

Summary

present.... [REDACTED] *denies all sex contact.... [REDACTED] met the victim in [REDACTED] – the victim was 20 yrs... [REDACTED] offers [REDACTED]; case settled for [REDACTED] paid by [REDACTED]. Release given. Pure extortion!*” The note further states that [REDACTED] admitted he attended a gay wedding with another priest, [REDACTED], but did not bless it or offer a prayer and wore a sport jacket during it. The note ended with the following, *“Our investigation shows no truth to any of allegations. [REDACTED] is guilty of going to a gay wedding. No proof of any other charge. Settlement was done to protect [REDACTED] from publicity of wedding.”*

The Grand Jury found handwritten notes by [REDACTED] that also make references to [REDACTED] preference for young boys and a complaint about his unwanted touching. Furthermore, an undated letter from the [REDACTED] appeared to contain some type of warning to [REDACTED] about his handling of [REDACTED]. This warning referred to the friendship between [REDACTED] [REDACTED] because of his sexual abuse of a 16-year-old boy. This victim would eventually settle with [REDACTED] out of court for [REDACTED].

Two noteworthy undated documents were included in [REDACTED] file. Their approximate timing appeared consistent with the Diocese first having been made aware of the complaint against [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. An undated, handwritten note titled “[REDACTED]” stated, among other things, that *“3 yrs ago [name] brought suit against [REDACTED] – settled out of court...”* It should be noted that according to media reports, [REDACTED] was dismissed from the clerical state in 2005 for the sexual abuse of children. The second document was an undated letter sent from [REDACTED], to [REDACTED] and was located in the files on [REDACTED]. It was a clear reference to the connection between [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stating, *“Dear Bishop, I understand what you are going through. The man here was guilty but we went through much denial. He is still totally unrealistic about his status. Just Bishop be very careful because there are connections...maybe they go back over the years but they come home to haunt us.”*

The Diocese of [REDACTED] continued to assign [REDACTED] to positions where children were abundant. These assignments included weekend duties at [REDACTED], as well as renewing his assignment as [REDACTED].

The Grand Jury also found a handwritten note by [REDACTED], dated [REDACTED], stating, among other things, that he *“met with [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] about allegations, which [REDACTED] denied. Allegations consisted of a young man now at [REDACTED] being uncomfortable with touch and rubbing of shoulders. This young man refused to see [REDACTED]. Therefore no formal complaint received. Allegations come from his mother (name listed). I admonished [REDACTED] with regard to demonstrative exhibitions of friendship. He simply responded he is part [REDACTED].”*

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These reports of suspicious rumors and sexual touching by [REDACTED] continued on into [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This review of Diocesan documents found another handwritten note by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] dated 2008 documenting some type of meeting or report issued about [REDACTED]. The note stated, among other things, that “*in the past young men complained about [REDACTED] favoring young boys.*” On [REDACTED] an e-mail was sent from the Principal of [REDACTED] [REDACTED], advising that they have called the Childline number to report possible sexual abuse by [REDACTED]. Childline is a state run child advocacy program run by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Their website states “*Childline is part of a mandated statewide child protective services program designed to accept child abuse referrals and general child well-being concerns, and transmit the information quickly to the appropriate investigating agency.*” Attached to the e-mail was a copy of a comment made on what appeared to be a rating site for the [REDACTED]. The comment, referring to “[REDACTED] [REDACTED]” stated, “*He sexually abused my son.*” No further details were found in the records other than a handwritten note by [REDACTED] on a printout of the e-mail advising that they have met with [REDACTED] and he denied the allegation. It is unknown whether this complaint has been verified, although it does appear the Diocese reported it to law enforcement upon learning of it.