



**PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

**NAME:** Mario Cimarrusti, OFM.      **AGE:** 63

**DATE:** November 18, 1993

**REFERRED BY:**

Provincial Minister  
1500 - 34th Avenue  
Oakland, CA 94601-3091

**REDACTED**

**REASON FOR REFERRAL:**

Assessment following charges of sexual abuse and assault at St. Anthony's Seminary between 1964 and 1970.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 1993, the Franciscan Province of Santa Barbara established an Independent Board of Inquiry (BOI) to investigate possible past sexual misconduct at St. Anthony's Seminary (S.A.S.) from 1964 until its closure in 1987. In response to this investigation, nine young men came forward and identified Mario Cimarrusti as a friar who had engaged in behavior with them which they now understand to be sexually inappropriate and/or abusive.

**ACTUAL ALLEGATIONS:**

Enclosed is a profile on Mario Cimarrusti from the Board of Inquiry summarizing the complaints made by nine different young men. These complaints or allegations of various forms of abuse include bogus hernia exams, assaults on students who were ill in the infirmary, verbal abuse and assault, bogus medical exams for poison oak on the genitals, physical abuse such as beating, and various other forms of inappropriate behavior.

CLIENT'S INITIAL RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS:

In response to an overview and outline of the allegations that have been made against him, Mario stated, "What I did was wrong. It was taking advantage of students. It was an invasion of their privacy." Mario then went on to say, "I'm sexually compulsive - out of control - with lots of other areas besides sex (food, alcohol, work). I was powerless to stop myself."

This response on Mario's part indicates that he is able to admit that he took advantage of students, and he does acknowledge a variety of ways in which he abused them sexually. The one major abuse accusation that he maintained some denial around is oral copulation. Mario vacillated between stating he didn't have oral sex with any student, to stating later that he "didn't think he did that", and still later, "wouldn't I remember if I did that?". His ambivalence and vacillation certainly suggests that there is more to learn about this area.

While Mario admits some degree of guilt with regard to the charges against him, he parallels that admission with the type of denial and excusing that we typically see in untreated sex offenders, namely:

- Because he was sexually compulsive, he excuses himself as being powerless to stop the abusive behavior at the time that it occurred.
- "All of the things I did were done according to procedure."
- "Some of the exams that I conducted proved beneficial to the students...for example, one student needed to be circumcised and another one needed hormones. If I hadn't examined them, they would not have gotten the help they needed."

To be more specific, Mario fully acknowledged that, as infirmarian at St. Anthony's Seminary, he did engage in the

sexual abuse of a number of the students. He also acknowledged that "everything I did was under the guise of medicine". When asked to elaborate on why he did these things and what methods he used to obtain his victims, he stated that he was curious and wanted to examine the boys in order to satisfy his curiosity. He fully admitted that the "exams" that he performed on the students were sexually arousing to him and were performed for that reason. Mario also volunteered that he used younger students (age 14 and 15 -- typically Freshmen and/or Sophomores) so that they wouldn't object. He feared that older students would know that the exams were bogus and would not cooperate.

Even though Mario stated several times that he always used medicine as the entry point to sexually molest a student, he quickly stated that, even so, "I never just initiated sex". This suggests that Mario still has not made a connection in his mind between the types of things that he did to students that were, in fact, sexual and sexually abusive, as "initiating sex". Rather, he thinks of his behavior as "medicine" (not sex abuse).

Mario further stated that one of the reasons he engaged in the abusive behavior was "just to liven up the place" when things got dull or boring. Again, considerable denial is evident in that statement.

In addition to Mario's sexual abuse of students at St. Anthony's Seminary, he also acknowledged an extensive history of homosexual activity with adults. A summary of the behavior which Mario volunteered in response to questions involve the following:

- a. Sexual contact with minor males (approximately 30 to 40 victims according to his guess at this point in time).
- b. A history of peeping (approximately 50 to 60 times a year, usually in restrooms and motels). The last time Mario engaged in peeping was two days before he took the polygraph in Seattle.
- c. Exposure - approximately 30 times a year from the ages of 28

through 60. Typically he would engage in actions of exposure at urinals. The last time he acknowledges doing this was approximately one year ago.

- d. Sex with animals - from the ages of five through sixty, he let dogs and cats lick his penis. (Mario stated that he might have had sex with a dog as a child, but he cannot recall for sure. If he did have sex with an animal, it would have been a dog.)
- e. Sex on the job. He had sex numerous times at parishes at which he has served.
- f. Lying to his superiors.
- g. Hand-genital sexual abuse involving approximately 30 minors.
- h. Spanking, approximately 20 times.
- i. Coercion (forced sex) approximately five to six times involving drunks who apparently came to the parish or someplace where he was ministering for service.
- j. Adult males: homosexual contact with adult males approximately 15 to 20 times a month from ages 35 until one year ago. (Mario has had somewhere between 400 to 500 homosexual contacts according to his estimate over the course of his adult life. He has not used protection during any of these encounters which typically involved oral sex with some occasions of anal sex.)
- k. Lying about causing injury to anyone as a result of his sexual behavior.

BEHAVIOR AND INITIAL IMPRESSIONS:

Mario Cimarrusti was on time for all of his appointments at TARA and behaved in a manner that was courteous, appropriate, and cooperative. He was casually dressed. Mario gave evidence of being able to follow instructions throughout the testing, interview and polygraph procedures and completed all required aspects of the assessment with an attitude that suggested a sincere desire on his part to cooperate.

Mario presents himself as a very obese man who occasionally

appears to be short of breath and to find moving about cumbersome. He was attentive during questioning, and gave no evidence of any thought disorders or unusual or offensive mannerisms. He does have a tendency to bite his teeth together and bare his teeth when he appears to be concentrating over a matter that has troubling content. Although he generally gave evidence of wanting to please in his responses, I did notice that he could "dig in his heels" and become resistant and very moderately argumentative when he was given feedback with which he did not agree or did not want to hear. For example, when it was suggested to him that he could benefit from participation in a sexual deviancy group and/or working with an individual who specialized in sexual deviancy treatment, he repeatedly insisted that he liked his present therapist and wanted to stay with him. It was during times such as this that I had the feeling that Mario could become argumentative and highly resistant if pushed to do something that he did not want to do.

FAMILY BACKGROUND:

Mario is the youngest of his parents' nine children (one child died very early). His father was born in Italy and was unable to read or write. Mario reported that his father was a hard worker who supported his family well. "He covered up a heart of gold with firmness." Mario stated that there was little communication between him and his father but he did feel loved by him, even though perhaps he didn't know how to handle Mario. Mario's father died of old age at the age of 83 when Mario was approximately 42 years old.

Mario's mother is of Mexican decent born in the United States. She died at the age of 64 of cancer. Mario described her as "the power behind the throne" in the family. He reported that she was tired by the time he came along. She showed him very little affection but he believes that she did love him as well as she could under the circumstances. Mario had two brothers, both of whom are deceased. He has four living sisters, all in their

70's. None of the members of his family know any of the details of his current situation.

Mario described his father as "occasionally using the strap on me" although he was reluctant to punish him. He'd forbid Mario to cry on these occasions so the neighbors would not be stirred up. Punishment from his mother primarily took the form of "verbal abuse". Mario described this primarily as "scoldings".

Mario described both his parents as conscientious and very much interested in their children, but unable to cope with the cultural changes.

Other than describing his family as closely knit insofar as possible, Mario did not go into any other details about his childhood or family of origin that will not be mentioned later in the section on psychosexual history. Because of Mario's admission of charges, it did not seem necessary to elicit more information from him in this area for an assessment.

#### PSYCHOSEXUAL HISTORY:

Mario described a history of being sexually active at an early age. He dates his earliest sexual memory at approximately four or five years of age. He was sitting on the toilet seat, watching his father take a bath. Mario recalls his father telling him that he could no longer stay in the bathroom because he was "stealing looks at his body". Mario believes that his father calling attention to the fact that Mario was looking at his genitals "brought out the voyeur in me". Mario described feeling bad about not being allowed into the bathroom anymore while his father bathed, and felt that he had done something very wrong.

Mario also described playing doctor with a couple of neighbor children when he was about eight years old. A six year old neighbor girl whom Mario "examined" "told what I did" and Mario's

mother became very angry at him for being "naughty or dirty". Although a little boy who was also about six years old was present, but Mario recalls being more interested in the girl than in the boy. This is somewhat atypical for a man who claims to be homosexual from as far back as he can remember. Mario recalls the girls mother "making a big deal" out of the fact that he had examined her daughter. He was made to feel "very nasty" and had to go to his father to be corrected. He reported that his father "just told me not to do it anymore". Mario remembers his mother being much more upset about the situation than his father was.

In describing his parents' attitude toward sex, Mario stated emphatically that it was never mentioned in his home because his parents were very strict in matters of sex. The impression was given that sexual conduct was the most grievous of sins. Mario derived his first knowledge of sex from his boyfriends in grammar school via experimentation during show and tell games before puberty. He recalls a source of deep guilt around early experiences of masturbation during adolescence. Although he indicated that his earliest experiences of sex were homosexual, he didn't realize that he was homosexually oriented until much later in life. He also indicated being homosexual has been difficult for him to acknowledge and that he has been in some denial regarding it.

Mario described some fairly typical experiences with childhood sex play shortly before puberty. These involved playing games with childhood friends and comparing penises. Mario remembered one boy in particular boasting of his pubic hairs before Mario had them. He felt somewhat inadequate--a theme that has carried over into his adult sexual life.

Even though Mario vehemently denied any history of childhood sexual abuse of himself, he did describe an experience that certainly bears further exploration regarding this issue. He reported having oral sex several times when he was about ten years old with a retarded man who lived next door. Mario insists

that he has never considered this being sexually abused since he was the initiator and the man was "feeble-minded". Mario described performing oral sex on the man and recalls that the man got an erection but doesn't remember if he ejaculated or if the man performed oral sex on him. Mario further reported that this particular man later got married. So it appears that he was not so feeble-minded or retarded that he could not obtain a marriage license or engage in a married relationship. Mario further stated that his mother found out what was going on with the man next door because she saw him over at the man's house and did forbid Mario to go back over there any more. Mario seemed to indicate that his mother may have had some suspicions about this particular man.

Both the fact that the man eventually married, and the fact that Mario's mother seemed suspicious of him, certainly suggests that he may have been more initiating and less unaware and helpless than Mario recalls. The fact that Mario was a child and the other man was an adult certainly suggests that something abusive was going on with Mario as the subject of it.

Mario described an extensive history of multiple sexual contacts with adult males. He has had no sexual contact with females, adult or minor. He also acknowledges taking advantage of drunk people who came to the dispensary either by performing oral sex on them or fondling them. It was in discussing these contacts that Mario acknowledged that he felt inadequate because he is not genitally well-endowed and did not feel that he had very much to offer sexually. "I couldn't present myself as anyone someone would want." Mario stated that although he personally liked oral sex to be performed on him, he didn't think anyone would want to "see me" so he rarely asked for it.

Mario's most recent sexual acting out involved oral sex in a bath house about a year ago. He reported that he has not engaged in anal sex for approximately ten years. Even then he denies an extensive history of this form of sexual contact. This may or



may not be accurate in light of the polygraph results.

Mario endorsed a whole array of behaviors, feelings and physical sensations that suggest that he is a compulsive, anxious, fretful and moody sort of individual who is tense and restless much of the time. He describes a variety of somatic symptoms ranging from gastrointestinal disturbances to fatigue to skin problems. He takes procordia for hypertension, diazedido (fluise) daily and medication for high blood pressure.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT:**

**Tests Administered:**

The Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory/II (Millon)  
The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory/II (MMPI-II)  
The Multimodal Life History Inventory  
The Multiphasic Sex Inventory (MSI-II)  
Shipley Institute of Living IQ Screening Test  
Draw-A-Person (modified)  
Polygraph Examination for Sex Offender Assessment

**Results:**

In terms of his general profile, Mario obtained test results which indicate the validity scales are within the normal limits of all tests that he took. This suggests that his clinical results are reliable and valid. Although he does acknowledge culpability to sexual offending, and did produce valid and reliable test results, there is still an indication that he denies and minimizes his interest and desire in committing sexually deviant acts.

Examination results suggest that Mario suffers from a personality disorder, very probably of the passive aggressive type. Indications are that he also has compulsive

characteristics that are manifested, as he indicates, in a variety of compulsive behaviors. Mario appears to be an aggressive type of person who is apt to be brooding and openly irritable, as well as obstructionistic and stubborn, while pretending to agree with those in authority. This was some of the behavior that we observed during our interviews with him. In addition, Mario is likely to become sulky and argumentative when pressured to do something that he does not want to do, but he is likely to be more passive and devious in expressing his stronger hostilities, rather than owning them more openly.

Mario appears to be a man who is characterized by depression, dependency, and a tendency to engage in behavior that is self-defeating -- in other words, he may attempt to sabotage whatever good happens in his life. He appears to need a great deal of reassurance from others while, at the same time, engaging in behaviors that will undo the support of others. Mario appears to have persistent traits which include erratic moods, tendencies to withdraw, courting criticism, unpredictable and irritable. Basically fearful and eager to please those in authority, he frequently behaves in ways that provoke his expected disappointment. This causes him to feel dejected and alone and to turn to guilt and feelings of self-pity and self-condemnation as a means of changing his offensive behavior.

At the present time, Mario currently feels a great deal of self-pity, helplessness, depression and anxiety. This is understandable considering his current circumstances. Mario's problems and behaviors seem to be an integral part of his characterological structure. It appears to be chronic in nature and part of a constellation of features that will be difficult to change or alter.

With regard to the specific psychosexual results, the following summary statements can be made:

1. Mario does not show an indication of being generally

criminally oriented, however, there is question about his potential for sexually assaultive behavior.

2. A deep-seated and underlying paranoid-like hostility suggests that he may interpret the behavior of others as provocative and threatening -- and to act out in equally threatening ways against them. His intellectual functioning seems to be in the high-average to bright range.
3. He does not show a significant elevation on the psychopathic deviant scale that is often typical of sex offenders.
4. His score on the sex deviance diagnostic scale (SDx) is in the high range for known adult male sex offenders.
5. His score on MSI sexual perpetrator potential scale is also in the high range for untreated adult male offenders.
6. His score on the sex aggression potential scale was found to be in the low range for untreated offenders, although this result is questionable in light of some of his admissions regarding treatment of derelicts.
7. He scores in the deviant range when evaluating his child-molest potential.
8. It also needs to be noted that Mario does not fully recognize the pattern of his deviant sexual behavior which includes the use of sexual fantasy, cruising and grooming, followed by acting out.
9. He also gives evidence of having body image problems which he readily acknowledges; he is highly obsessed with sex and is driven to act out his fantasies; and he shows an elevation on the voyeurism scale which appears to still be quite operative.

Diagnosis

Axis I: paraphilia, pedophilia and voyeurism;  
Axis II: passive aggressive personality disorder with sex  
deviation traits;  
dependent/histrionic personality disorder with  
compulsive features.

For summary of Mario's performance on the Sex Offender  
Polygraph Examination, please see the report of Smith.

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Since Mario completed a questionnaire on sexual deviancy that was  
sent with him after his assessment here, we have incorporated  
those results into our recommendations. Tim Smith and I  
collaborated on these recommendations, and he includes them in his  
report, so I will not repeat them here. Suffice it to say that  
Mario's completion and return of the questionnaire was more  
prompt and honest than those we usually receive (if in fact they  
are actually returned). Consequently, our prognosis for him is  
more positive than we originally anticipated, if he does follow  
treatment recommendations.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about  
this report.

Sincerely,



Fran Ferder, fsps, Ph.d. License # 1111  
Co-Director: TARA