

REVIEW BOARD MEETING

February 5, 1998

Chancery - 6:30-8:30 P.M.

Case #75

The Review Board feels that there is no credible evidence of misconduct in this case. It recommends that no disciplinary action be taken. As a pastoral response to this situation the priest has voluntarily agreed to offer his services elsewhere.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B. Kelley', is written over the text of the document.

REVIEW BOARD
February 8, 1998
CONFIDENTIAL

CASE # 75

1. **Allegation:** a 32 year old man claims that the priest behaved improperly towards him when he was 15. The allegation involves activity which began with hugs during a "TEC" retreat at the parish church. The man says the hugs then became more aggressive and the priest touched his buttocks and genitals outside of his clothing on more than one occasion.
2. **Investigation:** The man says he informed his mother about the problem when it occurred but she dismissed it. He says he transferred a hatred for the priest to all priests. Later he met a priest he did respect but he is still alienated from Church. He says he attributes his abuse of alcohol and drugs to these incidents. He is unhappy that the priest is now working in the man's parish since he is the father of young boys.
The priest provided three sources of information: the priest who served with him, two men about the age of the complainant whom he had known for many years and the older brother of the complainant's best boyhood friend. The priest who served with him stated that the youth activity was based on Cursillo and subsequently involved a lot of hugging among participants. He says he has a vague recollection of the complainant. He says he was a withdrawn person, uninvolved in the parish. He says he cannot imagine the priest doing this.
The young men attested to the high moral character of the priest.
The brother of the complainant's friend says that the complainant was frequently in trouble as a youth and had violent tendencies. He says the complainant's father was a heavy drinker and would physically abuse his son.
3. **Priest's Response:** The priest denies the allegation. He says he has only a vague recollection of the youth. He says he recalls the youth as being barely involved in the parish. The priest says he was not directly involved with the youth program but would occasionally pass through their meetings.
4. **Delegate's Assessment of Response:** The priest has had no allegations of improper behavior in over forty years of priesthood. He tested well. He seemed sincere in his distress and denial.
5. **Professional Assessment of Priest:** The priest was assessed in Arlington, Massachusetts by Theoharis Seghorn, Ph. D., whose primary mode of testing for deviant sexual interest is a combination of clinical interviews and the "Abel Screen". The Abel Screen is *a computer-based assessment system that indirectly measures and analyzes the relative strength of normal and deviant sexual interests. Ongoing research has demonstrated its validity, reliability, and resistance to faking, and its correlation with the extensively used Penile Plethysmographic procedure. The Abel Screen requires a person to complete an extensive questionnaire, and to rate 160 slides while his or her physiological responses are recorded and analyzed. The final analysis yields a relative ranking of sexual interests in 22 distinct areas, including age-appropriate sexual interests, and deviant interest in variously aged children of both sexes. It also includes an experimental set of slides that specifically target interests in voyeurism, exhibitionism, fetishism, aggression, sadomasochism, and violence.*
The summary of the evaluation follows:

6. Archdiocesan Response to Complainant: The Co-Delegate met with the complainant and offered counselling to the complainant and his wife.
7. Archdiocesan Response to Priest: The Delegate met with the priest. The priest brought with him two men about the same age as the complainant who had known the priest for many years. They testified to his high moral character. He also brought the priest with whom he had been assigned at the time. This priest spoke of the odd character of the complainant and the confidence he had in the accused priest.
The priest was under some distress from the accusation and he was offered counselling which he accepted.
8. Delegate's Recommendation: The substance of the allegation is not serious if placed against some of the more deliberate, manipulative and sexually focussed cases in the files. A pattern of sexual deviance is absent. The allegation is insufficient to warrant removal of the priest from parish ministry. No disciplinary action ought to be taken against the priest. However, as a pastoral response, the priest should be asked to offer his services at another parish. The complainant is free to pursue counselling.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Reverend William F. Murphy
FROM: Bernard Cardinal Law
RE: Reverend Arnold E. Kelley
Review Board Case #75

I have reviewed the report and the recommendation of the Review Board regarding Reverend Arnold E. Kelley.

I accept the Review Board's recommendation.

Date: 2/10/98

See attached for signature