Saint John vehemently opposed Fr. DePaoli’s return to the parish. They reported to Msgr. Lynn that Fr. DePaoli was still receiving objectionable material in the mail and his bedroom was filled with nude pictures. On December 2, 1992, he was relieved of his assignment.

Removed from his assignment, Father DePaoli is allowed to continue ministering.

Faced with Fr. DePaoli’s obvious unfitness and his refusal to make use of the treatment he was repeatedly offered, the Archdiocese put the priest on administrative leave, but nevertheless allowed him to continue to minister. In a December 2, 1992, letter, Msgr. Lynn informed Fr. DePaoli that he would be put on administrative leave, with his faculties restricted to celebrating Mass “privately for his own spiritual benefit.” For the next ten years, the priest lived in a rectory with no official assignment. He continued, however, to minister extensively and publicly with explicit permission from Msgr. Lynn, in accordance with directions from the Cardinal.

Father DePaoli’s file from this period contains written permission to perform more than 80 marriages, baptisms, and confirmation Masses, as well as permission to concelebrate the ordination Mass of Bishop-elect Cullen and Mass with Cardinal Bevilacqua. In 1995, Msgr. Lynn issued a certificate called a “celebret,” which stated that Fr. DePaoli was a priest in good standing, so that he could exercise full faculties on a trip

he was planning to Rome to celebrate his silver jubilee of 25 years in the priesthood. Monsignor Lynn acknowledged in a memo to Msgr. Cistone in April 1995 that Fr. DePaoli was “really having little supervision.”

In 1994, Fr. DePaoli complained that some restrictions remained on his faculties. Monsignor Lynn explained to him that “Cardinal Bevilacqua emphasized that at no time have [your] faculties been withdrawn; rather, the exercise of those faculties has been restricted for the good of the Church and the avoidance of scandal.” Monsignor Lynn noted that Fr. DePaoli “could exercise his faculties on occasion, with permission, as, in fact, has been the case on several occasions.”

Father DePaoli, however, continued to ask for more. He engaged a canon lawyer, Father Thomas Moran, to present his requests to the Archdiocese. To his credit, after reviewing his client’s file, Fr. Moran concluded, according to notes kept by Msgr. Lynn, that Fr. DePaoli was a “chronic offender and, therefore, very risky.” Father Moran therefore combined his requests for an assignment and limited exercise of faculties with proposed conditions that would permit the Archdiocese to monitor Fr. DePaoli more closely.

Father Moran asked that his client receive a residence assignment and be permitted to concelebrate Mass and deliver homilies occasionally. At the same time, he suggested that the parish be fully informed of Fr. DePaoli’s history, that any homily be reviewed by the pastor first, that his client’s mail be subject to inspection, and that his bedroom be subject to unannounced inspection by the Secretary for Clergy or his delegate. Father Moran acknowledged that Fr. DePaoli needed to continue in individual and group therapy.

Father DePaoli accepted these conditions, and Msgr. Lynn recommended that Cardinal Bevilacqua approve them, with the exception of allowing Fr. DePaoli to preach. But, rather than approve the plan, which called for significant supervision, Cardinal Bevilacqua chose to distance the Archdiocese from its priest.

Initially, following advice from the Archdiocese’s lawyers, the Cardinal avoided formally reassigning Fr. DePaoli. He suggested, for the record, that the priest could “seek acceptance by another diocese” or, failing that, voluntarily agree to laicization. Predictably,

Fr. DePaoli did neither. Instead, the priest requested a parish residence at Saint Gabriel Church in Stowe, where he was friendly with the pastor, Father James Gormley.

In September 1995, Cardinal Bevilacqua granted Fr. DePaoli's request. He moved the priest to a parish *without requiring even the level of supervision that Fr. DePaoli's own canon counsel had recommended*. Once again, the Archdiocese demonstrated that protection of the community was not its priority.

Cardinal Bevilacqua assigns Father DePaoli to live at Saint Gabriel, and allows him to minister without the restrictions or supervision that the priest's own lawyer recommended in order to protect parishioners.

Over the next seven years at Saint Gabriel, Fr. DePaoli lived in the rectory, concelebrated Mass, delivered homilies regularly, heard confessions (including of school children), taught adult religious education, and occasionally celebrated Sunday Mass without another priest present. Although his assignment letter purported to restrict Fr. DePaoli's faculties, the Archdiocese was made aware of all these activities and did not stop them.

In other words, Fr. DePaoli was doing more than Father Moran had asked for, but without the safeguards suggested by the canon counsel and agreed to by Fr. DePaoli. Church officials did not inspect his mail or his bedroom. The parish was not informed of the priest's history. Rather than acknowledge that Fr. DePaoli was ministering to the parish, and then monitor his interactions with parishioners, Archdiocese managers sought to limit their legal liability by continuing to promote and document the fiction that the priest was ministering only to himself.

In furtherance of this fiction, Msgr. Lynn went so far as to alter the way in which the Archdiocese accounted for the salary of Fr. DePaoli and other priests accused of sexual misconduct. Monsignor Lynn's assistant, Mary Ann Sullivan, reminded the Secretary for Clergy about the strategy in a July 14, 1995, memo:

When you were making judgments concerning which of the "Clerical fund recipients" should receive salary vs. stipend, taxable vs. non-taxable, one of the considerations you were dealing with was the following: if a cleric had been involved

in misconduct and there was concern over his publicly ministering as a priest, you did not want the books to show that the Archdiocese was paying him a salary for services rendered. I was under the impression that such thinking guided your identification of Frs. DePaoli, [Richard] McLoughlin, [Martin] Satchell, and McCarthy as priests who specifically should not receive W-2 forms.

A nun blows the whistle on Father DePaoli, and she is fired.

The director of religious education at Saint Gabriel, Sister Joan Scary, testified that in December 1995, three months after Fr. DePaoli's assignment to the parish, she noticed three children being detained by Fr. DePaoli in the confessional. After testifying, she explained further to a detective with the District Attorney's Office that she was suspicious and wrote to the children's parents. One girl was a third grader, but in 2003, when talking to the detective, Sister Scary could not remember her name. The others were "Jennifer," a fifth grader, and "Tony," an 8th grader.

In response to the warnings, Sister Scary said that the third-grader's mother thanked her. She also told the nun that, during confession, Fr. DePaoli asked the mother unwelcome questions about her sex life. The mother of the fifth grader accused Sister Scary of spreading scandal. Tony's grandfather told Sister Scary that Tony had denied that anything happened in the confessional, but that the boy considered Fr. DePaoli "weird" and tried to stay away from him. Sister Scary told the detective that later, at a Lenten Reconciliation Mass in April 1996, Tony told her he would not go into Fr. DePaoli's confessional. The detective presented Sister Scary's information to the Grand Jury.

In May 1996, having learned of Fr. DePaoli's pornographic interests not from Archdiocesan managers but inadvertently, Sister Scary noticed suspicious packages arriving at the rectory for Fr. DePaoli. She described to the Grand Jury a plain cardboard box – the size of "small diskettes" – postmarked from Denmark. She also saw sexually explicit magazines arriving in the mail.

One such magazine, "Details," featured cover articles entitled "Sex: The Ultimate Buyer's Guide," and "Anka: The Naughty Daughter Talks Dirty to her Mom and Dad."

Sister Scary mailed this magazine to Cardinal Bevilacqua with an anonymous note asking, “Your Eminence, Is this appropriate for a Roman Catholic Priest?” Father DePaoli’s name and rectory address were on the label of the magazine.

In a June 3, 1996, memo to the file, Msgr. Michael McCulken, assistant to Secretary for Clergy Lynn, acknowledged that the magazine sent to Cardinal Bevilacqua had been received and did “seem very inappropriate.” Another memo indicates that Cardinal Bevilacqua and Msgr. Cullen discussed the magazine at an issues meeting on May 14, 1996, but no decision to impose any restrictions on Fr. DePaoli was recorded.

Testifying before the Grand Jury, Sister Scary described her fears:

We had a whole program with children, and my fear was that he would have any contact with the children in the parish; and I just was, very concerned that . . . if he was . . . enticing them in any way, something could happen to them.

On May 29, 1996, the vicar for Montgomery County, Msgr. Robert P. McGinnis, wrote to the Office for Clergy that Sister Scary had called him several times. Monsignor McGinnis’s letter informed the Archdiocese that Fr. DePaoli “celebrates mass regularly” with another priest, Fr. Joseph McCloskey, and that Sister Scary had reported Fr. DePaoli celebrating Holy Thursday and Good Friday liturgies by himself. Also, Msgr. McGinnis repeated Sister Scary’s charge that Fr. DePaoli was receiving inappropriate magazines. Still the Archdiocese records indicate no action to investigate the mail that Fr. DePaoli was receiving, to restrict his public ministering, or to stop him from associating with minors.

In fact, while the record shows no action taken against Fr. DePaoli in response to Sister Scary’s reports, Father Gormley, the parish pastor, did take action against Sister Scary. When he learned of her reports to Msgr. McGinnis, he fired her as director of Saint Gabriel’s religious education.

The Vicar for Montgomery County informed the Office for Clergy of the circumstances of Sister Scary’s firing. On June 10, 1996, Msgr. Lynn met with Fr. DePaoli. They discussed threats of exposure from parishioners who had learned from Sister Scary about the reason for her firing. At this meeting, Fr. DePaoli informed Msgr. Lynn that he regularly concelebrated Mass with Pastor Gormley and that he directed and taught the adult education program for the parish.

Monsignor Lynn wrote in his notes that he “thanked Father DePaoli for seeing me and for being honest and always following the directives that he has been given. We agreed right now that he would stay there unless circumstances warrant otherwise.”

On July 1, 1996, Msgr. Lynn sent Joseph R. Cistone, Assistant to the Vicar for Administration, an update on Fr. DePaoli. Again the focus of the report was Sister Scary, her attempts “to stir up some conflict” by informing parishioners about Fr. DePaoli’s past, and how to scare her into silence to suppress her knowledge of Fr. DePaoli’s predilection for naked children. Monsignor Lynn reported to Msgr. Cistone that Sister Scary’s religious-order superiors had “spoken several times with Sister Joan Scary to bring up to her the civil implications of her actions.” Monsignor Lynn also reported that, “if needed,” her religious superiors were “ready to place Sister Joan Scary under obedience to cease and desist.”

On August 5, 1996, having received reports that Sister Scary’s supervisors were invoking what “amounts to a ‘gag order,’” Msgr. Lynn reported to Msgr. Cistone: “Everything is quiet at Saint Gabriel Parish concerning this situation.” Sister Scary eventually moved out of the Archdiocese.

The Archdiocese ignores another warning about Father DePaoli.

In April 2002, Archdiocese managers were told yet again that Fr. DePaoli was receiving suspicious unlabeled videos in the mail. This time, the report came from the Vice Chairman of the Pastoral Council of Saint Gabriel, Shirley A. Birmingham. She also told Msgr. John C. Marine, Msgr. McGinnis’s replacement as Vicar for Montgomery County, that parishioners were aware of Fr. DePaoli’s child pornography conviction and that she was concerned about his presence at Saint Gabriel. She informed Msgr. Marine that Fr. DePaoli heard confessions, preached almost every weekend, and said daily Mass when the pastor was away.

Monsignor Marine wrote in his notes recording his meeting with Birmingham: “I assured her that Fr. DePaoli requests permission before he performs his priestly service at the parish.” Monsignor Marine also noted that he corrected her use of the term

“pedophile,” telling her that Fr. DePaoli’s predilection for child pornography did not equate with sexually acting out with children. Monsignor Marine forwarded all this information to Secretary for Clergy Lynn. Even then, records indicate no action was taken to stop Fr. DePaoli’s extensive ministering.

Church officials minimize the complaints of a parishioner whom Father DePaoli had molested when she was a child.

In 2002, the Archdiocese learned that the warning of Fr. DePaoli’s former therapist, Dr. Griffin-Shelley, that the priest could go “beyond fantasy in terms of his sexual urges toward children,” was not only true but had in fact already occurred more than a decade before the warning was issued. Shortly after Msgr. Marine had assured Birmingham that her fears of Fr. DePaoli acting out with children were unfounded, 46-year-old “Anna” reported to the Archdiocese, on June 14, 2002, that more than thirty years earlier Fr. DePaoli had grabbed and fondled her breast in the schoolyard at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Doylestown, when he was associate pastor and she was 14 years old. In response to this report, Archdiocese managers downplayed the event and lied to Anna.

Anna told the Grand Jury that she met with Msgr. Lynn and his assistant, Father Vincent Welsh, on June 19, 2002. She described to them how Fr. DePaoli had fondled her breast as he walked with his arm around her in the schoolyard. She said that she was positive it was not a mistake and that he stopped only because she elbowed him hard. She told them that she had reported the incident to her mother at the time, but that her mother, a recent immigrant from Cuba, did not want to make trouble and told Anna to just ignore it.

Anna testified that Msgr. Lynn and Fr. Welsh told her that what had happened to her was “not so bad.” She told the Grand Jury that she was frustrated that they seemed not to understand that nothing else had happened only because she stood up to the priest, and that he presented a danger to less confident children. She said the Archdiocese managers appeared not to be satisfied with her account and asked that her 72-year-old mother come in to verify that Anna had reported the incident when it happened.

When Anna asked them about Fr. DePaoli’s access to children, the Archdiocese managers assured her that they were “watching him,” that they had taken away all his

privileges, and that he was not allowed to be around children. As the Grand Jury learned, these assertions were misleading, at best.

Even then, Fr. DePaoli was not removed from his parish residence. In October 2002, Cardinal Bevilacqua met with Anna. He told her that she was “lucky,” that what had happened to her really “wasn’t that bad.” He also assured her that Fr. DePaoli had no ministry at Saint Gabriel’s – only a residence. This, too, was a misrepresentation.

Archdiocese managers repeatedly told Anna that she was the only person ever to make allegations of abuse against Fr. DePaoli. Almost immediately they learned from Fr. DePaoli himself that this was not true. In an interview about Anna’s allegations, the priest mentioned to Msgr. Lynn and Fr. Welsh that he had been accused before. He told them that, if they wanted more information, his attorney could provide it. According to rough notes from the June 26, 2002, meeting, Msgr. Lynn told Fr. DePaoli: “What’s bad is that past allegation . . . I stressed w/ [Anna] [that we] had no other report of such behavior – no allegations.”

Neither Msgr. Lynn nor Fr. Welsh told Anna that they had subsequently learned of other complaints against Fr. DePaoli. In fact, according to notes of a meeting on July 26, 2002, Anna said to Msgr. Lynn, “I can’t believe there were not other incidents,” and, despite knowing otherwise, Msgr. Lynn told Anna twice, “We haven’t had anyone else come forward with this type of allegation,” and “you are the first one to come in with an allegation against him.” Moreover, rather than clear up this misleading information, Fr. Welsh attempted to console Anna, telling her on July 9, 2002, that Fr. DePaoli was having a “full psychological evaluation.” There is no evidence before the Grand Jury that such an evaluation took place.

On July 17, 2002, in accordance with procedures required by the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People which had been adopted by the Bishops of the Catholic Church on June 14, 2002, the Archdiocese’s attorney, William Sasso, informed the Bucks County District Attorney of Anna’s allegation. At the time, Archdiocese files included numerous reports that Fr. DePaoli was hearing confessions, delivering homilies, teaching adult religious education, and concelebrating Mass (most recently told to Msgr. Lynn on June 26, 2002, by Fr. DePaoli himself). Yet Sasso assured the District Attorney

that, at the time of Anna's allegation (June 14, 2002), Fr. DePaoli "had no public ministry."

Anna testified that she felt lied to when she heard in December 2002, through media reports, that Fr. DePaoli was still ministering – delivering homilies at Saint Gabriel. She said she was extremely upset and left a message on the answering machine of a therapist with whom the Archdiocese had set her up. She said: "They promised nothing was going to happen, and they promised he was being watched." She heard nothing more from the therapist.

The Archdiocese misleads the media and the public about Father DePaoli.

On December 18, 2002, the day the Philadelphia Inquirer published a story revealing that Fr. DePaoli was a convicted possessor of child pornography, Cardinal Bevilacqua quickly and radically changed his approach to the priest. No longer willing to protect him, he told reporters that Fr. DePaoli, the priest whom Msgr. Lynn had thanked for always following the Cardinal's directives, was disobedient. Knowing of Anna's allegation, which he had told her he believed, Cardinal Bevilacqua told reporters that Fr. DePaoli was "not a danger to anyone," suggesting that his only offense was enjoying child pornography, a serious crime and one that counseled keeping such a man as far away from children as possible. The Cardinal's spokesperson, Catherine Rossi, misled reporters into believing that Fr. DePaoli had been stripped of "his priestly duties" since 1986.

On December 19, 2002, Msgr. Lynn informed Fr. DePaoli he would have to leave Saint Gabriel. Monsignor Lynn insisted the action was the result of Fr. DePaoli's refusal to follow his restrictions, and not the media attention.

On January 14, 2004, the Archdiocese found credible the allegation against Fr. DePaoli of sexual abuse against a minor, presumably Anna, and removed the priest from ministry. In November 2004, Monsignor Lynn's successor as Secretary for Clergy informed DePaoli that the process to laicize the priest involuntarily had been completed and that he was removed "from the clerical state."

DePaoli appeared before the Grand Jury and was given an opportunity to answer questions concerning the allegations against him. He chose not to do so.