

September 10, 1985

CONFIDENTIAL

EXHIBIT

7

MEMORANDUM

To: Bishop Mulvey (For Bishop's Eyes Only)  
From: Father Cini  
Re: Allegations Against Father Edward Dudzinski

August 26, 1985

On Monday evening, August 26, 1985, about 10:00 P.M., Father Patrick Brady received a telephone call from [redacted] was referred to Father Brady as Chairman of the Personnel Committee by Monsignor Rebman. [redacted] had attempted to contact Monsignor Taggart, who was away on vacation, to report a telephone call he had received from a parent regarding her son and a priest of the diocese.

[redacted] reported that a parent had called him in much distress about a problem with her son involving Father Edward Dudzinski. Father Brady suggested that the mother call him directly. The mother did this a few minutes later.

[redacted] called Father Brady (8/26/85) that same evening and reported that her son W-002 had been on a trip to Busch Gardens, Virginia with Father Edward Dudzinski accompanied by a second boy. The trip involved an overnight. While there, the three slept on one king size bed. During the night Father Dudzinski is alleged, according to the report of her son, to have either rubbed or caressed the back of the boy's legs, his back and his buttocks about four times. Her son also suggested that Father must have touched the other boy, whom she did not identify, since he spent a good part of the night in the bathroom and while in bed remained on his stomach. She interpreted this to mean that the boy was upset with Father. Father Brady's impression from the discussion with the mother was that there was no touching of the genitals.

[redacted] seemed to suggest that she had some unspoken concerns about the relationship between Father Dudzinski and her son when she stated to Father Brady "it finally happened." She related how Father Dudzinski had befriended W-002 and several other young boys in St. Mary Magdalen Elementary School a few years ago while Father Dudzinski was assigned there as an Associate Pastor. He helped them out with their homework and also took boys on short trips. Because of the kindness to her son, [redacted] and her husband had invited Father over to their house for dinner on a few occasions and even had him as a guest at their house at the shore. [redacted] said that her son stated that Father Ed at times massaged the legs of some of the youngsters. The boy also indicated that he would not go on the witness stand, but would talk to a priest about the alleged incident. [redacted] told Father Brady that she was "not interested in causing any troubles" but thought something needed to be done to protect other children and also to help Father Dudzinski. At the conclusion of the telephone conversation, [redacted] indicated that she would be away

(Plain folder)

at the shore from the 27th to about Noon on the 30th. Father could reach her in the afternoon of the 30th.

August 27, 1985

The next day August 27th Father Brady reported his conversation with [REDACTED] to Bishop Mulvee. This occurred late in the morning of the 27th. Bishop Mulvee asked Father Cini to join the discussion since he and the diocesan attorney had been doing some preliminary work framing a procedure for the diocese should an incident of this nature ever occur. After Father Brady related the details of Mrs. [REDACTED] W-002's call to the Bishop, it was decided that the Bishop should consult with the diocesan attorney, Jim Collins. Father Cini left the meeting to arrange that discussion.

Redacted - AC

August 29, 1985

Redacted - AC

Redacted - AC

August 30, 1985

The next day Bishop Mulvee was in touch with both St. Luke's Institute in Washington, D.C. and the House of Affirmation to alert them to a possible problem in Wilmington and to ask them to be prepared to accept one of our men. The House of Affirmation expected not to have an opening until late September. St. Luke's could accept the man that week.

Father Brady called [redacted] in the early afternoon of Friday, August 30th and invited her, her son and her husband to meet with him and also Father Cini to discuss their concerns. Father Brady also suggested that [redacted] could invite the parents and the other boy if she felt that would be helpful. Due to weekend commitments, [redacted] could not come until Sunday. A meeting was arranged for 1:00 P.M., Sunday, September 1st at St. Ann's Rectory. [redacted], in her conversation that day with Father Brady, indicated that she had discussed the incident with the other mother and both sets of parents were aware of the problem. She indicated that the other mother was quite concerned about her own son and thought that he needed to talk to a priest. [redacted] indicated that she might invite them to come on Sunday.

September 1, 1985

At one o'clock on Sunday, September 1st, [redacted] W-002 came to St. Ann's Rectory to meet with Father Brady and Father Cini.

After preliminary introductions Father Brady thanked [redacted] and W-002 for coming to this difficult meeting. He told them our purpose was to be of assistance, both to them and also to Father Dudzinski. All parties appreciated the awkwardness of the session; however, if proper attention and care were to be given to all concerned, a frank and honest discussion was required. He then invited them to say whatever was on their minds.

[redacted] deferred to his wife. [redacted] began by saying that Father Ed had befriended her son W-002 and also other young boys who attended St. Mary Magdalen Elementary School. Father Ed was with them often. He helped them with their homework. The youngsters were attracted to him. [redacted] stated that the relationship between Father and their family was essentially a relationship between her son and Father Dudzinski, and that she and her husband did not consider themselves to be particularly close friends of Father's, but felt that since he was so kind to their boy they "owed" him more than just a cordial hello. They invited Father to dinner a couple of times and had him at their summer place along the shore at least on two occasions.

[redacted] said that she knew Father Dudzinski spent time with several young boys in the parish. Instinctively -- not against Father Dudzinski -- she would not allow W-002 (her son) to be with Father or any other adult alone -- only when other youngsters were there. Father Dudzinski several times took boys on trips with him -- ski trips. W-002 had been invited. [redacted], however, would not allow W-002 to go because he had troubles in school. The trips were scheduled during school time and the boys had to be excused by their teachers. Father Dudzinski spoke on behalf of each of the boys indicating to the teachers that he would see to it that they did the work they missed and that he personally would assist them in finishing their assigned tasks. She knew that Father Dudzinski took the kids to movies and also to

sports events. At times her son was among them. At one point [redacted] indicated she heard some gossip about Father Dudzinski. There were no accusations, but just talk about how he was always with young boys, the implication being that it was not necessarily the most mature situation. She indicated some irritation with those comments.

Regarding the incident at Busch Gardens, [redacted] became aware of it from her daughter. W-002 spoke to his sister - whom he said he was close to. The daughter spoke to [redacted] whereupon the mother questioned her boy.

[redacted] stated that Father Dudzinski made the telephone call from Salisbury, Maryland inviting W-002 to come down for a trip to Busch Gardens. [redacted] rule of thumb was that W-002 could not go on such trips alone and that he had to find someone else to go with him. It was her impression that W-002 was anxious that someone go along with him. She indicated that he had made several telephone calls before he finally found someone to accompany him to Salisbury and then to Busch Gardens with Father Dudzinski. In questioning her son, W-002 indicated that the three of them had slept in the same bed - a king size bed - and that during the night Father Dudzinski had rubbed his hands across her son's legs, buttocks and back. W-002 indicated to his mother that this occurred about four times during the night. W-002 also indicated that evidently Father had also done the same thing, or something similar, to the other boy, since he spent some time in the bathroom that night and also that while they were in bed the boy slept on his stomach.

W-002 indicated to us - interrupting his mother - that the boys had talked about it the next day.

[redacted] then related to Father Brady and to Father Cini that upon questioning her son she found this was not the first time that it had happened. Last summer there was a trip (to Busch Gardens?) with Father and there was a similar incident. [redacted] expressed some frustration and surprise with her son that "he would go back for more."

At this point, Father Cini suggested that perhaps W-002 would like to speak for himself. W-002 seemed to hesitate a little so it was suggested that maybe he would like to talk with the priests alone or with only one priest. W-002 responded that he did feel a little embarrassed in front of his parents and preferred to speak to both of the priests in another room. Father Cini inquired of the parents if they had any objection. Neither did. The priests then retired to an adjoining room with W-002.

Father Brady invited W-002 to tell whatever was on his mind. W-002 expressed some embarrassment and indicated that he felt he would prefer to respond to questions. Father Cini suggested that W-002 just tell them what happened at Busch Gardens. The boy related the following: They spent the night in a motel and shared one king size bed. During the night, at least four times, Father Dudzinski rubbed his hand over W-002's "butt" (expression of the boy) and back of his legs. The boy emphasized that it happened at least four times during the night. He indicated that he was surprised and didn't know what to do. Father Cini asked the boy if there was any other detail he would like to add and the boy simply said "he did other things to me." Father Cini questioned the boy "did he touch you, let us say, in a personal way?" The boy responded "yes." Father Brady indicated that perhaps he should like to tell us what happened to the other boy. W-002 said he wasn't sure what happened to the other boy other than the fact that he knew he spent some time in the bathroom that night. He got up on several occasions to go to the bathroom. He also knew that the boy slept on his stomach.

Father Cini asked if this had happened before and W-002 indicated that there had been something similar to this the year before. Several boys went away with Father (I'm not sure whether he said several or he and another). They shared a room which had double beds. However, one of the boys was required to sleep with Father. That was W-002. During the night he felt Father touch him on the legs and on the butt. He didn't remember how many times. He said at first he didn't know what to do - then he thought he imagined it. He seemed to indicate that he did not discuss the first instance with anyone else.

Regarding the most recent incident - W-002 continued that he and his friend [redacted] discussed the matter the next day. [redacted] indicated that he was quite upset that the priest had touched him. W-002 did not go into any detail, saying that he wasn't sure how the priest touched [redacted]. W-002 further indicated that they all attended Mass that day and that he felt embarrassed to be at Mass with Father. (W-002 also made some statements about not going to church and inferred that it was related to his lack of respect for the priest.)

In response to further questions, W-002 stated that he was not aware this had happened to other youngsters; however, he did say that a year or so ago some of the boys in the parish talked about Father Dudzinski as being "weird." He did not take them seriously. He also indicated that at least on one occasion a few of the boys went with Father Dudzinski to a drive-in theater and that the boys had their legs massaged there by Father Dudzinski.

Upon question by Father Brady whether W-002 was disappointed because he considered Father Dudzinski a hero, the boy responded: "No - Father Dudzinski is just a big kid like the rest of us." The interview concluded.

Father Brady and Father Cini indicated that perhaps the two priests would like to talk with the parents alone for a few moments. W-002 was comfortable with that. After Father Brady had departed the room, however, Father Cini stepped back into the room and questioned W-002 directly: "For my own sake and to be sure that I understood you W-002, I have to ask you one more question. Did Father Dudzinski touch you sexually?" Response, "yes, he did."

Upon returning to the office where [redacted] were, the priests outlined the expected procedure. They were interested in speaking with the other boy and his parents, if possible. Then the priests would be reporting to the Bishop. Father Dudzinski would be contacted and confronted with the allegations and directed by the Bishop to professional assistance. Father Cini suggested the diocese would provide counseling or other social services to [redacted] and to their son, if needed. Persons available for these services would be either priests or professional counselors, depending upon the kind of service needed and what they preferred. The [redacted] didn't think they would need such counseling; however, they left the option open.

W-002 was invited to return to the meeting. Father Cini added that it was important that all parties keep this in the utmost confidence in everyone's interests, the victims and their families as well as Father Dudzinski. He informed them that there were legal ramifications and that the diocesan attorney had been brought in on the discussions. [redacted] asked to be advised, when appropriate, about what had been done to take care of the matter.

With thank yous and assurances of prayers and continued services, if needed, the priests bade the [redacted] goodbye.

### OBSERVATIONS (Father Cini)

At no time were the [ ] belligerent. They seemed to be in control. [ ] expressed their concern that the matter be taken care of and that Father Dudzinski get the appropriate help. Their son indicated that he would never want to go on a witness stand or "send Father to jail", but was interested in seeing to it that the problem was taken care of. He said he lost respect for Father.

With regard to W-002: he is a boy of 15 years of age, entering his sophomore year in high school this year. The parents describe W-002 as "no angel" and as having become somewhat rebellious and stubborn in the last year or two.

She also indicated that W-002 had not been going to church for about a year. Scenes between his father and himself were quite heated on Sunday morning. The father said short of physical punishment he could do nothing to get the boy to go to church.

In response to a question by Father Cini as to how he felt about the incident in Virginia, W-002 said that he continued to think about it and didn't know why. A point that sticks in the mind of this writer - it may have no significance - is that W-002 went back to Virginia knowing what had happened the year before.

Subsequent to the meeting with [ ], Father Brady and Father Cini reported their discussions to Bishop Mulvey. They recommended that there be no confrontation with Father Dudzinski until they had an opportunity to speak with [ ] - the other boy. Father Brady had been in contact with [ ] and had arranged for a meeting for Wednesday evening at 7:00 P.M., September 4th.

September 3, 1985

On Tuesday night, September 3rd, Father Brady received a telephone call from [ ]

[ ] She claims the boy has been quite angry since the incident, even though he did not indicate that to the priests who interviewed him on September 1st. As an example of his anger: he was in the kitchen cutting a piece of meat and made the comment, "If this were Father Ed, I would stick the knife in him."

### OBSERVATIONS (Father Cini)

September 4, 1985

[ ] met with Fathers Brady and Cini at 7:30 P.M. at St. Ann's Rectory. After initial introductions, Father Brady thanked [ ] for agreeing to the meeting to discuss a difficult and delicate matter. He told them the purpose for the meeting was to ascertain the

facts as they knew them and to provide assistance for both them and Father Dudzinski. If the meeting was to fulfill its objectives, however, a frank and honest exchange was imperative. Father Brady then invited them to say what was on their minds.

[redacted] stated that before anything further was said about the particulars of the incident in question, he wanted to make an initial statement as to his concerns and his hopes.

[redacted] stated he had much respect for Father Ed Dudzinski and felt that Father Ed had much to offer the ministry. Father Dudzinski had done a commendable job during his tenure at St. Mary Magdalen. He thought Father had a particular gift to deal effectively with the young and he hoped that his apparent problem could be dealt with effectively and Father could later be allowed to continue his ministry, including ministry with young people. [redacted] said he spoke for his family in stating that there were no hard feelings against Father Dudzinski. To his knowledge, the incident did not seem to have any ill effect on his son. He was confident [redacted] did deal and would deal with the problem well. He hoped Father was not "forced into penance for a protracted period" for the incident, but that appropriate assistance would be given him to aid his handling his difficulty, if there was one, and that he would be permitted to return to active ministry.

[redacted] stated he had coached baseball with Father Ed Dudzinski and found his work with kids valuable and effective, a gift that not many priests had these days. He hoped the incident would not rule out Father's future work with young people.

[redacted] agreed with her husband's assessment of the family's attitude toward Father Dudzinski. She stated she was bound in conscience to report the incident to Church authorities to be assured that Father Ed got the help he needed and, of course, to prevent further problems with any other young people. She described Father Dudzinski as a good friend. She was disappointed and hurt, but realized that a clergyman was as human as anyone else. She attempted - apparently with success - to convey this same attitude and approach to the problem to her son

[redacted]

[redacted] was offered the opportunity to describe what happened. He chose to speak in the presence of his parents relating the following:

Father Dudzinski had invited [redacted] to Busch Gardens along with W-002. The two boys went down to Salisbury by bus. That night the three of them - W-002, [redacted] and Father Dudzinski - shared a room in a motel in Virginia in a single king size bed. Before retiring Father gave both boys back rubs. Then after they had been in bed awhile [redacted] felt Father's hand on his leg. Thinking perhaps he was too close to the priest or that Father Dudzinski had moved unawares in his sleep, [redacted] moved away - toward the side of the bed. However, a little while later, the priest's hand was back. He rubbed the boy's legs. [redacted] moved again and turned over, lying on his stomach. A third time the hand was on his leg rubbing it and also his buttocks. At this point, the boy got out of the bed and went to the bathroom where he stayed for about fifteen minutes.

[redacted] stated he felt strongly that the priest was not asleep and knew what was happening, particularly since it happened three or four times. He stated the priest did not touch his genital area, his hands reaching no higher than the leg of the front of his shorts. However, as related above, when he was on his stomach the priest did rub his buttocks as well as his legs.

[redacted] stated he was upset. The next day he was embarrassed at Mass celebrated by Father Dudzinski and eventually said something to Father Ed. Father asked casually if he had disturbed him by bumping him during the night and did he call him his dog's name. [redacted] responded, "no, but you did give me a few leg rubs last night." Father Dudzinski responded, "I'm not surprised" and dropped the subject.

[redacted] said that he and W-002 discussed the night before. [redacted] introduced the subject to W-002 by saying "I guess it was kind of stupid for me to say what I said to Father." W-002 then related that he also had been touched. He thought W-002 meant only his legs were rubbed. Both boys, however, expressed to each other that what had happened was improper and they were upset.

[redacted] told Fathers Brady and Cini that his main concern was that others would learn about the incident. He did not want to cause Father Dudzinski any problems; however, he was particularly concerned that he not be thought of as being gay. [redacted] also expressed some worry about how he could face Father Dudzinski again, not only because of the incident but also because he reported it. Both priests assured the boy that he probably would not see Father for awhile due to the awkwardness of the situation.

The priests outlined for the [redacted] what would happen: that the Bishop would be appraised, Father Dudzinski would be confronted, required to undergo an evaluation and, if necessary, subsequent treatment. All were asked to keep the matter in the utmost confidence. Legal ramifications were discussed, as well as the fact that the diocese had consulted its attorney. Services by professional counselors as well as the clergy were offered as they were offered in a conference with the [redacted] family.

#### September 5, 1985 - Meeting with Father Ed Dudzinski

Father Brady called Father Dudzinski requesting him to come to Wilmington to discuss a personal issue. An appointment was set for 7:00 P.M. at St. Ann's Rectory. Father Dudzinski arrived at the rectory ahead of time and both priests went to the Chancery Office where they met with Father Cini. The meeting began at about 6:55 P.M.

Father Cini began by saying that a serious allegation was brought against Father Dudzinski. Appropriate steps were taken to get the facts as best and as thoroughly as possible. Father Cini assured Father Dudzinski that his best interests were of prime concern and, although the session would not be pleasant, both he and Father Brady were acting as brother priests hoping to be of assistance to him. Bishop Mulvee was aware of the allegation and both priests spoke in the Bishop's name.

Father Cini then recited the allegation identifying the time, the place and the persons. He described how the information first came to Father Brady by way of a telephone call; how interviews with the boys and their parents were conducted; that legal counsel had been sought as well as advice from professional counselors who had experience with similar incidents. Father Cini advised Father Dudzinski of the child abuse laws in all of the 50 States, and that these laws required any one who knew or even suspected child abuse to report it to the authorities.

Redacted - WP



Father Dudzinski was visibly shaken after having heard the facts as presented by Father Cini. He perspired. However, Father denied that anything happened intentionally. He said he was asleep and had no way of knowing if what the boys said was true. He described himself as a heavy sleeper; unable to be awakened easily. If what the boys said happened, he contended, it was while he was asleep and he did nothing intentionally.

When questioned about rubbing boys' legs on other occasions, the priest suggested it happened on a ski trip once "for medicinal reasons" - to relieve charley horses and sore legs. Father Cini then spoke of the incident in his car at the drive-in where this is alleged to have happened. Father Dudzinski seemed surprised, but did not deny or admit to anything. He said he showed kids how to touch specific nerves and to put a leg or a foot asleep. He also said that his car was small and the kids would sit on the arm rest. Perhaps he brushed against a child then and that was interpreted as rubbing them. Father Dudzinski spoke of doing back rubs on a number of people. Before going into the seminary he was in a group called "Serendipity," which encouraged touching and rubbing. He also spoke of an incident at St. Mary's College where he gave a college student a back rub. A few people made a comment about that incident so he said he went directly to the Rector himself and reported it before it could be blown out of proportion.

Father indicated that he gave the boys a back rub before they were to retire. He said "I got a back rub too." He went to sleep. He said he was a heavy sleeper (repeating what he had stated earlier). If one of the boys left the bed during the night, he was unaware of it. However, Father commented that if the boy left because he thought he was being touched improperly, the boy did the right thing. He also spoke of occasions when the pastor's dog would sleep on his bed. He said he petted the dog at night before going to sleep. Perhaps he thought one of the boys was the dog.

Father Dudzinski admitted that the use of one bed was imprudent. He said in his original plans other boys were to come along - boys from Salisbury. He had arranged for two rooms. When the other boys cancelled, he cancelled the one room and decided to save money and have everyone sleep in the one place.

Father Dudzinski stated that some question about his relationship with boys had been raised before at Easton while he was a deacon because he had befriended young boys there.

Redacted - Conf. Med Recs.

He stated he was willing to undergo whatever testing the diocese required and whatever counseling the diocese required for as long as necessary in order to clear his name.

Redacted - WP

Redacted - Conf. Med Recs.

Both Fathers Brady and Cini would accompany him there. He was also being relieved of his faculties and duties as a priest in the Diocese of Wilmington temporarily and was being temporarily removed from the parish of St. Francis deSales in Salisbury pending the results of the evaluation. These steps were necessary in order to protect both him and the diocese. The Bishop regretted these steps, but should a civil case be filed later against the priest, the diocese could point to these actions as prudent precautions.

Father Dudzinski was very shaken by the suspension. He suggested that perhaps it was too severe.

Redacted - Conf. Med Recs.

Redacted - WP

Some practical matters had to be decided, especially rearranging Father's calendar and having someone at the parish - a fellow associate - cancel his appointments and meetings, etc. These details were discussed. Father Dudzinski preferred not to go back to the parish, but rather that since he had to go to Washington the next day, to be driven there directly. He suggested that clothes could be sent him from Salisbury.

At the close of the meeting both priests assured Father Dudzinski that the actions taken were done for his own good and that although it was embarrassing and difficult for him to accept, the best thing to do was to cooperate. Father Brady then returned to his rectory. Father Dudzinski and Father Cini spoke in the office for awhile and then went home to St. Joseph's on the Brandywine where Father Dudzinski stayed for the night.

September 6, 1985

On Friday, September 6th, Fathers Brady and Cini took Father Dudzinski to

Redacted - Conf. Med Recs.

Redacted - Conf. Med Recs.

It was decided there that Father Dudzinski would inform his mother as to where he was and some statement to respond to questions posed by parishioners would be worked out by Father Cini and Father Irwin.

*John Cini*  
9/11/85