

The Case of Father Augustine Giella

Known Assignments

06/1950 — 06/1969	Holy Trinity Church, Hackensack, New Jersey
06/1969 — 06/1970	Our Lady of Sorrows, Jersey City, New Jersey
06/1970 — 03/1976	Church of the Epiphany, Cliffside Park, New Jersey
03/1976 — 02/1980	St. Catherine's, Glen Rock, New Jersey
03/1980 — 10/1982	St. Joseph's Church, Hanover
10/1982 — 04/1988	St. John the Evangelist, Enhaut

Father Augustine Giella was ordained in the Archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey on June 3, 1950. After twenty-nine years of ministry in New Jersey, Giella suddenly decided to seek ministry elsewhere. In November 1979, Giella wrote Bishop Joseph Daley of the Diocese of Harrisburg to request an assignment. On December 7, 1979, Archbishop Peter Gerety of the Archdiocese of Newark wrote a letter to confirm that Giella was a priest in good standing and stated that Giella “has always shown himself to be [an] excellent priest giving himself only for the greater honor and glory of God and the people of the Catholic Church.” Gerety gave Giella full permission to seek service outside of the Archdiocese. Though Giella was still an incardinated priest of the Diocese of Newark, an agreement to serve in another diocese was permissible with the concession of his home Bishop and the approval of the Bishop of the receiving diocese.

During the interview process with the Diocese of Harrisburg, Giella told Father William H. Keeler that he sought to have his own parish, which was unlikely to occur in the Archdiocese of Newark due to an abundance of priests. Keeler conducted the interview because he was acting in his capacity as Auxiliary Bishop. This interview was recorded in a memorandum prepared by Keeler and sent to Bishop Daley and Monsignor Hugh Overbaugh. The Diocese of Harrisburg accepted Giella and assigned him to St. Joseph's in Hanover, York County, in 1980.

Thereafter, Giella was assigned to St. John the Evangelist Church in Enhaut, Swatara Township, Dauphin County, in 1982. In 1983, Bishop Daley died and Keeler was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

At St. John the Evangelist Church, Giella met a family who warmly embraced him as their parish priest. The family included eight girls and one boy. Giella began sexually abusing the girls almost immediately upon his appointment to the parish. Giella sexually abused five of the eight girls. Giella also abused other relatives of the family. His conduct included a wide array of crimes cognizable as misdemeanors or felonies under Pennsylvania law.

In August 2016, the sisters that Giella abused testified before the Grand Jury to the criminal sexual acts Giella perpetrated upon them. The Grand Jury learned that Giella regularly collected samples of the girls' urine, pubic hair, and menstrual blood. Giella utilized a device he would apply to the toilet to collect some of these samples. Giella would ingest some of the samples he collected. The abuse occurred in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, where Giella invited the family for visits.

Giella's abuse had a lasting effect on the sisters. The sisters testified to the challenges they have faced in overcoming Giella's sexual abuse. The emotional, psychological, and interpersonal damage to the sisters is incalculable. Most of the sisters refrained from sharing any details of their own abuse with their siblings for fear of what they might learn. The Grand Jury learned that Giella's tragic abuse of these girls could have been stopped much earlier if the Diocese of Harrisburg had acted on a complaint in the 1980's.

In approximately April 1987, a teacher at Bishop McDevitt High School received a complaint that Giella was insisting on watching a girl as she used the bathroom. The girl stated that Giella insisted on watching her go to the bathroom and that he did "wrong things" with

children. The teacher reported the complaint to Father Joseph Coyne, who in turn made an immediate report to the Diocese.

This former teacher testified before the Grand Jury on January 24, 2017. The former teacher's testimony is corroborated by an internal memorandum from the secret archives of the Diocese of Harrisburg. In that memorandum, dated April 14, 1987, Overbaugh recorded the complaint, as well as an allegation that Giella engaged in similar conduct with one of the above mentioned sisters. The witness, the reporting victim, and the family of the sisters are all recorded and identified by name. Overbaugh wrote:

(REDACTED), a teacher for the Intermediate Unit, was informed by one of her students, (REDACTED), that while she was a student last year at Bishop Neumann School in Steelton, she was in Saint John's rectory, Enhaut, and expressed to Father Giella, the pastor, her need to go to the restroom. Father Giella is reported to have said that he would like to go with her and watch, that he does this whenever the (REDACTED) girl goes to the restroom.²

Overbaugh noted at least one other complaint by a girl who reported to her teacher that Giella had "acted improperly towards her." Overbaugh concluded his memo, "Father Coyne was instructed to do nothing in the case until the matter had been discussed with diocesan legal counsel. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was present for this entire discussion between Father Coyne and Msgr. Overbaugh."

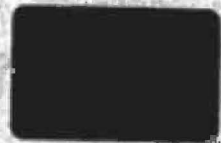
² The Grand Jury has withheld names otherwise identified within the document for the privacy of the witnesses and victims.



THE CHANCERY

DIocese OF HARRISBURG

4800 Union Deposit Road — Box 3143 • Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-2143
(717) 657-4804 / 652-9920



April 14, 1987

MEMORANDUM

Re: Rev. Augustine M. Giella

Father Joseph Coyne, Principal of Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg, telephoned today and expressed an urgent need to speak with me. He came to the Chancery immediately and related the following information:

Mrs. [REDACTED] a teacher for the Intermediate Unit, was informed by one of her students, [REDACTED] that while she was a student last year at Bishop Neumann School in Steelton, she was in Saint John's rectory, Ennaut, and expressed to Father Giella, the pastor, her need to go to the restroom. Father Giella is reported to have said that he would like to go with her and watch, that he does this whenever the [REDACTED] girl goes to the restroom. (Having been pastor at St. John's myself for about three years and from my knowledge of the parishioners, I suspect that the correct surname of this latter girl is [REDACTED] rather than [REDACTED]. I am aware of the close friendship between Father Giella and the members of the [REDACTED] family. There are at least seven girls in this family and I know that they are in the rectory rather frequently.)

Mrs. [REDACTED] also confided that another former student at Bishop Neumann School and now, like [REDACTED], a Freshman at Bishop McDevitt High School, had registered to [REDACTED] complaints that Father Giella had acted improperly towards her. This girl's name is [REDACTED]. She indicated that Father Giella had wrestled with her.

Mrs. [REDACTED], the former [REDACTED] and former member of Saint John's parish, Ennaut, had also experienced in her childhood some bad encounters with a priest.

Father Coyne was instructed to do nothing in the case until the matter had been discussed with our diocesan legal counsel. * [REDACTED] was present for this entire discussion by [REDACTED] Father Coyne and Mgr. Overbaugh.

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This complaint was consistent with the type of deviant interests Giella pursued with the sisters he victimized. The Grand Jury uncovered another document related to this report in the secret or confidential archives of the Diocese of Harrisburg. An undated document addressed to Keeler regarding “Report on Gus Giella” noted: “I spoke with Father Coyne on the pastoral concerns: A.) Approaching Fr. Giella B.) welfare of the student C.) satisfying the ire of the teacher. I said we would consult you on these matters. [REDACTED]”

In spite of the detailed memorandum and this note, Giella remained in ministry and neither Keeler nor the Diocese attempted to remove Giella from ministry. Giella voluntarily retired in 1988. However, in the approximately five years that followed the Overbaugh memorandum, Giella continued to sexually abuse the girls identified in the Overbaugh memorandum, which included a reference to the family of girls.

Keeler left the Diocese in 1989 to become Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Nicholas C. Dattilo became Bishop of the Diocese in 1990. Giella continued to steal the innocence of children. In 1992, one of the victims came forward and disclosed what Giella had been doing. The family initially reported the conduct to the Diocese. Father Paul Helwig wrote a memorandum to Dattilo dated July 18, 1992, regarding the complaint against Giella. Helwig documented the information he received from the reporting victim’s family at various meetings in attached supplemental memoranda. The documents detailed the events leading up to the 12-year-old girl’s disclosure, and described the event believed to have finally triggered the girl to disclose her abuse, the discovery of nude or partially nude photos of the girl in Giella’s residence.

Helwig wrote that he interviewed Giella on July 30, 1992. Among other admissions, Giella stated that he began having contact with the girl in the bath and that “as time went on they became more comfortable with each other the embraces became more intense and involved some fondling

on his part.” Giella also confessed that he took pictures of the girl. The July 1992 Helwig memoranda are set forth below.



DIocese OF HARRISBURG - SECRETARIAT FOR CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

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MEMORANDUM

To: Most Reverend Nicholas C. Dattilo
From: Very Reverend Paul C. Helwig *pcH*
Date: July 18, 1992
Re: Father Augustine M. Giella

This afternoon upon my return to St. Lawrence Rectory Monsignor Hugh Overbaugh informed me that earlier in the afternoon he met with Mrs. [REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED], and her daughter. The conversation centered on a report of sexual misconduct involving Father Augustine Giella, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark who was granted permission to work in the Diocese of Harrisburg, and Mrs. [REDACTED] youngest daughter, [REDACTED] while he was pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Enhaut. The meeting was requested by Mrs. [REDACTED]. Both mothers knew Monsignor Overbaugh from his time as pastor of St. John's, Enhaut. [REDACTED] presently is 12 years old.

Mrs. [REDACTED] reported that by nature [REDACTED] is quiet and somewhat withdrawn, but recently she seemed to be moreso. In asking her if there was anything wrong, [REDACTED] revealed that Father Giella, while he was stationed at St. John's made inappropriate advances to her. Not wanting to upset her daughter anymore, Mrs. [REDACTED] did not ask more questions about details of the situations.

She feels that her daughter is telling the truth and is in need of some kind of counseling. She reported to me in a later phone call that [REDACTED] seems to be doing a little better already now that she knows someone else knows.

In the course of the meeting it was also reported that another daughter repelled an advance made by Father Giella.

With a family wedding approaching on August 1st, in which [REDACTED] is to participate, Mrs. [REDACTED] is not interested in disturbing [REDACTED] life right now, but is interested in helping her daughter in the near future.

July 18, 1992 (memo #2)

In order to make a personal contact with Mrs. [REDACTED] to notify her that I was aware of her conversation with Msgr. Overbaugh and to assure her of the gravity with which he consider such happenings I phoned her in the evening and spoke with her at her home.

I told her that the diocese would be willing to assist her in obtaining counseling for her daughter. No details were discussed except to temporize on the situation until after the family wedding on August 1st.

Mrs. [REDACTED] was informed that in cases such as this the priest is presented with the report shortly after it is received. Therefore, since Father is a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark I would contact those diocesan officials and that most probably within the week Father would be approached about the allegations.

In order to speak knowledgeably with Father about the incidents I asked Mrs. [REDACTED] if she would meet with me to review the information she received from [REDACTED] Mrs. [REDACTED] and her husband will meet with me on Tuesday evening, July 21 at the Diocesan Center.

Mrs. [REDACTED] asked that these proceedings be kept in the strictest of confidence for her daughter's sake. I assured her that on our part it is our practice to do so.

Mrs. [REDACTED] also mentioned that Father Giella has pornographic literature and photographs in his possession that should be confiscated and destroyed. She is concerned that if he is alerted to these developments he may take the material and put it some place to keep it from being found.

When Father Giella arrived in Ennaut the [REDACTED] family befriended him. The daughters would go to the rectory to do chores for him. They have maintained contact to this day. Most recently (prior to [REDACTED] revelation) the family visited with Father at his new residence in Whiting, N.J.

DOH0000668

July 21, 1992

This evening I had a meeting scheduled with Mr. and Mrs. [redacted]. Mr. [redacted] arrived with his son, [redacted]. He (Mr. [redacted]) said that he and his wife had a spat before they left the house and she refused to come along. She wanted to bring Mrs. [redacted] (the woman who made the first appointment for Mrs. [redacted] with Msgr. Overbaugh) along and Mr. [redacted] did not want her to accompany them. He said the matter is a family affair and he did not want others from outside the immediate family to know all the details.

In the course of the conversation Mr. [redacted] said that he really did not know any of the details of the story, except that Father Giella did improper things to [redacted]. He referred me to his wife for any more details.

He said that the family consists of he [redacted] and his wife [redacted] and nine children (in order of ages oldest to youngest):

[redacted]

Mr. [redacted] said that [redacted] and some of her sisters would go to the rectory to help count the Sunday collection and help out around the rectory. Father would give them each \$5.00 for counting. [redacted] attended St. John's School also.

[redacted] and Mr. [redacted] were very interested in the confidentiality of the case. I assured them that beyond the Bishop, Msgr. Overbaugh, myself, two other priests ([redacted] and Father Haney), and the diocesan lawyer would know about the matter. Mr. [redacted] said that they were not interested in pursuing the matter with the law nor were they interested in creating any kind of scandal. Mr. [redacted] said there is nothing to be gained by that. The matter has been reported by Mrs. [redacted] to the Children's Services Office. She was told that it was good that she did it herself. Had the officials received the report from someone else they could have come into the home and removed [redacted]. (This would probably be done to protect the child from further abuse, however, since the perpetrator is not in the area this may not have happened.)

Earlier in the day I made an initial contact with Bishop Michael Saltarelli, Vicar for Priests in the Archdiocese of Newark. I will give him more details when they are available and make arrangements to go to Whiting, NJ, to talk with Father Giella.

DOH0000669

July 25, 1992

Today I met with Mr. [REDACTED], Mrs. [REDACTED], and Mrs. [REDACTED] at St. Lawrence Rectory.

Mrs. [REDACTED] described for me the relationship she and her family had with Father Giella. She said that after he arrived at St. John Church in Enhaut as pastor he asked one of the girls to help count the Sunday collection. Then a second daughter began to help and eventually [REDACTED], the youngest daughter in the family, was going along with her sisters. She would play in the rectory while her sisters were working. At this time [REDACTED] was two years old at the time.

As time went on [REDACTED] continued to grow closer to Father Giella. He became like a grandfather figure in the family. He would visit the [REDACTED] home and join in family celebrations. He bought [REDACTED] toys and gifts and would take her and her sisters on trips and outings. [REDACTED] seemed to be his favorite.

After he returned to New Jersey the family continued to keep in touch with him and would visit him at his beach house. Mrs. [REDACTED] and the girls would go to the house and clean it up for him. He did not take care of it himself. They were the ones who moved him from Enhaut to the beach house in New Jersey and then a second time from the beach house to Whiting.

At the time of the second move before he moved from the beach house Mrs. [REDACTED] and some of the children (which included [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] granddaughter, [REDACTED] who is only two years younger than [REDACTED] went to Father's place and were unable to get in when they arrived. It was very early in the morning, but still with several attempts they were not able to get him to come to the door. They slept in the car. The next morning they went to a neighbor's house and called, but no answer. So Mrs. [REDACTED] found a window open and lifted [REDACTED] through the window and had her open the door. When they entered they found Father in very bad physical condition (he was dehydrated probably from the heat because he kept everything closed tight). They called the ambulance and he spent about a week in the hospital. Had they not found him, the medical personnel said he would have died.

Mrs. [REDACTED] saw Father's hospitalization as a fortuitous happening. She was helping him pack for the move to Whiting and he was hindering the packing process because he wanted

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to take everything along. She thought a lot of stuff should be thrown away. With Father in the hospital, Mrs. [REDACTED] felt she could make great headway.

In the process of packing Mrs. [REDACTED] said she came across some things that she thought were unusual for a priest to have, but she did not want to question Father's integrity. There were Playboy magazines. She thought perhaps he confiscated them from someone else and would eventually dispose of them later.

Once on a visit when picking up Father's dirty clothes to launder them (he would wear T-shirts once and then throw them in a pile and by new ones) Mrs. [REDACTED] found girls' underwear mixed in with his. She thought that the girls must have left them there on a previous visit or that time around and they got mixed in with his things.

On her last trip to Father's house in Whiting [REDACTED] said that while she was taking a shower Father wanted to take pictures of her. She refused to cooperate. She said that the bathroom door would not lock and she was not able to keep him out. (Mrs. [REDACTED] said that he must have jammed it because it did work before.) He persisted to ask to be allowed to take pictures, but [REDACTED] continued to refuse. Father got angry and yelled at her. Mrs. [REDACTED] said that this is one thing [REDACTED] cannot handle. She always does what people ask for fear of them getting upset with her. She consistently gets "outstanding" on her report cards for conduct. Mrs. [REDACTED] believes not because she wants to be so good, but out of fear of being yelled at. As far as I know, no photos were taken.

Mrs. [REDACTED] thinks that this may have been the event that drove [REDACTED] into an even more withdrawn state for the past several months.

[REDACTED] began to tell her story after [REDACTED] told her mother [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] sister) that she saw a picture at Father Giella's place of [REDACTED] naked. (Actually it was a photo of [REDACTED] in younger year from the waist up without the top of a swimming suit on. Mrs. [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] had a habit of doing this when she was little.) [REDACTED] mother in turn told [REDACTED] another sister, who, while driving [REDACTED] one day noticed again that [REDACTED] was very withdrawn. She asked her what was wrong and if it had anything to do with the photo. [REDACTED] began to cry and told her what had been happening with Father Giella.

This led to the realization that [REDACTED] would need the services of a counselor (who has been contacted) and the

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subsequent reporting of the incidents to the Child and Youth Services Office. A person from that office is scheduled to come to the [redacted] home on Wednesday evening to interview [redacted]. No one is certain of the purpose or possible outcome of that visit.

I once again assured Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] that the diocese wants to be as supportive as we can to [redacted] (and other members of the family since they said there may have been other advances made to some of the other daughters) and that we would offer our assistance.

I also told them that I would be contacting Father to present their report to him and to instruct him that he is not to attend the August 1st family wedding nor is he to contact the family again. All communication is to cease.

July 30, 1992

Yesterday I visited with Father Giella at his home in Whiting, N.J. to apprise him of the report I received regarding [redacted]

Father was concerned when he heard the report, at least on the face of it, not so much for himself, but for what it has done for [redacted]. He said that they were affectionate and grew emotionally close to one another as well as physically close. (Mrs. [redacted] mentioned that he had become like a grandfather to the family.) He was bewildered that his activity should cause [redacted] so much trouble now. He said that he had just seen her about 2 or 3 weeks ago when members of the family came to his place to celebrate a birthday party for [redacted] and she seemed fine then.

I asked that he recount the history of his relationship with [redacted]. He mentioned that two of the [redacted] girls used to come to the rectory to count the collection on Sundays and that [redacted] eventually began to tag along. One day between the Masses when the girls had a break [redacted] went into the bathroom to put on some make-up and [redacted] went in to use the toilet. [redacted] called him into the bathroom and said that [redacted] wanted a hug. She [redacted] was on the toilet with her arms raised and he allowed her to give him a hug. This was the beginning. It later on became a frequent happening and eventually was not unusual for Father and [redacted] to hug one another. She became his favorite of all the sisters.

Father said that as time went on and they became more comfortable with each other the embraces became more intense and involved some fondling on his part. Father also said that

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also took pictures of [REDACTED] but has since destroyed them.

I asked Father not to call the family again and that he was not to plan on attending the family wedding this weekend. He said that he would not have been able to go anyway due to his health. I also explained to him that [REDACTED] has begun counseling (her first session was Tues. evening) and that the Office of Child and Youth Services has been notified. A case-worker from that office was to visit last evening to talk with [REDACTED] in order to ascertain exactly what happened between her and Father Giella. I told Father that I informed Bishop Sartorelli in Newark of the situation and that he would probably be hearing from him after he returns from his retreat.

Father is very remorseful that his affection for [REDACTED] has affected her in this way and said that he would be willing to help in any way that he can. He expects that the family will be "sore" with him and readily agreed to refrain from contacting the family.

DOH0000673

The family also reported Giella's abuse to police in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Police in Pennsylvania contacted the Office of the Prosecutor in New Jersey and law enforcement began an investigation. Upon serving a search warrant at Giella's residence in New Jersey, New Jersey police confiscated the following: young girl's panties; plastic containers containing pubic hairs identified by initials; twelve vials of urine; soiled panties; sex books; feminine sanitary products (used); numerous photographs of girls in sexually explicit positions; and some photos depicting children in the act of urination. Giella was arrested in August 1992.

Diocesan records do not indicate if Overbaugh, Helwig, Dattilo, or any Diocesan personnel ever reported the prior complaints against Giella or his confession to the police. The victims told the Grand Jury that this information was never relayed to them.

Giella admitted his actions to the police. According to the police report, after Giella was charged and arrested for child pornography and sexual abuse, numerous calls were received from women reporting that Giella fondled and abused them in Hackensack, New Jersey. These women stated they had been afraid to come forward given Giella's position in the church. Additionally, the reporting victim's sisters began to disclose Giella's sexual abuse of them.

Having learned that her child had been sexually abused by a priest, the mother of the family of child victims confronted Overbaugh. The family considered Overbaugh a friend and highly respected his role in the church. At the time of the confrontation, the family did not know that Giella's conduct had ever been reported to Overbaugh or the Diocese. However, further evidence of Diocesan officials' knowledge of the danger Giella posed to children was demonstrated to the Grand Jury when the victim's mother described the confrontation. Overbaugh stated, "I wondered why you were letting them go to the rectory." The victims' mother stated that she later received a phone call from Helwig. Helwig stated, "You can relax. Father said that (REDACTED) just took

his intentions towards her wrong,” and “that he loved her, and he would never hurt her.” This account bears some semblance to Helwig’s July 1993 memorandum, where he wrote, “Father is very remorseful that his affection for (REDACTED) has affected her in this way and that he would be willing to help in any way that he can. He expects that the family will be ‘sore’ with him and readily agreed to refrain from contacting the family.” Lost in this characterization is the reality that child sexual abuse is not affection or care, but the criminal violation of innocent children.

On October 12, 1992, an attorney for the family engaged the Diocese of Harrisburg in civil litigation via a letter of notice sent to the Diocese. Prior to reaching settlement terms, aggressive litigation resulted in the release of the victims’ psychological and academic records to Diocesan lawyers, the exchange of offers and counter-offers, the execution of confidentiality agreements, and prevention of a Harrisburg newspaper from obtaining information about the case. Letters between attorneys for the family and the Diocese haggled over whether the victim actually had a diagnosed condition as a result of the abuse. Diocesan lawyers argued that the Diocese was not responsible for the conduct of its agents.

On October 27, 1992, Dattilo wrote the family, and stated in part, “I share your shock, anger and hurt, and pledge full cooperation by the diocese in this unfortunate situation.” However, while Dattilo promised full cooperation, the diocesan lawyers continued to litigate and attempted to negotiate the family down from their approximately \$900,000.00 demand to \$225,000.00.³ The Grand Jury notes this is a familiar pattern.

In October 2017, Chancellor Carol Houghton testified before the Grand Jury. Houghton was the long-time Chancellor for the Diocese; Dattilo appointed her to that position. As Chancellor

³ The final settlement figure was nearly one million dollars. However, it does not appear that the 1987 Overbaugh memorandum uncovered by the Grand Jury was ever disclosed during that litigation.

and a canon lawyer, Houghton maintained many Diocesan records. Houghton is not a member of the clergy. Houghton had been tasked with a file review and was extremely knowledgeable as she maintained notes of her work. Houghton was shown the 1987 Overbaugh memorandum and questioned regarding the Diocese of Harrisburg's failure to inform the family or law enforcement of its contents. Houghton testified she had never seen the 1987 Overbaugh memorandum concerning Giella. She had no prior knowledge that the Diocese of Harrisburg had warnings about Giella's behavior in 1987. Houghton did not have access to the secret archives; only the Bishop had access pursuant to the Canon Law of the Church. The Grand Jury observed this in numerous flawed Diocesan investigations across Pennsylvania. The Dioceses' focus on secrecy often left even the Dioceses' own investigators in the dark.

Ultimately, Giella never faced a jury concerning his alleged criminal conduct. He died while awaiting trial. His criminal actions, and the criminal inaction of Keeler, resulted in continued victimization and trauma for the family of girls described earlier. The trauma was so fresh that the youngest sister, the one who finally reported Giella's criminal conduct, suffered a panic attack while in the Grand Jury suite after seeing an older gentlemen who bore some resemblance to Giella. In explaining why she came forward, she testified:

Because it doesn't have to happen to anybody. They don't have to live a life like I have to. I continually have to battle. The man out there is a very nice man. He is old like Giella and I can't -- it makes me -- it makes me think about what happened and he is nice and he doesn't deserve me to think that. But I can't -- I can't walk through there and see him because it makes me feel uncomfortable. I don't -- I don't know. I believe in God. I don't go to church. My son is the only reason I'm alive. Thank God I had him because, if I didn't have him -- I probably would have killed myself a long time ago.

This survivor of sexual assault attempted to take her own life in the months after her testimony before the Grand Jury. In recovery, she requested to speak with the attorney for the Commonwealth and special agent involved in this investigation. Even though she had almost lost

her own life, the victim's primary concern was a fear that in the intervening months since her testimony, the Grand Jury's investigation may have stopped and that the truth would never be told to the public. She was assured it was still an active investigation.