

McCormack
EXHIBIT NO. 30
6-3-02
S. DAY

MARY [REDACTED] McGEE
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

FEBRUARY 2, 1995

Paul Contrera
440 Sycamore N E
Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87106
505-243-8887

Dear Paul,

As per our telephone conversation of 2/1/95, I will attempt to tell you about the facts pertaining to the matter of FATHER "B" , which I was aware of ,and the action taken by me concerning this matter

In the spring of 1970, just before Easter, me sister came to the house at 11:30P M. very upset and told my husband and me that she had just come from talking to Mrs. Ann McDaid. She proceeded to tell us that Ann McDaid told her about her Bernie and all the troubles he was having regarding the behavior of Father B towards some of the boys and altar boys attending St. James school. It seems that he had been molesting them in the sacristy and in his private room at the rectory Bernie also told her that they should check with my son [REDACTED], seeing that he was president of the class, some of the boys had talked to him when they didn't know how to handle the situation That night we got [REDACTED] out of bed and I asked him "do you have anything to tell me about Father "B". He burst into tears and said "Mama I'm so glad you know". His reaction convinced me that there was something that needed to be further investigated. We sent [REDACTED] back to bed.

In the morning I asked [REDACTED], what do you want me to do about this, and he told me to tell Sister Grace I immediately went down to St. James School and told Sister Grace that I had something very important to discuss with her in private She was seeing a couple of school busses off and she told me to wait in her office. When she came in and saw the emotional state I was in she said "don't tell me he got to [REDACTED] too". I proceeded to tell her what I new and how [REDACTED] told me the names of some of the boys that had approached him in trying to get something done. It seems they all thought they were the only ones that these things were happening to. Sister Grace told me why do you think Father "B" was transferred so suddenly 6 weeks prior to me finding out about this mess. I can remember at the party that was held for him after he left, all the people lamenting the fact that the best priest is gone. Boy! were we all taken in. Sister Grace had gone to Boston as soon as she became aware of the situation She told them in Boston ,that as long as she was Principal of St. James, that man would no longer be

allowed near any of her students. She told me that she was dismissed as a **meddling female**. She suggested that I go to Boston with a group of the parents.

Up to the time of meeting with Sister Grace I still did not want to believe what I had been told and hoping that this was all a mistake. After my conversation with Sister Grace it really sank in and I came totally unglued. When my husband came home from teaching school I was still crying very uncontrollably and all I wanted to do was sleep which I couldn't. I had him call my doctor at his home as it was on a Wednesday and he wasn't in the office. As soon as Dr Barry got on the phone and heard me crying in the background, he called in a prescription to Eatons Drug store. He told my husband to bring me into his office the next day as he wanted to talk to us. After telling him the story, he told us to go to Boston and speak to a Msgr. John Jennings, director of personnel for the church. However he wanted me to take a few days in order to regain my composure. He said that if we went right now and I started to cry they would dismiss me also as an **emotional female**

The following week we had a meeting in our home with some of the parents involved and decided that a group of mothers would go with me to Boston, so that we could tell our story. I called Boston, and as soon as they knew what the subject was that we wanted to discuss, we had no problem getting an appointment with Msgr Jennings.

The group consisted of myself, my sister [REDACTED], Judy Fairbanks, Mrs. Abraham and one other person that I can't remember her name, after all these years. When we got into Msgr. Jennings office, I told him my name, address, my husband's name and that he was a school teacher at Saugus Jr. High. I related the story to him and I wanted him to seek counseling for the priest but he wouldn't say that he would. I also wanted him to at least inform the pastor at St. Michael's in Lowell where they transferred him, that this priest had a problem. Jennings also said that he wouldn't do that as well. The other ladies had a chance to speak, and they told their stories as well. After about an hour of discussion Msgr. Jennings said "**ladies you have to be very careful of slander**". With that I completely lost my cool, and jumped up and told him, "where do you think my husband would be if he had been molesting children. He would never be allowed to get another teaching job". Jennings said he would get back to me, and we left.

After not hearing from Jennings for about 3 days I went to talk to Fr McCormick at Catholic Charities on Essex St in Salem as he was a very good friend of Fr. "B". I told him everything that had happened and about Jennings getting back to me. I also told him my faith in the Catholic Church has been very severely shaken and I no longer knew what religion was all about, if when a priest has a problem they don't think it is necessary that the church seek help for the priest. Fr. McCormick said he would call Jennings. I left McCormick's office feeling that he was already aware of the problem and he was trying to get me to drop the subject. That afternoon I received a call from Jennings and I honestly don't remember what he said as I didn't believe anything he would say to me and I was completely disgusted with the church, and their shoving this matter under the rug. I did not pursue this matter any longer as it was beginning to effect my health and well-being.

Getting back to [REDACTED] I asked him why he didn't tell me about what was going on and he replied "Mama I was afraid you would have him arrested and he is a very sick man". That coming from a 12 year old. I wanted to kill Father "B", I was so angry. That was a mother's emotion responding and it took a statement from a 12 yr. old Mama he is a sick man, to get me to think more clearly and rationally

During the mid 70's, one Sunday morning my husband woke me about 8" a.m. and wanted me to read an article that was in the Sunday paper. It was about the police needing help to find a man that had been trying to pick up young boys in the Tewksbury area. They gave a description of a man that they were looking for. As I read the article I immediately came to the same conclusion that my husband did that it sure fit the description of Fr. "B", and knowing that he had been transferred to ST. Michael's in Lowell I thought that I should report it to the police. We were living in Lynnfield at the time and my husband and myself went to the State Police Barracks on RTE. 1 in Lynnfield. We asked to speak to the officer in charge. I don't remember his name, but it should be on record that we were there. It was a Sunday around 8:30--9:00a.m. We identified ourselves and told him about the incident in 1970 leading to our trip to Boston and about our talk with Msgr. John Jennings. This brought back a lot of very unpleasant memories and I told him to investigate what we told him. I also told him that I didn't want to know anything about this latest incident as I was trying to put this whole sorry mess out of my mind. I also told him that knowing what I knew now, I probably should have gone to the police in 1970, because then maybe something would have been done about this man.

Instead I put my faith in the Catholic Church and was really let down. I came from a very catholic family and evidently was very naive.

Hope this letter will be of some help to you. Please keep me informed as to your progress. I am interested.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

names of women that went to Boston with me:

[REDACTED]-my sister--I am living with her at the above address

Judy Fairbank--31 No. Shore Ave, Danvers. Ma.--774-8474

Mrs. Tony Abraham--lived near Greenway Rd. Salem

Mrs. Paul Morgani--I seem to recall that she came with us but I'm not quite sure. Mrs. Abraham could probably confirm whether or not she was there with us. All I know is that 5 people were there.

Paul try contacting Mrs. Ann McDaid--3 Park Square, Peabody 508-1863
her children where Bernard, Billy, Robert, Rosemary, Moira,