

MAY 30 2000

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May 30, 2000

BY HAND

Wilson D. Rogers, III, Esquire
1 Union Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Re: *Fr. William J. Scanlan*

Dear Mr. Rogers:

As you know, I represent Fr. William J. Scanlan in connection with the unsubstantiated allegations made against him by [REDACTED]. It is absolutely imperative that immediate action be taken to investigate these allegations and conclude that there is no basis why Fr. Scanlan should not resume his public ministry. Any delay in such action will put at substantial risk Fr. Scanlan's current position in the Military Archdiocese, his reputation, and indeed, his health. If the resolution of these charges has to take as long as a month, Fr. Scanlan has a very substantial risk of losing his current position. You are also aware of the interest of the Boston Herald in these charges. In addition, Fr. Scanlan has serious medical problems which are being aggravated by the current situation.

There are a number of facts which prove that Fr. Scanlan is not guilty of the charges Ms. [REDACTED] has made against him. They include but are not limited to the following:

(1) Fr. Scanlan has passed a polygraph examination in which he denied any sexual touching of [REDACTED] at any time, any sexual intercourse with her at any time, or taking part in any sexual act with her. The polygraph examination was given to Fr. Scanlan by Richard C. Johnson, Esquire, who is not only very well respected in this field, but is a member of the Bar. Mr. Johnson is prepared to testify under oath as to his findings. He can be reached at (508) 543-7582 and you are free to call him. A copy of his report to me is enclosed. As I discussed with you, a polygraph examination, which clearly and consistently supports the truthfulness of the person being tested with respect to such pointed questions, is considered to be highly reliable.

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(2) Fr. Scanlan was physically incapable of having the sexual intercourse claimed by Ms. [REDACTED]. His heart medication, which he was taking at that time, has left him with an erectile dysfunction which would have made such an act impossible. Fr. Scanlan has had major heart problems since approximately 1992. Such problems have been so serious that he was considered for a heart transplant. I have enclosed a copy of a letter from Dr. Daniel Driscoll, who was at the time in question and still is Fr. Scanlan's primary care doctor attesting to such condition. Needless to say, even though celibate, these facts are extremely painful and embarrassing for Fr. Scanlan to reveal and we only do so under the conditions of the utmost confidentiality.

(3) Fr. Scanlan sought psychological help and counseling for Ms. [REDACTED] during the time in question by notifying her parents of her problems, encouraging her hospitalization at Pembroke Hospital, and seeking to have her work with her school counselors. If he was guilty of the conduct alleged, he would never have taken such action. He took these steps after being told by [REDACTED] friend, of very serious problems which Ms. [REDACTED] was having at the time.

Fr. Scanlan believes that his efforts to obtain such help for [REDACTED] can be corroborated by his secretary, Mrs. Louise Scipione, Mrs. Kathy Mitchell, [REDACTED] mother, and, indeed, by [REDACTED] s parents.

(4) During the timeframe in question, [REDACTED], in the presence of [REDACTED], told Fr. Scanlan of a dream in which she was attacked by Fr. Scanlan. This dream could well be the foundation for the current claims against Fr. Scanlan and furnishes an explanation as to why she might level these charges against him. Mrs. [REDACTED] can corroborate that she was told about the dream by her daughter. [REDACTED] can also corroborate that Ms. [REDACTED] told her and Fr. Scanlan about the dream. If the molestation had occurred as charged, it seems very highly unlikely that [REDACTED] and her friend would stop Fr. Scanlan outside the Rectory to tell him about such a dream.

(5) [REDACTED] i claimed that Fr. Scanlan took her "up" to his rooms where there was a small sitting room and large bedroom where he pinned her against the wall and raped her. But, Fr. Scanlan did not live "up" on the second floor and he did not have a small sitting room and large bedroom. He lived on the first floor where he had a bedroom off the sunporch. His offices on the first floor had glass windows and a glass door open to view.

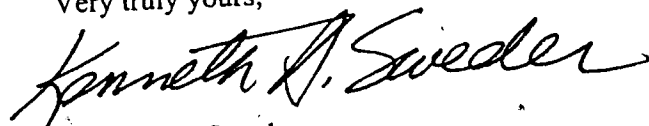
The location and description of Fr. Scanlan's rooms can be corroborated by Fr. William Lucey, Deacon Joseph Arsenault, Mrs. Scipione and the Parish housekeeper, Mrs. Medeiros. Fr. Lucey and Deacon Arsenault can also corroborate how unlikely it would have been for Fr. Scanlan to take Ms. [REDACTED] up to the second floor for such purposes at that time.

(6) The timing of the alleged incidents also show that the charges against Fr. Scanlan are not credible. The first incident is alleged to have occurred on October 26, 1996. On that night, Fr. Scanlan hosted two married couples for dinner and then there was a Parish Halloween party. The second incident allegedly occurred when Ms. [REDACTED] parents took her to Fr. Scanlan for help. But, according to Fr. Scanlan's recollection, it was he who called the [REDACTED] after [REDACTED] alerted him to Ms. [REDACTED] problems. Finally, the March 17, 1997 date of the third alleged incident is, of course, St. Patrick's Day, when there is always a large party at the Rectory with many people there. Again, Mrs. Scipione can most likely corroborate the above.

In view of the above, there should be very little delay in completing the investigation and finding that there is no reasonable probability of the truth of the allegations and that Fr. Scanlan should immediately be returned to a public ministry.

I cannot emphasize too emphatically the need to act urgently concerning the above and the harm which will result if these totally unsubstantiated, physically impossible, and completely noncredible charges are not resolved immediately.

Very truly yours,



Kenneth A. Sweder

KAS/js

cc: Fr. William J. Scanlan