

**GORDON MACRAE INTERVIEW**

BB: I am Brenda Blonegin and I am from the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department and today's date is October 25, 2002. It is currently 11:00 a.m. and we are at the New Hampshire State Prison and in the room also is Detective Brooke Lemoine, who is from the Nashua Police Department and we are speaking with Gordon James Macrae, MACRAE, is that the correct spelling?

GM: Yes.

BB: And Gordon's date of birth is April 9, 1953.

GM: Huh, huh.

BB: And Gordon today as we had talked earlier about, we're hear to talk about the Diocese of Manchester and how the Diocese of Manchester actually handled some allegations that had been made against you and what I'd like to do is to start from when you were ordained, where you went to the Seminary and kind of go from there.

GM: Sure.

BB: Now you were ordained about 1978 is that?

GM: 1982.

BB: 1982.

GM: June 5, 1982.

BB: Okay. And where did you go to the Seminary?

GM: St. Mary's University of Baltimore, Maryland.

BB: Okay. And before you went into the Seminary, what was the process as far as to get you into the Seminary? Did you have to go through any psychological tests or anything of that nature?

GM: I went through a series of standard psychological tests with a gentleman now deceased by the name of Walter St. Clair.

BB: Okay.

GM: A psychiatrist in Manchester who had contracted with the Diocese of Manchester for psychological screening of priesthood candidates and that was in 1978 when I began post college.

BB: And is that a normal process? Is that a process that all priests go through?

GM: That was the normal process, yes.

BB: Okay. So you went through those tests. You were accepted into the priesthood?

GM: Yes.

BB: You went to the Seminary in?

GM: In Baltimore.

BB: In Baltimore.

GM: And the Seminary conducted it's own evaluation or prior to acceptance.

BB: Okay. Ah, now was copies of that psychological made available to the Diocese of Manchester?

GM: I'm sure.

BB: At that time?

GM: Yes.

BB: Okay. Did you, do you remember signing the leases for them to give that, because it was part of the hiring or the priesthood process.

GM: It's a long time ago, but the process was instituted by them, but I'm presuming that release was required.

BB: Okay. So when you finished with the Seminary, where did you go from there?

GM: I was ah, I finished with, well there was a graduate school seminary. I went to college at St. Anne's College from 1975 to 1978.

BB: Okay.

GM: And um, and then Baltimore, St. Mary's in Baltimore from '78 to '81. I finished in December of '81 and I had a six month internship in the Town of North Stratford, New Hampshire.

BB: Okay.

GM: And that would have been from December of '81 until June of '82.

BB: Okay. And where did you go in June of '82?

GM: In June of '82. June 5<sup>th</sup> of '82 I was ordained and I went, I returned to North Stratford for about a one month period to cover for a priest who was on vacation into July, from June into July of 1982 and then I was assigned to Miraculous Medal Parish in Hampton.

BB: Okay.

GM: From July, the beginning of July of '82 until I resigned from there in June of '83.

BB: Why did you resign from the Miraculous Medal?

GM: Because the parish had been involved in a long drawn civil suit involving four sisters.

BB: Okay.

GM: Who had been fired from, by the Diocese.

BB: Okay.

GM: And I was not happy with the Diocese handling of that situation. Um.

BB: So you requested to be transferred?

GM: When it was resolved in May of '83, I requested, I resigned from the parish.

BB: Okay.

GM: I requested transfer.

BB: So they, when they transferred, where did they transfer you to?

GM: To St. Bernard's in Keene. That was effective June 15, 1983.

- BB: Okay. Now while you were at St. Bernard's in um Keene, there was an allegation made against you out of Hampton.
- GM: Out of Hampton.
- BB: How were you, how did you become aware of that allegation?
- GM: In November of '83 I had an appointment with Dr. Henry Gurtin Ouellette. I had seen him on perhaps a monthly basis.
- BB: For how long?
- GM: About, about eight months or so. It began with the because of the lawsuit in Hampton. Not with me, but against the parish. I was facing my first assignment as a priest with pickets, TV crews.
- BB: Right.
- GM: And that sort of thing. It was a very stressful situation.
- BB: So you started seeing him because of the stresses?
- GM: Yes.
- BB: From.
- GM: I was accused of having an affair with a married woman, parishioner.
- BB: Okay.
- GM: And it was not true, but she was part of that group that was picketing and, and ah and so I went to see, I began to see him.
- BB: Okay.
- GM: Because there was a lot of stress involved and ah at the time I was dealing with the stress by drinking.
- BB: Huh, huh.
- GM: And that was basically the, the gist of our discussions. I had a standing appointment with him in November, toward the end of November of 1983. I had been in Keene for several months.
- BB: Okay.

GM: At that point. And it was during that appointment that um Dr. Ouellette told me about the allegation in Hampton.

BB: So he's the one who told you?

GM: Yes.

BB: Do you remember what he said?

GM: Yes. Well basically it's a long time ago.

BB: Right.

GM: He said that there was an allegation brought by a young man in Hampton and the allegation was that I had ah sat him on my lap and hugged and kissed him and he said that the young man thought that there may have been two or three other people that this happened to, but he wasn't sure of this and he said that the young man made this allegation to a counselor at Catholic Social Services who then reported the allegation to DCYF. DCYF contacted the Diocese. The Diocese contacted Dr. Ouellette.

BB: Okay.

GM: He's the one who conducted what he called an intervention.

BB: Okay. So it was Dr. Ouellette who first told you that an allegation had been made?

GM: Yes.

BB: When were you contacted by someone from the Diocese?

GM: In December I was contacted by Bishop Christian.

BB: Okay.

GM: Bishop Christian told me that that it had been investigated and was determined founded.

BB: Okay.

GM: I did not understand how that could be because nobody tells, nobody from DCYF ever interviewed me.

- BB: So no one from the Diocese interviewed you other than Dr. Ouellette.
- GM: Ah, and Bishop Christian.
- BB: But that was in, but prior to this finding in December.
- GM: Finding in December nobody.
- BB: The only person who had ever spoke with you regarding this was Dr. Ouellette.
- GM: Dr. Ouellette and he, he informed the Diocese that I had admitted to the substance of the allegation, but the young man did sit on my lap, that I did hug him. I did not admit that I kissed him.
- BB: Okay.
- BL: How do you know that?
- GM: Dr. Ouellette told me that.
- BL: He told you that he told the Diocese that you admitted?
- GM: The Diocese, that I admitted to hugging the boy.
- BL: Okay.
- BB: But you did not admit to kissing that boy?
- GM: No.
- BB: Okay.
- GM: And I was told by then Monsignor Christian in December that this was considered founded, but minor by DCYF. I asked him why nobody from DCYF ever interviewed me.
- BB: Did you ask him why no one from the Diocese had contacted you and interviewed you?
- GM: I wasn't even sure who in the Diocese was investigating this \_\_\_\_\_ into this. My understanding was that DCYF was, knew what the law was at the time, that the Diocese had to report this to DCYF.

- BL: What did the Diocese do ah that was a I think the word sanctioned or a punishment or what did they establish since it was a founded complaint that they were going to, what did they inform you that they were going to do?
- GM: Well at the time I took issue with it being a founded complaint, but and
- BB: To Christian?
- GM: Yes.
- BB: Okay.
- GM: And I informed him that that although I admitted to improper conduct I did not see it as, as coming under the category of what the state then called in 1983, um sexual abuse.
- BL: Okay.
- GM: With a minor and so I said, I did not admit to the, to the additional accusations of the young man, but there was also an issue that was raised at the time, but the young man involved [REDACTED] had made this accusation to a counselor at Catholic Social Services.
- BB: Now who, who brought that issue up to you?
- GM: Dr. Ouellette.
- BB: Okay.
- GM: He told me that the accusation was made to a counselor at Catholic Social Services.
- BB: Huh, huh.
- GM: And that the counselor at Catholic Social Services then reported it to DCYF.
- BB: But Dr. Ouellette told you that the boy had also reported another?
- GM: You know he told me, he told me that the boy had reported that he sat on my lap, that he hugged me or I hugged him and then added to that that I also kissed him.
- BB: Okay.
- GM: And that's the point that I took issue with.