

October 13, 1992

COPY

Tel. call - Evening - Cohasset

S. Grace Kenning SVD

Principal - St. Mary, Star of the Sea

School tel 1-508-927-3259

{ St. John's (Private: 1-508-927-4649)
{ Covert (1-508-927-4819

Catherine will
discourage
referrals to us.

S. G.

all from a Globe correspondent (Name?)
has been doing a series on the Church
and received mail from 1 (possibly 3) families in
Salem in which past incidents concerning Father
Birmingham and young boys was described. He would
bring individual boys (possibly altar boys as Sister
recalls) up to his room - fondle them. The
correspondent told S. Grace that her name was
mentioned as the principal who handled things
discreetly. When S. Grace was questioned about
the cause of death of Fr. Birmingham (removed - AID
by family or correspondent ???) - she said she did
not know - answered, "In my judgement there
is no cause for concern."

School closed
in 1973

Boys - probably eighth grade - 8 to 10 of them
S. Grace's concern is that she wants to "deal with
this appropriately" - She does not want to
be conveying information - or having conversations
with the Globe.

She had gone to her pastor - Father Johnson - to share
call and obtain advice - Hence her call to JBM & CEM

JB0016

October 13, 1992

S. Grace Kenning (Birmingham) - 2 -

S. Grace was notified by parents - one mother ^{strongly remembered} and, as she recalls, others whom she saw one-on-one

7
70's 1
At the time she did not go to Fr. Curtin, Pastor or the other curate Fr. Muldown, but she had an appointment with Father Jennings, then head of the Priests Personnel Board. She cannot get the exact year yet and does not remember what amount of time it took before Fr. Birmingham left the parish (she wonders if he was reassigned to another parish or if he received therapy). She remembers saying in effect to Fr. Jennings that Fr. Birmingham should not be near these boys, that he should not be near any children that he should be helped.

(All three priests of parish at that time - deceased)

In addition she called upon a local doctor to take the boys aside - not sure whether in group totally or one-on-one also. He came back to her, feeling that no boy was severely harmed - that they were alright. Name: sp. Casanough

She does not know whether the doctor might have been mentioned in letters to the Globe correspondent - she is going to call him

Oct 14 call from S. Grace Doctor saw boys in group - but must have talked with mother (S) as a result of boys going home