

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF New York)
)
COUNTY OF Beome) ss:

I, [104], first being duly sworn under oath, states as follows:

1. My name is [104]. I was born on [] 1944. I am married with children and I am currently Director of [] at [], New York.

2. I am the victim of sexual abuse by a Catholic priest, Father James Janssen, which started at age 12 and continued for three years. It began in approximately November or December of 1956 and continued until September or October of 1958. This occurred while Janssen was a priest of the Davenport Diocese living in Hinsdale, Illinois, but also occurred in the home of Father Janssen's parents in Davenport and also while he was stationed as a priest in Holbrook, Iowa.

3. I was a quiet boy who did not do well in school and was attending Catholic school when Father Janssen took an interest in me. I can remember that being a good feeling, as he was popular with the kids in school and my association with him made me feel accepted. In those days, kids didn't know much about sex and in our family, you didn't talk about it. As I got to know Father Janssen, he began to touch me in what I first thought was an accident. It occurred the first time he talked to me and he started hugging me a short time after talking to me. I was uncomfortable with this action, but with him being a priest, I thought it must be okay. Not long after, he took me for a ride in his car. I don't remember why or where we went, but do remember that he quickly put his hand in my pants. When he did this, I would get an erection, although I was so naïve, I didn't know what was happening. He had me come to his room in the rectory, where he took my pants down and masturbated me. I had never ejaculated before and the first time it happened, I thought something had broke. I didn't know whether I should be doing it, but since a priest was doing it, I assumed it was okay. After that first time, he would use every excuse to get me alone and do the same thing again. Sometimes this would be in his car or a movie theater or he would visit our house and find a moment where we could be alone and fondle and masturbate me.

4. He had priest friends in other towns who had his same desires and I was introduced to them. This was Father Bass from Davenport and a Father Murphy. Father Janssen taught me a number of things that gave him a good deal of control over me. He tried to get me to smoke by giving me cigarettes. He taught me how to steal from stores and would serve as an alibi if I ever got caught. If caught, I told them that the priest would vouch for me, although he was a good teacher and I rarely got caught.

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At one time, he gave me the keys to the vigil light cash boxes in the church so I could steal money. Once he had me steal a sermon book from a religious supply store.

5. He took me to his parents' home in Davenport, Iowa, where he would pass me around to be abused by Father Bass and one time a Father Murphy. One time when Father Bass had told him I had committed a sin with him, I couldn't confess it to Father Bass. They debated this for awhile and decided that as long as I was not confessing something I had done with both of them, that I could confess with the other that I had committed a sin. In Davenport, he introduced me to other boys he had abused. His interest in them seemed to be not as strong as it was in me. In looking back now, I think it was because they were older. He told me one time that I should shave any pubic hair I was growing.

6. I visited him when he left Chicago and moved back to Holbrook. He offered me a job cutting grass at the church in Holbrook one summer. One time my parents came with me when we visited. When I would stay there alone with him, he would take me to a swimming pond not far from the church where we would swim nude and he would again fondle me.

7. He also told me that I could make money letting older men perform oral sex on me and that he would show me how to make those connections in Chicago. This never came about, but he thought it would be a good way to make money. He was always trying to get people to give him things for free because he was a priest and then he would laugh about it later.

8. I knew at least three other kids he abused or "corrupted" as he would say.

9. When he left Hinsdale, I would write him sexually explicit letters and he would write them back. One of the letters I wrote him was not addressed well and my mother, who was also sending him a letter, decided to put my letter in with hers and she opened my letter. Because of the things I had written in that letter, and the letter he wrote to me, his actions with me were exposed. It was reported to the Bishop in Joliet, Illinois, and the Bishop in Joliet, Illinois, reported it to the Bishop in Davenport. Janssen told me at a later time, that he was called in by the Bishop in Davenport and asked "Janssen, what is going on?" Janssen then laughed. He was told that he needed to say what I think is called the daily office and did that for a brief period of time.

10. Eventually, I wrote to Janssen and received back a letter from an attorney. I then wrote to the Bishop of Davenport and told him of the abuse. He wrote back and stated that Janssen denied everything and that he was retired and there was nothing more he could do. I have never received any other information from the Diocese of Davenport, other than a denial. Attached to this Affidavit, as Exhibit A, is a picture of me in 6th grade at St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale, Illinois. I am dressed in my altar boy robe. This was taken when I was in 6th grade and the abuse had just started. The second picture, Exhibit B, is of me in the 8th grade with a friend. In the first picture, I still had some sense of religion and by the second one, that was for the most part gone. As

you can see, in the second picture I was giving the "finger" to the photographer, something Janssen encouraged me to do.

11. Also attached to this Affidavit as Exhibit C and D is the letter that I wrote to Janssen in late September of 1958 and a letter he sent to me in later September, 1958. The initials and abbreviations refer to sexually explicit derogatory terms. I admitted to what happened to my father and he reported it to the Bishop of the Davenport Diocese.

Further Affiant sayeth not.

{104}

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 3RD day of APRIL, 2004.

Marilyn Murphy
Notary Public in and for the
State of NEW YORK

MARILYN MURPHY
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01MU6053015
Qualified in Broome County
My commission expires January 2, 2007