

Statement of the Archdiocese of Boston
Concerning the Case of Robert Burns

The Archdiocese of Boston has been informed of the disposition in the sexual assault case of Mr. Robert Burns. Prior to departure from ministry, Mr. Burns was a priest of the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio who resided and served in the Archdiocese of Boston while pursuing higher studies.

The Archdiocese of Boston did have knowledge of the former Father Burns' problem prior to his stay in this area. We were aware that he had been treated at the House of Affirmation. At that time we did not have a complete grasp of all the implications of the pathology of sexual abuse. Once the Archdiocese of Boston received allegations against the former Father Burns while living in Boston, he was immediately removed from pastoral ministry.

In 1993 we implemented a new, more comprehensive set of policies and procedures for dealing with the problem of sexual abuse. These procedures are the result of improved understanding and hard won experience in dealing with the problem of sexual abuse.

March 7, 1996

*Filed to Charleston
& Jamaica Plain
3/13/96*

*talked to Jack Thomas
& left message for
Jim Conroy
Jat*