

REV. JOHN SHEAHAN

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PURSUANT TO JCCP 4286 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

Vicar for Clergy Database

Clergy Assignment Record (Detailed)

Rev John A. Sheahan*Current Primary Assignment*

<i>Birth Date</i>	1/17/1935	<i>Age:</i>	78
<i>Birth Place</i>	County Longford, County Longford, Ireland	<i>Deanery:</i>	22
<i>Diaconate Ordination</i>			
<i>Priesthood Ordination</i>	4/30/1960		
<i>Diocese Name</i>	Diocese of Orange		
<i>Date of Incardination</i>	4/30/1960		
<i>Religious Community</i>			
<i>Ritual Ascription</i>	Latin		
<i>Ministry Status</i>	Left Archdiocese		
<i>Canon State</i>	Diocesan Priest	<i>Incard Process</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Begin Pension Date</i>			

<i>Seminary</i>	St. John's Seminary, Camarillo
<i>Ethnicity</i>	

Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training

<i>Date Background Check</i>	
<i>Virtus Training Date</i>	

Assignment History

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Beginning Date</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
Retired as priest of the Diocese of Orange.		

TO: File

FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox

RE: Reverend John A. Sheahan

DATE: 30 April 2002

I received a call a number of weeks ago from Father REDACTED, Chaplain at the California Men's Colony West in San Luis Obispo. Father REDACTED phone at home is REDACTED His phone at work is REDACTED

He had spoken to an inmate who claimed to have been abused by a Father "Sheehan" around 1960 in St. Bridget of Sweden, Van Nuys. I found no record of a Father Sheehan (or similar) in our database.

I requested copies of the Tidings Directories for the years 1958-1962. Fr. Sheahan appeared at St. Bridget in the 1961 and 62 issues. His picture was ordained in 1960. From the directories, I saw that Father REDACTED also served at St. Bridget of Sweden. I called and spoke with Fr. REDACTED who indicated that Father Sheahan suffered terrible headaches, had a brain tumor and surgery in the early 1970's, and came out of the surgery without knowing his name or the alphabet. It took two him two years to relearn the alphabet. He indicated that as far as he knew, Father Sheahan had been on medical retirement for more than twenty-five years, and currently belonged to the Diocese of Orange.

I had easier access to the Tidings Directories for the 1970's. In the 1970 issue, Father Sheahan is listed as serving at St. Ireneaus, Cypress. In the 1971 and 72 directories, he is listed as serving at Queen of Angels, Corona del Mar. In the 1973 through 76 directories, he is listed as sick leave, and in the 1977 directory as retired. He did not appear in later directories, since he was in the Diocese of Orange.

I phoned REDACTED and informally informed her of the information passed on by Father REDACTED. She checked and indicated that Father Sheahan was still retired and in poor health. As far as she knows, he is not engaged in any ministry.

I will write to Monsignor REDACTED to formally pass on the information I have, and to request a copy of this priest's file for the years he pertained to Los Angeles.

54313

To Whom it Might Concern,

My name is REDACTED I was born on REDACTED at
 Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital in Hollywood, Ca. to REDACTED and
 REDACTED I am currently REDACTED years old.

I was brought up in a Catholic family, living my first 25 years at REDACTED
 REDACTED Ave. in Van Nuys, Ca. My family attended St. Elizabeth's
 Catholic Church, also in Van Nuys. I attended Catechism classes and made
 my First Communion and Confirmation there also. I believe Father O'Dwire
 was the priest, later to become Monsignor.

Sometime in 1961, when I was approximately 15 years old, my best friend
 REDACTED and I decided to stretch our teenage independence and ride our
 bike's down Sherman Way to St. Bridget of Sweden Catholic Church, which
 is on the border of Van Nuys and Reseda. I did this every Sunday with
 REDACTED coming when he could. We would sit up in the stairwell at the back
 of the sanctuary that led up to the choir loft. After a Sunday morning
 service when I was by myself, I was approached by a priest who noticed me
 in the stairwell. He befriended me. My friend REDACTED attended St.
 Elizabeth's parochial school and had to attend there most of the time.
 Mike attended Alamany Catholic High School and I attended Van Nuy's High
 School which was right across the street from St. Elizabeth's. He (the
 Priest) told me his name was Father John Sheahan. After several weeks of
 friendly talk, he invited me to the rectory to talk. We did this several
 times. Sometimes we would go out and throw the football and he would
 sometimes hold the football so I could practice kicking it for my High
 School football team.

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Our talks slowly turned to questions about sex. At first mostly about masturbation and unwanted releases (wet dreams) and what to do about it. At the time I was not fully aware of what he was talking about, I was just starting to learn. About that time he asked me if I would like to become an Altar Boy? I did, so he started showing me what I needed to know including latin. I started coming on Saturday's and other day's after school. Sometimes we met in what I believed was his office in the rectory and sometime's in rooms at the front and back of the church.

It all started innocently. Hugs from behind and touching. He initially said I was ready to learn the first part, which was the blessing of the garments. I was told that every article of clothing was to be prayed over and blessed, his and mine. We went into a room off the altar area for this. He said this was a very solemn time and no one else was to share in it. I was to tell no one of it would be a mortal sin. He told me to totally undress, but first he put a blindfold on me made out of cloth that was already there in the room. I was brought up with no talk about sexual matters. I knew very little, just what boy's talk about which was mostly speculation and lies. I knew my body was changing and I was a little self-conscious about my body, even at home with my brothers.

I undressed and stood there, blindfolded and naked. I could see a little at the bottom of the blindfold. I was then instructed to hold each item starting with the underwear and working all the way through all my clothes to my ball cap. He handed me ~~each~~ item, and would carefully fold each one and put them in a pile. After I had removed the blindfold when he was done, I was amazed. I had never seen such a neat pile, every item was so neatly folded. I got dressed.

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This is what he did the first time. I went around thinking I was special, and the other boy's who were altar boys and I had a "special" secret.

Things started to get out of hand after that. It's really hard to go into all the details of what went on, some forgotten and others shoved down so deep I don't want to remember, but each time we got together to "practice" Father Sheahan went a little further.

At times I would hear a sound that I didn't recognize and would glimpse a peek at him playing with himself as he touched me all over. One time he used some kind of oil he had and inserted his penis between my legs(not anally). He would usually undress after I was blindfolded so we could bless his garments too. I now think this was just for appearances, which I thought was what we were doing in the first place.

After many of these sessions I decided I had enough. I stopped coming. No church, no nothing. He started calling my home and even talked to my mother. I refused to go back. I did not understand and I was very confused.

Sometime late in 1961 I saw Father O'Dwire in front of St. Elizabeth's and went to talk to him. I asked him questions about the blessing of the clothes and what altar boys did. He tried to get me to tell him more, but I didn't trust or want to talk about these matters with a priest. I thought they all were the same. And I didn't talk to ^{any} one, not for over 40 years. I thought I was the only one. I was wrong.

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Today, as I look back at what was done to me and to things I have done, I can see where these incidents changes my life. It so confused me sexually and led to my own problems that led me to prison. It wasn't until these other problems with pedophile priests came up that these surpressed memories started coming back and the bad dreams came back, again. I slowly started to confront these issues, hence the reason for this letter.

I could go into more detail, but for now this will suffice. I was unbelievably difficult to do this and it took me months and years to finally write about it.

REDACTED

Sincerely,
REDACTED

46662



COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213, 637-7284)

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2241

May 1, 2002

Monsignor REDACTED
Diocese of Orange
P.O. Box 14195
Orange, CA 92867

Dear Monsignor REDACTED

I have spoken briefly with [REDACTED] about Reverend John A. Sheahan, a retired priest of your diocese. She informed me that he has been disabled by illness and is not currently engaged in any priestly ministry. In fact, I am aware that he has suffered severe illnesses and disabilities since the middle of the 1970's.

Father REDACTED Chaplain at California Men's Colony West in San Luis Obispo, phoned me on the basis of a report he heard from one of the inmates there. That man has not given us his name at this point. According to Father REDACTED, the man alleges that Father Sheahan engaged in sexual misconduct with him in the early 1960's at St. Bridget of Sweden Parish, Van Nuys.

Since Father Sheahan is under your jurisdiction at this time, I wanted officially to bring this matter to your attention. If we receive a formal complaint, we will deal with it here since the events in question would have occurred before the creation of the Diocese of Orange. But I may need to call on your good offices in case there may be any need to interview Father Sheahan.

At this point, I would appreciate your assistance with the following:

1. Would you please confirm for me that Father Sheahan is not engaged in any priestly ministry at this time?
2. While respecting his right to appropriate confidentiality, would you please be so kind as to reflect on his state of health, specifically whether he would even be able to respond to any formal complaint that might be forthcoming.
3. Would you please be so kind as to send me a copy of the materials in his clergy file from its beginning until the time of the creation of the Diocese of Orange. When the Diocese was created, unfortunately the entire file was shipped to your office and no copies were kept here. Thus, we have no history of his assignments while under our jurisdiction, and it took me a while to identify him as the priest in question.

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Thank you for your attention to these matters. May God continue to bless you!

Yours in Christ,



Msgr. Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy

cc: Father REDACTED

PERSONAL RECORD FORM OF

Reverend John Anthony Sheahan Date 6/3/02

ORDAINED FOR DIOCESE OF Los Angeles

Date and Place April 30, 1960 St. Vibiana

Ordaining Prelate Cardinal James Francis McIntyre

IF NOT INCARDINATED IN ORANGE:

Date of Arrival _____

What letters from own Ordinary or Superior? _____

Birth: Date and Place 1-17-35 Ireland

Baptism: Date and Place _____

Citizenship: _____ Social Security # REDACTED

If Naturalized, Date and Place _____ If not U. S. Citizen-type of Visa _____

Elementary School: Dates and Places _____

High Schools: Dates and Places _____

College: Dates and Places _____

Seminary: Dates and Places Ireland

Post Graduate Work: Dates and Places _____

Degrees: Dates and Places _____ 46666

What languages can you speak? _____

Name/Address/Phone of person to contact in case of emergency: _____

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE BISHOP/
 DIRECTOR OF CLERGY PERSONNEL
 MARYWOOD CENTER
 P.O. Box 14195
 2811 E. VILLA REAL DRIVE
 ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92863-1595
 PHONE (714) 282-3000
 FAX (714) 282-3029
 EMAIL-REDACTED

June 13, 2002

Reverend Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
 Vicar for Clergy
 Archdiocesan Catholic Center
 3424 Wilshire Boulevard
 Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

Dear Monsignor Cox,

I am responding to your letter received in our offices on May 2, 2002, requesting a variety of information.

I have reviewed Monsignor John Sheahan's file and he is indeed a retired priest of our Diocese. He is not currently involved in any priestly ministry and is quite ill. He had brain surgery in the early '70s and has been very reclusive. Father [REDACTED], Vicar for Priests, has not seen him for over two years.

If you would like to meet with Monsignor Sheahan, may I suggest that you also include [REDACTED], in this meeting.

Recent correspondence received from Monsignor Sheahan, leads me to question his mental stability.

I hope the enclosed information is helpful. If you have any questions, I will be away at school for six weeks, so please call Monsignor [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

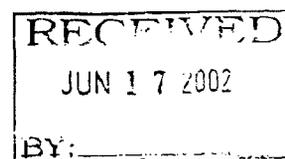
May God continue to bless you in your special ministry at the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A large black rectangular redaction covering the signature of the Secretary to the Bishop.

Secretary to the Bishop
 Director of Clergy Personnel

REDACTED



Enclosures

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