

REV. CHRISTOPHER VAN LIEFDE

**DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES 2013
PURSUANT TO JCCP 4286 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

Vicar for Clergy Database

Clergy Assignment Record (Detailed)

Rev Msgr Christian M. Van Liefde

Current Primary Assignment

<i>Birth Date</i>	8/26/1948	<i>Age:</i>	64
<i>Birth Place</i>	Renaix, Belgium	<i>Deanery:</i>	0
<i>Diaconate Ordination</i>			
<i>Priesthood Ordination</i>	5/26/1973		
<i>Diocese Name</i>	Archdiocese of Los Angeles		
<i>Date of Incardination</i>	5/26/1973		
<i>Religious Community</i>			
<i>Ritual Ascription</i>	Latin		
<i>Ministry Status</i>	Administrative Leave		
<i>Canon State</i>	Diocesan Monsignor	<i>Incard Process</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Begin Pension Date</i>	6/11/1973		
<i>Voice phone</i>	(949) 837-4404		
<i>Cell phone</i>	(310) 701-7542		
<i>Cell phone</i>	(310) 371-4305		
<i>Seminary</i>	St. John's Seminary, Camarillo		
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Belgian		

Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training

<i>Date Background Check</i>	4/23/2002
<i>Virtus Training Date</i>	

Assignment History

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Beginning Date</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
Administrative Leave, Administrative Leave as of 6/1/2002 continues. Term as pastor declared ended on 11/6/2007.	11/17/2007	
Administrative Leave, Term as pastor declared ended on 11/6/2007.	6/1/2002	11/6/2007
Archdiocesan Catholic Center, Los Angeles Council of Priests, Active Service, Council of Priests-Deanery Representative #7	6/1/2001	5/31/2002
Chaplain, Active Service, Los Angeles City Fire Department	11/1/1999	5/31/2002
St. Genevieve Catholic Church, Panorama City Pastor, Active Service, Term as pastor declared ended on 11/6/2007.	7/1/1999	11/6/2007
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Pico Rivera Administrator, Active Service	8/1/1996	11/30/1996

Prelate of His Holiness, Elevated	6/6/1995	
Archdiocesan Catholic Center, Los Angeles Personnel Board, Active Service	10/1/1993	10/1/1998
Archdiocesan Catholic Center, Los Angeles Personnel Board, Active Service	10/1/1993	5/31/1999
Archdiocesan Catholic Center, Los Angeles Vicar Forane (Dean), Active Service	6/1/1993	5/31/1999
Archdiocesan Catholic Center, Los Angeles Council of Priests, Active Service, Council of Priests	6/1/1990	6/5/1995
St. Hilary Catholic Church, Pico Rivera Pastor, Active Service	5/1/1990	6/30/1999
Archdiocesan Catholic Center, Los Angeles Council of Priests, Active Service, Council of Priests	6/1/1989	5/31/1990
St. Hilary Catholic Church, Pico Rivera Administrator, Active Service, Administrator with Right of Succession	3/8/1987	4/30/1990
Chaplain, Active Service, Los Angeles Fire Department	11/25/1985	5/31/1989
St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Sherman Oaks Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	2/1/1983	3/7/1987
Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church, Los Angeles Resident, Resident	6/15/1980	1/31/1983
Bishop Conaty Our Lady of Loretto High School, Los Angeles Education-Teacher/Faculty, Active Service	6/15/1980	1/31/1983
St. Bruno Catholic Church, Whittier Resident, Resident	7/10/1979	6/14/1980
St. Paul High School, Santa Fe Springs Education-Teacher/Faculty, Active Service	7/10/1979	6/14/1980
Chaplain, Active Service, Santa Barbara Fire Department. Special Ministry,	11/7/1977	11/24/1985
San Roque Catholic Church, Santa Barbara Resident, Resident	7/15/1977	7/9/1979
Bishop Garcia Diego High School, Santa Barbara Education-Teacher/Faculty, Active Service	7/15/1977	7/9/1979
St. Philomena Catholic Church, Carson Resident, Resident	6/21/1976	7/14/1977
Bishop Montgomery High School, Torrance Education-Teacher/Faculty, Active Service	6/21/1976	7/14/1977
Holy Family Catholic Church, Glendale Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	6/11/1973	6/20/1976

FILE



5465 CITRONELL AVENUE PICO RIVERA, CALIFORNIA 90660-2798

November 23, 1994

Cardinal Roger Mahony
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
1531 West Ninth Street
Los Angeles, CA. 90015

Your Eminence,

I hope that you don't think I'm being presumptuous, but I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your courage and direction recently in the struggle with Proposition 187. Certainly, if we were to be true to the Gospel, we, as a Church, had no option but to speak in defense of those whose lives were to be so directly affected by this proposition.

Realizing the criticism that would come your way, you had the courage to speak powerfully on this issue. I thank you as a priest of the archdiocese for calling all of us to stand in defense of the undocumented. And I thank you on behalf of the hundreds of people of this parish who will be affected by the outcome of the legal challenges of this "law".

If this proposal does in fact become law, I pray we will all have the courage to follow the Gospel rather than a law which is so obviously immoral.

With love and prayers,

Chris
(Rev.) Christian Van Liefde, V.F.
Pastor

18790

Last Van Liefde Title 1 . Msgr. First Christian Middle M.
 Birthplace REDACTED Year REDACTED DOB REDACTED Age REDACTED
 Ordained 73 Seminary St. John's, Camarillo, CA
 Order Incardinated X Diocese
 I cesan X Religious Living/Working Inactive Rite
 I titution St. Genevieve Church Assigned 99
 Address1 14061 Roscoe Blvd. Address2
 City Panorama City State CA Zip 91402-4286 Country
 Home REDACTED Work Private REDACTED
 Status Pastor
 Comment LAFD pager REDACTED -- Priests' Council, Deanery Representative
 #07 06/01 - 05/05

Date Entered 7/01/99 Date Assigned 7/01/99
 Deanery 7 Title3 Monsignor Title4(Dean) T5 Salutation Chris
 Will X Retired in Rectory C SS# REDACTED P.P. X General Mail X

Appointments

- Holy Family, Glendale - Associate 06/11/73
- Bishop Montgomery High School, Torrance - Faculty 06/21/76
- St. Philomena, Carson - Residence 06/21/76
- Bishop Garcia Diego High School, Santa Barbara - Faculty 07/15/77
- San Roque, Santa Barbara - Residence 07/15/77
- Santa Barbara Fire Department - Chaplain 11/07/77
- St. Paul High School, Santa Fe Springs - Faculty 07/10/79
- St. Bruno, Whittier - Residence 07/10/79
- Our Lady of Loretto High School, Los Angeles - Principal 06/15/80
- Our Lady of Loretto, Los Angeles - Residence 06/15/80
- St. Francis de Sales, Sherman Oaks - Associate 02/01/83
- Los Angeles Fire Department - Chaplain 11/25/85 (part-time)
- St. Hilary, Pico Rivera - Administrator with Right of Succession 03/08/87
- Priests' Council - Treasurer 06/1989
- St. Hilary, Pico Rivera - Pastor 05/01/90
- Priests' Council - Chairman 06/1990
- Vicar Forane, Deanery #18 - 06/01/93 - 05/31/98; 06/01/98 - 05/31/99
- Archdiocesan Personnel Board - 10/01/93
- Prelate of Honor - 06/06/95
- St. Francis Xavier, Pico Rivera - Administrator Pro Tem 08/01/96 - 11/30/96
- Archdiocesan Personnel Board 10/93 - 10/98
- St. Genevieve, Panorama City - Pastor 07/01/99
- Priests' Council, Deanery Representative #07 06/01/2001 - 05/31/2005

Chronology of Events
Re: Chris Van Liefde

REDACTED 73
5/26/73
6/73
8/26/73
8/30/73

REDACTED 16th birthday
Chris ordained a priest
Met Chris Van Liefde
Chris 25th birthday (vestment)
Chris birthday - dinner - First sexual contact

2/74
REDACTED
4/27/74
5/74
7/5/74
8/26/74
10 - 11/74
10-11/74
11-12/74

Valentine's Day - Rec'd tulips from Chris - dinner/movie
REDACTED 17th birthday - dinner
REDACTED; Junior Prom - Chris' brother REDACTED
Introduced to REDACTED after Mass
Postcard from Chris from Sequoia
Chris' 26th birthday (vestment) - dinner
REDACTED mom's discussion with Chris re: situation
REDACTED mom's discussion with Sr. REDACTED
Last sexual contact with Chris

1/75
2/75
REDACTED
4-5/75
6/75

REDACTED mom's discussion with Msgr. REDACTED
Re-met REDACTED after Mass
REDACTED; 18th birthday
Met REDACTED and REDACTED
REDACTED; graduated High School

4/77
12/80
8-9/84
1995/96

Married to REDACTED
Told REDACTED about Chris
Marriage to REDACTED; annulled
Discussions with Fr REDACTED o re: REDACTED and Chris

REDACTED

attach to

A

Via Personal Delivery**Personal & Confidential
For Addressee's Eyes Only**

Sr. REDACTED

Assistance Ministry
Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

Dear Sr. REDACTED

This letter is written in the strictest confidence. The contents of this letter, either specifically or generally shall not be discussed with or disclosed to any other person without my written authorization.

The purpose of this letter is to advise the Archdiocese of Los Angeles of sexual misconduct involving a Los Angeles Archdiocese parish priest, Msgr. Christian Van Liefde during the period of 1973 – 1975. During this period, Msgr. Van Liefde was a parish priest at Holy Family Parish in Glendale, where I attended both grade school and high school. At the time of the incident, I was 16 through 17 1/2 years old. Although the incident is legally and in other respects classified as child abuse or molestation, I will refer to the incident as serious sexual misconduct and personal indiscretion, thereby avoiding any possible inference that Msgr. Van Liefde has in the past or is presently engaged in serial child molestation or other aberrant sexual behavior.

A brief chronology of events will place this matter into the proper perspective and will provide the basis for further detailed discussion. In or about June 1973, Msgr. Van Liefde was assigned to Holy Family Catholic Church in Glendale, California as an associate pastor. In or about July 1973, Msgr. Van Liefde became friends with my family, visiting my family's home often for dinner, social events, etc. For the next year and a half, until approximately January 1975, the "relationship" between Msgr. Van Liefde and I evolved from an innocent "friendship" to one that involved sexual activity consisting of kissing, hugging, fondling and other sexual behavior, that occurred on a weekly, sometimes daily basis. I was a 16 year old student at Holy Family High School and Msgr. Van Liefde was a 25 year old associate pastor. The sexual advances were always initiated by Msgr. Van Liefde and typically occurred either in my parents' home, in his car or at the beach.

Although unaware of the extent of the "friendship" or any of the sexual activity, my mother became suspicious and concerned in late 1974 and discussed the matter with Msgr. Van Liefde who advised her that the friendship was "innocent" and "nothing to be concerned with ...", and that we were just good friends. Shortly thereafter, my mother

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Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Page 2

discussed the situation with Sr. REDACTED, the Dean of Girls at Holy Family High School. Sr. REDACTED told my mother to immediately advise Holy Family Church Pastor, Msgr. REDACTED of the situation and demand that he and the archdiocese resolve the matter. My mother spoke with Msgr. REDACTED in or about January 1975, and almost immediately, Msgr. Van Liefde was transferred to another parish. Msgr. REDACTED advised my mother that the situation had been "properly handled" and that Msgr. Van Liefde would not be transferred to another parish with high school girls. My information is that Msgr. Van Liefde did, in fact, serve at other parishes with high schools after the incident and, in fact, is currently at a parish with a high school.

In or about May 1975, I met and thereafter became friends with another parish priest, Rev. REDACTED. In or about December 1980, I advised Fr. REDACTED of the incident with Msgr. Van Liefde and asked him on numerous occasions over the following 3 or 4 years to assist me in filing the proper report with the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Fr. REDACTED after many discussions, advised me against going to the Archdiocese about the situation, warning me that I would be viewed as a liar or that otherwise my reputation would be at issue. Fr. REDACTED told me that he felt the situation was properly handled by simply transferring Msgr. Van Liefde to a new parish, thereby stopping the misconduct and that further discussing the incident with the Archdiocese would not elicit any further response or action on their part. I was obviously unaware at the time that Fr. REDACTED was, concurrently, engaging in aberrant sexual behavior and child molestation with young boys.

In or about 1996, after the revelation of Fr. REDACTED actions and his ultimate suicide, I had at least two telephone conversations with Fr. REDACTED of the Los Angeles Archdiocese office. While the initial reason for my call to Fr. REDACTED was to discuss Fr. REDACTED situation, I took the opportunity to discuss the incident regarding Msgr. Van Liefde as well, in part seeking advice and direction from Fr. REDACTED, and in part, hoping to confirm what was appearing to be an ever-growing problem of sexual misconduct by the clergy. In short, Fr. REDACTED told me that there was nothing that could be done, beyond what had been done and that I was best off trying to forget about the past, and go forward with my life. My concerns over both matters were promptly dismissed and, in fact, Fr. REDACTED was rude and abruptly ended the last conversation.

It is not my desire nor intention at this time to involve the courts, attorneys, media or persons outside of the Los Angeles Archdiocese regarding this matter. To the contrary, it is my intention to discuss and resolve this matter solely with the Archdiocese in a discreet and highly confidential manner. Any involvement by the courts, media or outside persons would only serve to create a negative environment for discussion in an already media-frenzied atmosphere, and would undoubtedly severely, negatively impact both Msgr. Van Liefde's life and my own life as well. It is not my desire to resolve this matter in today's

72101

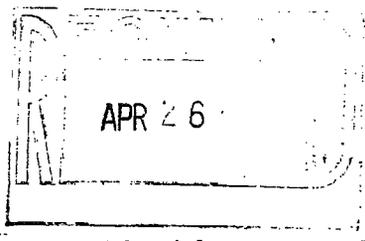
Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles
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volatile court of public opinion, but rather to bring closure to a very serious situation that has been left unresolved for over 25 years. To bring this matter into the public view would, in my opinion, only victimize me again, in light of my professional career and need for privacy and anonymity regarding the situation.

I am hereby requesting a personal meeting with you to discuss this matter more fully. I reiterate that this letter is written in the strictest confidence, the contents may not be disclosed or discussed with any other person without my written authorization. You may confidentially contact me at my office private line REDACTED ; if I am unavailable, I will promptly return your call.

Thank you,
REDACTED

REDACTED



Via Personal Delivery

**Personal & Confidential
For Addressee's Eyes Only**

Sr. REDACTED
Assistance Ministry
Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

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72120

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Thank you,
REDACTED

72122

72123

Del 4-26-02

VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY

Sr. [redacted]
Assistance Ministry
Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL
TO BE OPENED BY ADDRESSEE ONLY!!

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

See attached chronology and letter from REDACTED for more information. Sister REDACTED and Monsignor Loomis were present, as well as REDACTED husband.

REDACTED told her story using the attached chronology. She said that she had pieced it together from high school memories kept in boxes. The dates are approximate but are within months of the actual date.

8/26/73 - She had cloth from a vestment she made for Father Chris for his 25th birthday, saying she was a seamstress. She claimed this birthday was their first sexual contact. She was 16. They continued this relationship until her 18th birthday. The sexual contact included foreplay and oral sex. They never had intercourse because they were both afraid of pregnancy.

It was like a dysfunctional dating relationship. She never had normal dating because of what Father Chris did. He kept her from going out with boys her own age. He did not even want her to go to the Junior Prom (4/74) with someone so he set her up with his own REDACTED. He wanted to keep her away from boys. On top of her mother not allowing her to go out.

Father Chris said that they had a "special kind of love." In reality, REDACTED describes it as emotionally abusive but never physically abusive. She did not have a normal date until after she divorced her first husband.

5/74 - Introduced her to REDACTED after Mass. Eventually she married him. Divorced after REDACTED years. He was gay.

In November or December of 1974, REDACTED's mother caught them necking. Father Chris said they were just good friends and that it was all innocent. Our sexual contact ended December of 1974. Through Sister REDACTED it was reported to Monsignor REDACTED (1/75). He told us it was handled by having Father Chris transferred. REDACTED chronology breaks down here. Father Chris did not move until June of 1976.

REDACTED said that she told Father REDACTED, REDACTED about herself and Father Chris.

REDACTED also recounted that she knew REDACTED and REDACTED (met them in 4/75 or 5/75). She became very good friends with REDACTED, saying that they became "girlfriends" (going shopping together, etc.). REDACTED said she was his champion until it was clear he had indeed done what his victims said. She said that she smoked marijuana for the first time with REDACTED. After speaking of two other priests who never did anything sexual to her but were very inappropriate (REDACTED and REDACTED), she asked, "Why did I have contact with so many bad people (all priests)? And my mother sent me someplace safe (Catholic high school)!" *Interesting point: how did one person meet so many priests all of whom had problems?*

REDACTED spoke with REDACTED about this situation at length and he encouraged her to let it go. She said that, somewhere around 1980, when she told him, REDACTED and Chris confronted each other and it ended their friendship.

"The most Chris has ever said to me is that we both made serious mistakes."

REDACTED presented photos of Father Chris in their home in Glendale, photos that appeared to be REDACTED in a tuxedo taking her to the Prom, and a postcard from a vacation in which Father Chris said it was nice where he was but that "he missed the back scratches."

REDACTED said that she discussed her situation with Father REDACTED in 1995 or '96. He told her not to be so naïve. She said that REDACTED gave her no resolution but told her it was her own fault.

Chronology of Events
Re: Chris Van Liefde

REDACTED	REDACTED 16 th birthday
5/26/73	Chris ordained a priest
6/73	Met Chris Van Liefde
8/26/73	Chris 25 th birthday (vestment)
8/30/73	Chris birthday – dinner - First sexual contact
2/74	Valentine's Day – Rec'd tulips from Chris – dinner/movie
REDACTED	REDACTED 17 th birthday – dinner
4/27/74	REDACTED Junior Prom – Chris' REDACTED:EDACTED
5/74	Introduced to REDACTED after Mass
7/5/74	Postcard from Chris from Sequoia
8/26/74	Chris' 26 th birthday (vestment) - dinner
10 – 11/74	REDACTED mom's discussion with Chris re: situation
10-11/74	mom's discussion with Sr. REDACTED
11-12/74	Last sexual contact with Chris
1/75	REDACTED mom's discussion with Msgr. REDACTED
2/75	Re-met REDACTED after Mass
REDACTED	REDACTED 18 th birthday
4-5/75	Met REDACTED and REDACTED
6/75	REDACTED graduated High School
4/77	Married to REDACTED
12/80	Told REDACTED I about Chris
REDACTED	Marriage to REDACTED
1995/96	Discussions with Fr. REDACTED re: REDACTED and Chris

Notes on the telephone conversation of Monsignor Richard Loomis with Monsignor REDACTED May 7, 2002, approximately 3:30 PM.

I briefly reviewed with Monsignor REDACTED the allegation presented by REDACTED

He said that he remembered her as a student in the high school but initially thought her name was REDACTED, correcting himself when I said REDACTED. He also commented that he remembered the family name.

He commented that "all the high school girls liked Chris" but that he never had any thought that there was anything out of line with his conduct.

Monsignor REDACTED stated very clearly that no one had ever brought a complaint to him regarding Father van Liefde. He said that he would remember such a thing and would have confronted him about it if it had happened. I mentioned that Sister REDACTED was the one that was reported to have received the initial complaint. He said that she had never mentioned anything to him concerning a complaint about Father van Liefde, commenting that she had been dead for some years. But he was very clear and said that he would indeed remember a report of misconduct with a teen.

Monsignor REDACTED stated that he did not request to have Father van Liefde transferred. He remembered Monsignor REDACTED, calling about him going into school work. He would never have let a school assignment go forward if he had the idea that there might have been incorrect conduct with teens.

72115

REDACTED

Obtained baptismal information from REDACTED Elementary School, REDACTED

Baptized: REDACTED

Confirmed:

Marriage: No notation

REDACTED Marriage to REDACTED REDACTED -- Diocese of Orange REDACTED

72116

Notes on the meeting of Monsignors Craig Cox and Richard Loomis with Monsignor Christian van Liefde, May 7, 2002, 10:30 AM, at the Archdiocesan Catholic Center.

After hearing Monsignor Loomis present the complaint brought by REDACTED, REDACTED, Monsignor Van Liefde said that he remembered her clearly. She had recalled details in her story that he could neither confirm nor deny.

He said that REDACTED had indeed made vestments for him, acknowledging that he still had them. He believed it was a sewing project in school.

He vaguely remembers that REDACTED was at Mass one day and he introduced him to several parishioners. REDACTED may very well have been among them. She did end up marrying him. He believed that Father REDACTED had done the wedding either at Holy Family or in Eagle Rock.

Monsignor Van Liefde said that he did not believe that the matter was ever taken to Monsignor REDACTED, commenting that the pastor had never spoken to him about it as long as he had known him. Monsignor REDACTED is the kind of pastor who would have confronted him about it.

Monsignor Van Liefde was not moved early because of any problem. He served at Holy Family from 1973 through 1976 and moved at the usual July time. Monsignor REDACTED recruited him to go into Catholic schools ministry.

There were "six or so" of the high school girls who came to the weekly REDACTED REDACTED group meeting. REDACTED was among them. Periodically he would give them rides home.

He recalled that his brother did take her to the Prom but said that it was more along the lines of <when it was a month before the Prom and she had no date, I asked if she would like me to arrange for my brother to take her>. There was nothing more to it than that.

Concerning the relationship, Monsignor Van Liefde acknowledged that some boundaries had been crossed. The two of them had hugged, given neck rubs and embraced – which had been inappropriate. However, he denied genital contact of any kind.

Concerning the incident in which REDACTED says her mother caught them necking, Monsignor Van Liefde said that there was one instance in which they were watching a movie on TV. The parents were in the house but elsewhere. REDACTED was leaning on his arm and when her mother came in she straightened up. Her mother may have been concerned but did not say anything to him about it.

The last time he recalls having seen REDACTED was shortly after the death of Father REDACTED REDACTED They had lunch and a two-or-three-hour conversation. She was deeply disturbed by REDACTED situation.

When asked if REDACTED 's statement that he said that they had "both made mistakes" was true. He had no specific recollection but acknowledged that he very well might have said something to that effect.

Loomis, Msgr. Richard A.

From: REDACTED REDACTED

Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2002 8:22 PM

To: REDACTEDREDACTED

Subject: REDACTEDREDACTED

... has no recollection at all of any conversation of misconduct involving Chris.

He believes he would remember if a high school student had said something to him but can certainly say that he has no recollection of such a conversation.

72112

5/10/2002



MEMORANDUM

Monday, May 13, 2002

Craig,

I've tracked down baptismal and annulment information regarding REDACTED Here's what I have.

She was baptized at:

REDACTED

Baptismal records show she was confirmed at:

REDACTED

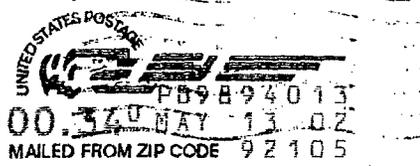
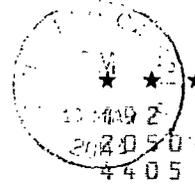
There is no notation of a marriage but there is a record of the annulment. Her marriage to REDACTED was annulled in Orange REDACTED

I would appreciate it if you could look into the annulment to see if there is anything pertinent.

REDACTED

72108

OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
77 MARLBOROUGH AVENUE
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92105



72082

XXI 000021

REDACTED

*Please add to
info on Mission
San Felipe
(Thanks!)*

REDACTED

Msgr. Richard Loomis
3424 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA. 90010

90010+2202



No.	NAME OF PERSON BAPTIZED Nomen Baptizati	Dies Et Locus Nativitatis	Dies Baptismi	Patris Nomen Matris Nomen Originalis
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REDACTED

REDACTED

1

San Diego, Calif. Nov 3
 Oct. 11, 1957 1957

2

San Diego, Calif. Nov. 3
 Oct. 18, 1957 1957

3

San Diego, Calif. Nov. 3
 March 10, 1957 1957

4

San Diego, Calif. Nov. 10
 Oct. 25, 1957 1957

5

Wavaria, Indiana Nov. 14
 Aug. 23, 1956 1957

6

San Diego, Calif. Nov. 17
 Oct 18, 1957 1957

7

San Diego, Calif. Nov. 17
 June 13 1957 1957

8

San Diego, Calif. Nov. 17
 Nov. 2, 1957 1957

72084
 REDACTED

9

San Diego, Calif. Nov. 17

**CONFIDENTIAL**

MEMORANDUM

To: Cardinal Roger Mahony**From: Monsignor Richard Loomis** *RL***Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2002****Re: Monsignor Christian van Liefde**

As you may remember, REDACTED came forward about two weeks ago with an allegation of sexual abuse against Monsignor Christian van Liefde.

She alleges a two-year affair in which the then Father van Liefde molested her repeatedly between the ages of 16 and 18. She says that the abuse involved "a dysfunctional dating relationship" and alleges that the sexual misconduct included inappropriate touching, hugging, kissing and oral sex. She says there was no intercourse because both of them were afraid of pregnancy. She said that her mother reported the abuse to Monsignor REDACTED in 1975, and that Father van Liefde was transferred immediately. She also claims to have reported the behavior to Father REDACTED (of Orange) who was a deacon at Holy Family at the time.

Monsignor van Liefde readily admitted that he knew REDACTED and admitted that there had been boundary violations with her, as well as hugging and embracing. He denies, however, any genital activity of any kind and specifically denied the allegation of oral sex. He also said that if there had been such a report about him, Monsignor REDACTED would have confronted him immediately. (I was Associate at Holy Family immediately after Monsignor van Liefde and can verify from personal experience that Monsignor REDACTED had no problem confronting people about things he thought were out of line. Also, there was no mention to me of any misconduct on the part of Father van Liefde by anyone in the parish: priests, sisters or laity. In fact, Father van Liefde was regularly welcomed back to the parish for weddings, funerals, baptisms and confirmations.)

I contacted Monsignor REDACTED who categorically denied that anyone had ever made a report of sexual misconduct against Father van Liefde. Monsignor REDACTED remembered the family name but commented that Father van Liefde was popular with many of the high-school girls. Monsignor REDACTED also denied asking for Father van Liefde to be moved due to such an allegation, noting that he left Holy Family a year later than Ms. REDACTED reports and was assigned to high-school work. Monsignor REDACTED specifically said that he would never have allowed someone to go into high-school work if he had known of misconduct with a teenager. The assignment record backs up this assertion.

72109

CONFIDENTIAL

I contacted Father REDACTED He had no recollection of ever speaking with REDACTED during his time at Holy Family. He believes he would have remembered a high-school girl reporting sexual misconduct with a parish priest.

In the course of her story, REDACTED also noted that she was good friends with Father REDACTED and knew his brother REDACTED I contacted Father REDACTED and asked him about REDACTED using all her possible last names REDACTED and he said he did not know her, though he also said that his brother had many friends that were unknown to him.

Monsignor Cox also gained access to the annulment file for REDACTED s first marriage. In recounting her story to us, she spent considerable time telling us about the annulment and we thought there might be some reference to abusive behavior in the file. There was no note of any mention of abuse in the annulment proceedings.

The only other two people who have been cited as being able to corroborate her story were Sister REDACTED (now deceased) and REDACTED s mother. I do not see the point in contacting REDACTED s mother since she is quite elderly and her testimony could merely contradict or support Monsignor REDACTED. Either response will leave the matter exactly where it is.

There appear to be some substantial holes in REDACTED s story. All the people she named for us as corroboration do not back up her claims. This is somewhat balanced, however, by Monsignor van Liefde s admission of boundary violations. We seem to have a he-said-she-said situation with some definite inappropriate behavior.

Also, in her report, REDACTED stated that she did not want Monsignor van Liefde taken out of ministry. I am not sure what she wants. She did not immediately accept the offer of therapy, saying that she had worked through the matter already.

Monsignor van Liefde indicated that he would be most willing to render an apology if that is what REDACTED wanted.

I do not have the ability in this case to say that it has been "determined" that sexual abuse actually occurred. I would suggest that SAAB review the matter. I do not believe, however, that the admitted inappropriate behavior rises to a level requiring removal from ministry.

- 1) bring fully to the SAAB board for full review -
- 2) REDACTED
- 3) need to "double-check with law enforcement" ?
See no stone unturned -

72110

D 1/1/02

5-22-02

TO: File
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox
RE: Monsignor Chris Van Liefde
DATE: 22 May 2002

I spoke with Father REDACTED of the Diocese of Orange. He examined the marriage nullity file of REDACTED. There is nothing in the file that makes any allusion to abuse suffered by REDACTED either from a priest or any other person.

ORANGE REDACTED
REDACTED

~~_____~~
MARRIED REDACTED
at St. Bede's
Rev REDACTED

obtained from Orange Diocese
by phone 6 June 02
REDACTED
REDACTED

Clergy Misconduct

Suspected Child Abuse

Survivor: REDACTED

Birth:

Motivation for coming forward: "I'm looking for a resolution".

Priest: Fr. Chris Van Liefde

Birth: 8/26/48

Timeline:

April 19, 2002 REDACTED hand delivered a letter. This letter details the abuse (see attachment #a.).

May 2, 2002 REDACTED and husband REDACTED come for interview with Msgr. Loomis and Sr. REDACTED 2:30 p.m. (see attachment #b.) Msgr. Loomis writes a summary for the Vicar's office.

May 20, 2002 REDACTED calls for an update on the investigation. REDACTED said that she was aware that an intervention was made with Fr. Van Liefde and that the Archdiocesan abuse policy was in progress. REDACTED informed Msgr. Loomis of the call. He said that the interviews had been made and that no data had been disclosed. He said that the only person that REDACTED had mentioned who was not interviewed was her Mother.

May 28, 2002 REDACTED called for an update and requested a timeline for the completion of the investigation. REDACTED reported the above conversation with Msgr. Loomis. REDACTED responded that she wanted to talk to her Mother first. She also wanted to know the timeline.

May 28, 2002 REDACTED Mother of REDACTED called. REDACTED was sobbing. REDACTED had talked to her. She kept repeating: "I just can't believe it. I just can't believe it. I can't believe he betrayed us. I had my suspicions. I had my fears. I talked to him."
 "I had many talks with Chris. He had a key to our house. We considered him family. One night, my husband got up to go to the bathroom and he saw Chris and REDACTED on the couch. He came back to me. It was after 1:00 a.m. and my husband said to me, "Chris is still here". I got up and asked him to leave. I remember

he had on a Hawaiian shirt. That night I saw him kissing^{REDACTED} on the couch.”

“The next morning I asked^{REDACTED}, ‘Does Chris kiss you the way Daddy kisses you?’ ^{REDACTED} said ‘No’. After she went to school I called Chris and asked him to come over. We talked at the dining room table. He put his head on the table and he said, ‘I love ^{REDACTED} I love her.’ I said, ‘If you love her, take off that band aid (reference to the white roman collar) and marry her.’ ^{REDACTED} continued weeping. She said “I can’t believe...he betrayed us”. She said that she called Sr. ^{REDACTED} and told her ‘Chris kisses ^{REDACTED} Sr. ^{REDACTED} responded ‘that Son of a Bitch’.

I threatened him that I was going to call Cardinal Manning. I kept threatening.

At the same time ^{REDACTED}; ^{REDACTED} He was ^{REDACTED} years old. The day that they moved him from Glendale Memorial Hospital to St. Joseph’s hospital it was very dangerous and I called Msgr. ^{REDACTED} He was so kind and he stayed with me. During that time I also told him about ^{REDACTED} and Chris kissing. I told him everything. He said, ‘You don’t have to worry he can be transferred’.

^{REDACTED} continues crying, “We have been betrayed. We sent our children to Catholic Schools we thought they would be safe. I cannot go back to Church.”

“This is devastating me. ^{REDACTED} continues to cry. I talked to him. I wanted to make myself clear. She was a virgin. She was only 15 years old. Crying. He was molesting my baby. I can’t believe it. I gave him the key to our home. He betrayed us. I don’t know how I will tell my husband. He is at the dentist. I can’t believe it. He will be so angry. This is a terrible thing in our hearts. I can’t believe this happened. I’m ^{REDACTED}..I’m very emotional. I’m sorry..crying. I’m horrified. I tried to protect her.”

I responded to ^{REDACTED}’s profound grief by saying, “it was so wrong. It never should have happened. I am very sorry, ^{REDACTED}”.

I don’t know what I will tell my husband. I said if she and her husband want to come and share how they feel or if counseling would be helpful for them since they are also victims whatever would help. She said, I don’t know whatever will help ^{REDACTED}. I ended by saying you have my number. Please call me ^{REDACTED} any time that I can be helpful to you.

TO: File
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox
RE: Monsignor Chris Van Liefde
DATE: 29 May 2002

I spoke with Monsignor Van Liefde today and communicated briefly the input supplied by the mother of REDACTED

Monsignor Van Liefde made the following comments:

I do not recall ever having a key to their house.

I do not recall REDACTED ever sitting me down to talk to me as she describes it, or making any comments along the line of "If you love her, take off that band aid and marry her."

I don't know what else to say other than I stand by what I told you earlier.

72097

**Statement for Weekend Masses at St. Genevieve, Panorama City
May 31 – June 1, 2002
Regarding Monsignor Christian Van Liefde**

I am Monsignor Craig Cox, Vicar for Clergy of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. It is my sad duty to announce that we have received a complaint of inappropriate conduct lodged against Monsignor Chris Van Liefde. The report involves an incident more than twenty-five years ago.

Let me first ask that you keep him in your prayers. This is a very difficult time for him. Monsignor Chris has prepared a brief statement that I would like to read to you at this time:

As Monsignor Cox has just mentioned, a report of inappropriate behavior on my part has been received by the Archdiocese. This incident reportedly took place some twenty-eight years ago. Following its policy, the Archdiocese has placed me on Administrative Leave during its investigation.

I ask your forgiveness for the anxiety and embarrassment that this announcement must cause many of you, and I ask that you keep me in your prayers.

The heart of our faith is the Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that you will all trust in Him, that He will carry us all through this painful time. My prayers are with you.

Let us all pause right now for a moment of silent prayer.

Let me emphasize the importance of maintaining perspective in this time of so many sensational news reports. The simple fact that a complaint has been made does not mean that Monsignor Chris has acted in an abusive fashion. All people, priests included, must be presumed innocent until there is proof to the contrary. At the same time, the Church takes allegations of this sort seriously -- precisely because we want to uncover the full truth and then act in accord with the truth. Therefore, in accord with our policy, Monsignor Chris has gone on temporary administrative leave so that we can carefully and respectfully look into the matter. During this time, we are caring for Monsignor Chris and extending to him all the support we possibly can.

News like this is always difficult, precisely because our Church is a family and because, as members of the Body of Christ, when one member suffers we all suffer. Again, I ask that you keep Monsignor Chris in your prayers. Likewise, please keep the person who filed the report and all others involved in your prayers. I urge you not to jump to conclusions, one way or the other. That does not serve the causes of truth and justice. We never make hasty prejudgments in something as sensitive as this; I hope that you too can be guided by this wisdom.

I wish that I could give you more information, but I simply cannot do so. This is out of respect for Monsignor Chris and respect for the rights of all involved.

Finally, as you know, originally Monsignor Chris had scheduled a forum for this coming Tuesday evening to give parishioners an opportunity to discuss the current crisis regarding sexual misconduct in the Church. In light of the need for Monsignor Chris to go on Administrative Leave, that meeting for this coming week is cancelled and an opportunity for a meeting of that sort will be rescheduled at a later time. Thank you and God bless you.

Declaración en las Misas de la Parroquia de St. Genevieve, Panorama City
31 mayo – 1 de junio, 2002
 Tocante el Monseñor Chris Van Liefde

Yo soy el Monseñor Craig Cox, Vicario del Clero de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles. Lamento mucho anunciarles a ustedes sobre una queja de conducta inapropiada contra el Monseñor Chris Van Liefde. El reporte se trata de un incidente hace más de veinticinco años.

Antes de proseguir les pido que lo mantengan en sus oraciones. Es un tiempo muy difícil para él. El Monseñor Chris ha preparado una declaración breve la cual les voy a leer en este momento:

Así como el Monseñor Cox les ha indicado, un reporte de comportamiento inapropiado de mi parte se ha recibido en la Arquidiócesis. Según el reporte, este incidente ocurrió hace más o menos veintiocho años. Según las normas de la Arquidiócesis, he tomado una ausencia administrativa durante la investigación.

Les suplico que me perdonen el dolor y la pena que este anuncio les ha causado a muchos de ustedes, y además les pido por sus oraciones

El corazón de nuestra fe es la Muerte y Resurrección de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Ruego que todos ustedes confíen en Él, que Él nos fortalezca en estos momentos dolorosos. Tengan la confianza de mis pobres oraciones.

Tomemos un momento de oración en silencio.

Me permito enfatizar la importancia de mantener una perspectiva donde abundan reportes sensacionalistas. Con el simple hecho de presentar una queja no debe uno concluir que el Monseñor Chris ha actuado de manera abusiva. Toda persona, incluso un sacerdote, debe ser considerado inocente hasta que se presente prueba a lo contrario. Al la vez, la Iglesia toma estas alegaciones en serio—precisamente porque queremos descubrir la plena verdad y actuar en acuerdo con esa verdad. Por lo tanto, según nuestras normas y políticas, el Monseñor Chris ha salido en una ausencia administrativa con el propósito de permitirnos investigar este asunto con cuidado y con respeto. Durante este tiempo, estamos cuidando al Monseñor Chris y le extenderemos todo el apoyo posible.

Estas noticias siempre son muy difíciles, especialmente porque nuestra Iglesia es una familia, y porque, como miembros del Cuerpo de Cristo, sabemos que cuando un miembro sufre todos sufren. Repito, les pido que sigan orando por el Monseñor Chris. De igual manera, les pido que sigan orando por la persona que presentó la queja y todos los que están involucrados en el caso. Les ruego que no vayan a sacar conclusiones precipitadamente, ni a favor ni a contra. Eso no le sirve a la justicia ni a la verdad de ninguna manera. Jamás debemos hacer decisiones rápidamente en casos tan delicados como estos; espero que ustedes también se dejen guiar con estas palabras de sabiduría.

Quisiera presentarles mas información al respecto, pero no es posible. Esta disciplina y respeto lo merece tanto el Monseñor Chris como las otras personas involucradas en el caso.

Como saben ustedes, el Monseñor Chris había organizado un foro abierto para el martes próximo por la noche para darles a ustedes los feligreses de esta comunidad una oportunidad de hablar de la crisis actual sobre la mala conducta sexual en la Iglesia. Puesto que el Monseñor Chris estará fuera en una ausencia administrativa, les informaremos lo antes posible de una nueva fecha para esa reunion.

Muchísimas gracias y que Dios los bendiga.



St. Genevieve Church

14061 Roscoe Boulevard, Panorama City, California 91402-4214
Telephone: (818) 894-2261 Fax: (818) 893-4284

My dear Sisters and Brothers,

As Msgr. Cox has just mentioned, a report of inappropriate behavior on my part has been received by the Archdiocese. This incident reportedly took place some 28 years ago. Following its policy, the Archdiocese has placed me on Administrative Leave during its investigation.

I ask your forgiveness for the anxiety and embarrassment that this announcement must cause many of you, and I ask that you keep me in your prayers.

The heart of our faith is the Death and Resurrection of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. I pray that you will all trust in Him, that He will carry us all through this painful time. My prayers are with you. Please keep me in yours.

Sincerely,

Msgr. Chris

72096



St. Genevieve's Church
14061 Roscoe Boulevard, Van Nuys, California 91402. Telephone: 894-2261

Craig,

Thanks for your kindness last night. A reminder to postpone the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 4. You were going to include that in your announcement.

God bless,

Chris

72095

June 10, 2002

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
 Archdiocese of Los Angeles
 3424 Wilshire Blvd.
 Los Angeles, Ca. 90010-2241

Dear Cardinal Mahony,

I am a practicing Catholic. I attended Catholic Schools for twelve years. REDACTED I graduated from REDACTED and for the past seventeen years I have been employed by the REDACTED

My experience with the Catholic clergy has overall, been very positive. (Granted, I did and still cross paths with some mediocre clergy but you will find that in all professions.)

I am writing to you today about a particular individual, Monsignor Christian Van Liefde. He was my high school chaplain at St. Paul High School. (1979-1980)

Monsignor Van Liefde was the reason why I became interested in my Catholic faith. I knew I could go to Fr. Chris for help or simply, to ask questions. I was not a kid that went to chapel everyday or any day. I challenged anyone who stepped in front of me and always had my guard up. By observing Fr. Chris's interactions with my peers and with the teachers/administration, I learned two great lessons.....

-That God put me here to make a difference.

AND

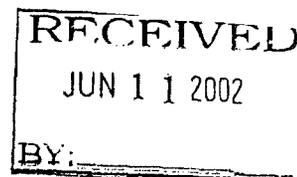
-That the connections I make with others through honor and commitment is essential to living a fulfilled life.

Monsignor Van Liefde was always professional and yet caring. He NEVER acted in an inappropriate manner.

I lost contact with Monsignor Chris over the years and found myself with a huge challenge and needed to speak to someone whom I believed would be trustworthy and helpful. Monsignor Van Liefde was the most logical choice because of his experience with working with those of us who serve our community/country. By the grace of God, I found Monsignor Chris and asked him to help me. Without hesitation, Monsignor Van Liefde stepped up to the plate. As I expected, Monsignor Chris only displayed true professionalism.

On September 11, 2001 I found myself on the front line of defense. Yes, I was scared, sad and angry but I tried to exemplify what Monsignor Chris had shown me over the past years and that was....to do my job with honor, commitment, courage, compassion and with the comfort of knowing that God was/is with me no matter what.

72080



Academically, I can hold my ground with most theologians. I was influenced/taught by some of the best. (University of Chicago) BUT^{REDACTED} Chris gave me something far greater than academics.....He gave me the heart of my faith!

This is a man who gave his own savings to a family he didn't know so that they could ship the body of their loved one down to Central America for burial.

This is a man who handed over more than half his paycheck to coaches so that the kids could have a pizza party after a game.

This is a man who gives up his free time to sit with grieving parents/family.

This is a man who doesn't think twice of running to the hospital at two in the morning to hold the hand of a dying person.

Whether it be a local tragedy i.e. fire, suicide, accidents, a family losing a loved one, etc...OR a national tragedy, i.e. Alaska Airlines, World Trade Center/Pentagon etc...YOU CAN COUNT ON^{REDACTED} CHRIS TO BE THERE! (His day is not eight hours; Monsignor Van Liefde is there 24/7)

I am truly blessed, honored and humbled to know^{REDACTED} Chris. I so admire his selflessness. There is a saying that I will paraphrase....Be careful of raising your head above the crowd for it may be chopped off! I am not afraid to raise my head above the crowd for what is right. I will not stand down for evil.

I request that you do the right thing and immediately activate^{REDACTED} Van Liefde to his position of Pastor and L.A. Fire Chaplain for the sake of our Church and the community.

He is one of your finest soldiers....No, I take that back...^{REDACTED}^{REDACTED} Van Liefde is one of God's greatest soldiers!

Respectfully,
REDACTED

cc: Most Reverend Gerald E. Wilkerson, Regional Bishop
Monsignor Craig Cox
Monsignor Christian Van Liefde

72081

REDACTED

Reverend Gerald Wilkerson, Bishop
 San Fernando Mission
 15101 San Fernando Mission Blvd.
 Mission Hills, Ca 91345

Most Reverend Bishop Wilkerson,

I am visiting my REDACTED for a couple of weeks. I am a graduate of Holy Family Grade (1974) and High School (1978) in Glendale. I was absolute dismayed to hear from another classmate of Fr. Chris Van Leif's situation (forgive me if I have spelled his last name incorrectly). Not having read the article or knowing too much of the allegations and his plea pending the investigation, I had to write to someone.

Twenty-eight years ago I was in 7th or 8th grade depending on the time of year. I knew Fr. Chris very well and we were very good friends, as a friendship can be between a grade schooler and a parish priest. He was a most supportive friend and confidant in a time a girl's life when all things seem so challenging. Our friendship continued throughout his time at the Holy Family Parish and beyond my high school years. We spend many hours talking and dealing with my life and needs and never once was there an action that could be deemed inappropriate. He was a very loving, friendly man. Always greeted you with a smile and as time went on a hug. He was an involved and dedicated priest with the school and the CYS youth group I belonged to, the families etc. He was also a loved and cherished family friend.

As I stated we have not read the actual article, but my mother (REDACTED who also knew him well) and I want to offer our services should they be required in the investigation. He is in our prayers daily and should you see him, please convey our love, regards and hope for clarification.

While in California, until June 29-30, we can be reached at the home of REDACTED REDACTED at REDACTED I will be driving back home to Spokane and will be available at REDACTED July 4th and on.

Our prayers for our church and its messengers continue.

Respectfully,
 REDACTED

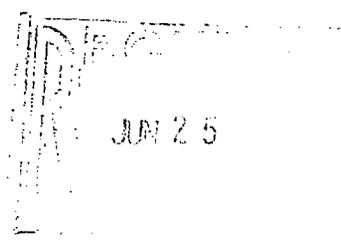
✓ CC: Cardinal Roger Mahony
 3424 Wilshire Blvd.
 Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

72077



St. Genevieve Church

14061 Roscoe Boulevard, Panorama City, California 91402-4214
Teléphone: (818) 894-2261 Fax: (818) 893-4284



June 21, 2002

REDACTED

Rev. Msgr. Craig Cox, J.C.D.
Archdiocesan Catholic Center
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA. 90010

Dear Msgr. Cox,

With this letter, I wish to formally advise you that I have asked Mr. REDACTED to represent me in all legal matters regarding the complaint that has been filed against me with your office.

Mr. REDACTED has told me that he will be contacting you in the next week or so to discuss his role as my legal representative.

I enclose his business card for your information.

I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(Rev. Msgr.) Christian Van Liefde
PASTOR

cc. Msgr. Richard Loomis
REDACTED

72079

July 1, 2002

Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90010-2241

Dear Monsignor Cox,

Thank you for your quick response to my letter dated June 10, 2002, regarding Monsignor Chris Van Liefde.

With the environment being as it is, I very much understand and appreciate the archdiocese not acting precipitously. My only prayer is that "due process" is done in ALL cases.

My belief in God and my Catholic faith has not been shaken. However, I must admit my view towards mankind is becoming more jaded as time passes. (Then again, I am just as amazed by good as I am with bad.)

Please know that I keep you and all clergy in my prayers. I realize that it must not be easy for you or for that matter, any clergy right now.

Thank you again for responding to me so quickly.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

P.S. I remember you from St. Greg's....Time flies....(St. Greg's isn't my parish. I believe my parish is pretty much where ever I attend. From Santa Barbara, San Bernardino, Los Angeles to Orange County!)

72078

REDACTED, Sr. REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2002 4:39 PM
To: REDACTED, Sr. REDACTED
Subject: REDACTED Confidential
Importance: High

Dear Sr. REDACTED,
REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

I am trying to be patient, to hold everyone off from exploding this into lawsuits and press releases, my parents want to file a suit immediately for the damage caused by forcing them to become aware of what truly happened - their statute has not run yet - please relay that message to these phantom lawyers I keep hearing about. I sat back, agreed to be patient, believed you would help me deal with the counseling - after you asked that we be patient, wait for the Bishops' Conference to end, wait, wait, wait

I am so upset - this was the first glimmer of positive hope I have found and now it is gone. Again I ask, doesn't anyone care about anything - the damage the Archdiocese has done and continues to do. How can such people of God continue to hide behind misrepresentations, delays, and legal documents?

By the way, where is the investigation report. I still have not received the written report of what was said by the witnesses, and by Chris. My parents and their attorney want to know exactly what was said - how and why my claim was "uncorroborated" to the point of being dismissed despite physical evidence, and requiring my parents to be told the awful truth so that my "story" could be corroborated. Why did we just not go in for polygraphs like I proposed - I certainly have nothing to hide, does Chris? By the way, we are still waiting for an apology from the Archdiocese and from Chris - I know you are sorry - but you did not do anything wrong.

7/9/2002

72073

We want a meeting - enough is enough. If we don't get what we deserve - and immediately, then perhaps a meeting with the Cardinal, Msgrs. Loomis and Cox, "legal", Mr. ^{REDACTED} and you will get things resolved. After all, the Cardinal loves to brag about how many victims he has personally apologized to - good, he can add me to his list.

If you don't want to hear from me any longer - just email a contact list and I'll be happy to oblige - again, I am sorry but you are my only contact. In the meantime, you can forward this email to whomever you need to to see that the following matters are resolved immediately, or that a meeting is arranged with all parties, forthwith.

1. Reimbursement of REDACTED s tuition paid for ^{REDACTED} and reimbursement to ^{REDACTED} REDACTED
REDACTED

2. REDACTED
REDACTED

3. Copy of investigation report, interviews, etc.

4. Apology by Archdiocese and Chris to ^{REDACTED} and her parents.

We are awaiting your response.

Thank you
REDACTED

Cox, Msgr. Craig A.

To:
Subject:

REDACTED, Sr. REDACTED
REDACTED

REDACTED

In my catching up, I just read the July 3 email of REDACTED. I realize that there have probably been some developments since then. Do you and I (and probably several others, e.g., Sr. REDACTED REDACTED Monsignor Loomis) need to sit down and talk about this at length? It seems to me that there are multiple issues here, not all of which are part of my scope, but where we all need to be on the same page.

Thanks.

Craig

72072



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2241

July 15, 2002

REDACTED

Dear REDACTED

I am writing on behalf of Cardinal Mahony, to whom you sent a copy of your June 19, 2002, letter about Monsignor Christian Van Liefde. Thank you for sharing your own experience of Father Van Liefde's ministry during your years at Holy Family.

Please continue to keep Monsignor Chris in your prayers during this trying period in his life. That is the greatest support you can offer.

Since your letter both asked that I relay your love and support, and offered your assistance in any investigation, I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to Monsignor Van Liefde.

Thank you again for writing. May God continue to bless you.

Sincerely yours,

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

cc: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde

72076

**COPY**

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-72843424
Wilshire
BoulevardLos Angeles
California
90010-2241

July 15, 2002

Personal and Confidential

Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
c/o/St. Genevieve Church
14061 Roscoe Boulevard
Panorama City, CA 91402-4214

Dear Chris:

Enclosed, please find a copy of a letter from REDACTED and of my reply to her. I thought you would want to see it, and to be aware of her offer.

I am just back from two weeks of vacation. Boy, did I need that break!

How are you doing? Please stay in touch.

God bless!

Your brother in Christ,

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

enclosure

72075

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

January 8, 2003

RECEIVED
JAN - 8 2002

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

Via Personal Delivery

REDACTED

Re: Rev. Christian Van Liefde -REDACTED

Dear Messrs. REDACTED

Enclosed please find the signed Declarations of my wife, REDACTED and her mother, REDACTED. These declarations are provided to you for the sole purpose of settling all claims held by REDACTED and REDACTED, and REDACTED against Msgr. Christian Van Liefde and the Los Angeles Catholic Archdiocese.

As you indicated in our last meeting, settlement of this claim was only possible with signed declarations under penalty of perjury setting forth the details of the sexual abuse and subsequent discovery, etc. These declarations should satisfy that requirement.

My wife, REDACTED, and her parents have requested that I discuss this matter with you on their behalf, their signatures hereinbelow confirm that request.

As discussed with Mr. REDACTED it is our desire to settle this matter without the necessity of retaining counsel and filing suit. It is my understanding that in exchange for not filing an immediate lawsuit, the Archdiocese is providing the victims with their perpetrator's file from the Archdiocese. Kindly immediately forward Msgr. Van Liefde's file to me under confidential cover and also provide me with any mediation information, as soon as it becomes available.

72035

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

Page Two

I look forward to an opportunity to discuss the resolution of this matter with you and ask that you contact me at your earliest convenience after you have had an opportunity to review the enclosed so that we may enter into meaningful settlement discussions. Please contact me at REDACTED or at my office at REDACTED

Please keep this letter, the enclosed and all communications completely confidential.

Very truly yours,
REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

Agreed

72036

DECLARATION OF REDACTED

I, REDACTED declare:

1. The following facts are known by me personally, except to those matters which are specifically stated to be based on information and belief. If called as a witness, I would and could competently testify thereto.

2. My full name is REDACTED I am married to REDACTED We are the natural parents of REDACTED born REDACTED in San Diego, California. We presently reside at REDACTED REDACTED We have lived at this property from March 31, 1979 to the present.

3. Our prior address was REDACTED We lived in that property from in or about October 1971 through in or about March 1979.

4. In or about November 1964 we enrolled our daughter, REDACTED REDACTED (hereinafter REDACTED in the second grade at Holy Family Grade School in Glendale, California. REDACTED attended Holy Family Grade School from 1964 through eighth grade graduation in June 1971. REDACTED then attended Holy Family Girl's High School in Glendale, California, from September 1971 through graduation in June 1975.

5. In or about July 1973, we met Fr. Christian Van Liefde (hereinafter "Fr. Chris") during a home Mass and luncheon we hosted for one of REDACTED s High School groups. Fr. Chris was the Celebrant of the Mass. REDACTED had just turned 16 years old and it was the summer before her Junior year at Holy Family High School.

1 6. Fr. Chris became a friend of the family, often eating dinner at our
2 home, spending time with our family, and enjoying other family
3 activities. Fr. Chris became a trusted family friend and confidant.
4 Fr. Chris told me that he considered our family very much like his
5 own family and often spoke of how he missed his family, who lived in
6 Mission Viejo, California. He told me that REDACTED was a very
7 special friend because she reminded him very much of his deceased
8 younger sister, also named REDACTED and that he thought of
9 REDACTED like his own sister.

10 7. On or about August 30, 1973, Fr. Chris, my husband REDACTED and
11 I went to dinner to the 1520 A.D. Restaurant in Los Angeles,
12 California to celebrate Fr. Chris' 26th birthday.

13 8. In the months following, Fr. Chris continued to visit our home
14 regularly, two to four times per week. On many occasions, Fr. Chris
15 would come over after saying the evening Mass to "unwind and relax",
16 some occasions he would come over for dinner. My husband and I gave
17 a key to our house to Fr. Chris so he could come over as he pleased
18 as he often spoke about the stressful life of a parish priest and
19 that it was nice to have a "retreat" away from the parish.

20 9. In February 1974 REDACTED attended the CCD Congress, a convention
21 for Catholic Catechism teachers to be held in Anaheim, CA. She
22 would be attending the convention with other friends from Holy
23 Family High School and Fr. Chris. I was concerned that REDACTED
24 would be at a convention alone for the first time, and Fr. Chris
25 assured me he would be there to watch over her and told us we could
trust him to take care of REDACTED

1 10. In or about Valentines Day, 1974, Chris brought REDACTED a Tulip
2 plant and they went to a movie. In addition, Fr. Chris was staying
3 late watching television with REDACTED and talking, often staying
4 until 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. I was getting suspicious and concerned that
5 there was a relationship developing beyond friendship or that
6 REDACTED was developing a crush on Fr. Chris. I questioned REDACTED
7 and she denied any relationship other than friendship. In the next
8 day or two, I called Fr. Chris and asked him to come to our home
9 when REDACTED was at school so we could talk. I confronted Chris
10 about the relationship and asked if he had ever acted
11 inappropriately with REDACTED. Fr. Chris assured me he had never
12 acted inappropriately in any way, that he and REDACTED were just
13 friends and that she reminded him of his sister and felt towards
14 REDACTED like she was a sister. He reassured me not to worry, that
15 he would always act honorably and would always protect REDACTED. I
16 told Fr. Chris that if I ever found out he was acting
17 inappropriately with REDACTED I would report him immediately to REDACTED
18 and he assured me that would never happen. I told Fr.
19 Chris I was concerned that REDACTED, especially because of her young,
20 vulnerable age, would develop a crush on him and Fr. Chris assured
21 me that he was aware this can happen and would make sure it did not
22 occur. Fr. Chris also promised me he would let me know if he felt
23 REDACTED was feeling anything more than friendship but did not feel
24 it was a problem. I told Fr. Chris I trusted him and because of his
25 age expected him to handle the situation properly as I knew the

1 friendship between our family and Fr. Chris was very important to
2 him, to us and to REDACTED He reassured me not to worry.

3 11. In or about late March 1974, Fr. Chris suggested to the family
4 one night that his younger brother, REDACTED bring REDACTED to her
5 junior prom in April. Fr. Chris thought REDACTED and REDACTED would have
6 fun together and thought it would be safer than REDACTED having a
7 stranger bring her to the prom. Fr. Chris offered to pay for REDACTED's
8 tuxedo. My husband and I were very pleased that REDACTED would be in
9 safe hands and Fr. Chris repeatedly reassured us that his brother
10 would take good care of REDACTED

11 12. In April 1974, Fr. Chris' brother, REDACTED took REDACTED
12 to her Junior prom.

13 13. In the following few months, through late Summer, Fr. Chris spent
14 more time at our house, as well as at my mother's house in Los
15 Angeles. REDACTED and Fr. Chris would spend many summer days in the
16 swimming pool at my mother's house. In addition, Fr. Chris was
17 spending more late nights in our living room with REDACTED talking
18 and watching television until 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning. On one
19 occasion, I awoke at 3:00 a.m. to find REDACTED and Fr. Chris in our
20 living room, REDACTED rubbing his back. They appeared to seem
21 "caught in the act" when I came in the living room. Fr. Chris did
22 not have a shirt on. They both jumped up and Fr. Chris explained
23 that he had a pulled muscle and REDACTED was trying to rub it out.
24 He apologized for waking me up and left abruptly.

25 14. In or about August 1974, I found a postcard Fr. Chris sent to
REDACTED while he was vacationing in the Sequoia's over the 4th of

1 July. The postcard contained a comment that he missed the backrubs.
2 I questioned REDACTED about this again and she told me that she
3 rubbed his back at night because he told her he was very stressed
4 from his parish priest duties and it helped him to relax. This
5 concerned me greatly and I decided to speak to Fr. Chris again.

6 15. In or about late August 1974, I once again asked Fr. Chris over
7 to the house when REDACTED was not home and I confronted Fr. Chris
8 about their friendship, the late nights, the backrubs, etc. Fr.
9 Chris assured me again there was no inappropriate behavior, he was
10 "100% priest" and had no feelings for REDACTED other than a good
11 friend and he loved her like a sister. He asked for our trust and
12 assured me I had nothing to worry about. He assured me they were
13 very close friends and affectionate only as a brother and sister
14 would be.

15 16. In or about October 1974, REDACTED was diagnosed with
16 mononucleosis and was at home for two weeks. Fr. Chris came to see
17 REDACTED regularly during that period of time, often bringing her
18 flowers or cards.

19 17. In or about late October to mid-November 1974, my husband awoke
20 one night at 3:30 in the morning and looked in the living room from
21 where he heard noises. My husband came back to bed and woke me up
22 to tell me he saw Fr. Chris and REDACTED embraced and kissing. I
23 went into the living room and found Fr. Chris and REDACTED sitting
24 next to each other on the sofa. I asked Fr. Chris to leave
25 immediately and that I would speak to him the next day. After Fr.
Chris left, I asked REDACTED if Fr. Chris was kissing her. She

1 replied "yes". I asked REDACTED if Fr. Chris kissed her like daddy
2 kisses her and she said "no".

3 18. The next day I called Fr. Chris and asked him to come to my home
4 so we could talk. Fr. Chris came over and I confronted him about
5 the previous night, and his feelings about REDACTED He cried and
6 admitted what happened. Fr. Chris said he loved REDACTED and begged
7 me not to report him to REDACTED . I told him he should ask for
8 a transfer, or leave the priesthood altogether, but I did not want
9 him to hurt REDACTED anymore. He assured me he would never be
10 inappropriate towards REDACTED again and I trusted him. Fr. Chris
11 said that it was a big mistake and would not happen ever again.

12 19. I told REDACTED that I confronted Fr. Chris. REDACTED was very
13 angry with me because she wanted to continue the friendship with Fr.
14 Chris. I told her I did not want to break up the friendship
15 because I knew how important he was to her, and told her I did not
16 want her to get hurt.

17 20. Fr. Chris occasionally still came over to visit the family and
18 to visit REDACTED however I was suspicious of their relationship. In
19 or about late December or early January, I called the Dean of Girl's
20 at Holy Family High School, Sr. REDACTED . I told Sr. REDACTED
21 about Fr. Chris, including the discovery of them kissing. Sr.
22 REDACTED was very upset and apologetic and was very concerned about
23 REDACTED. Sr. REDACTED advised me to immediately contact the Pastor
24 of Holy Family Church, Msgr. REDACTED and advise him of the
25 situation. Sr. REDACTED explained that while she was very sorry, it

1 was out of her jurisdiction and there was nothing she could do for
2 me but that she would pray about the situation.

3 21. On January 15, 1975, Msgr. REDACTED at my request, came to my
4 home to visit with me while my son, who was quite ill, was being
5 transferred by ambulance from Glendale Memorial Hospital to St.
6 Joseph's Hospital. I told Msgr. REDACTED about Fr. Chris' actions,
7 his inappropriate relationship and activity with REDACTED including
8 finding them kissing on the sofa. Msgr. REDACTED told me he would
9 handle the situation personally, he would see that Fr. Chris was
10 transferred out of Holy Family immediately and assured me that Fr.
11 Chris would never bother REDACTED again. I told Msgr. REDACTED that I
12 did not want Fr. Chris transferred to a Church with a girl's high
13 school and Msgr. REDACTED agreed that he would not be transferred to
14 such a Parish. Msgr. REDACTED told me that there was another
15 instance involving Fr. Chris but he did not elaborate on any
16 details. Msgr. REDACTED assured me on multiple occasions during this
17 conversation that he would personally handle this matter.

18 22. I never saw or spoke to Fr. Chris again after this time.

19 23. In or about late May 2002, REDACTED came over to speak to her
20 father, REDACTED and me. She told us she had something to tell us that
21 she knew would be difficult for us to hear. REDACTED told us that
22 she had made a formal complaint to the Los Angeles Catholic
23 Archdiocese against Fr. Chris. REDACTED also told us that because
24 the Archdiocese did not believe her, they had requested to speak
25 with us to confirm what we knew and saw about that night they were
caught kissing. For the first time, I asked REDACTED if there was

1 more physical activity than what we knew about and she replied,
2 "yes". I asked her to tell me everything that happened and she said
3 she did not want to hurt us anymore. REDACTED told us that they had
4 physical and sexual contact for approximately 18 to 20 months. In
5 addition, REDACTED advised us that it went on even after I spoke to
6 both Fr. Chris and Msgr. REDACTED although for only a short period of
7 time. Both REDACTED and I were very upset at having our worst fears
8 come true as we had always trusted Fr. Chris and trusted that Msgr.
9 REDACTED would do as he promised. Finally, REDACTED told us that Fr.
10 Chris was, presently, at a Parish with a girl's high school.

11 REDACTED told us that she had gone to the Archdiocese before but did
12 not get any response and it was finally after finding out that Fr.
13 Chris was at a girl's high school parish, within 10 miles of where
14 she lived, that she felt compelled to go to the Archdiocese to have
15 Fr. Chris removed from his present parish. In addition, she wanted
16 to know if Fr. Chris had any other complaints of inappropriate
17 sexual conduct against him, as she came to find out was her right as
18 a victim.

19 24. REDACTED left and I immediately called Sr. REDACTED
20 REDACTED, s contact person at the Archdiocese. We were very upset and
21 looking for answers. Sr. REDACTED advised me that she needed to
22 confirm REDACTED, s allegations of inappropriate conduct by Fr. Chris.
23 Sr. REDACTED explained to me that because there were no witnesses or
24 other evidence, she had to corroborate REDACTED, s story by speaking
25 with us. I was appalled that they would distrust REDACTED, s claims
but I told Sr. REDACTED what I knew and what I had seen over 25 years

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ago to the best of my recollection. I told her about my fears and suspicions about Fr. Chris, my confrontations with Fr. Chris, and about his denials and then admittance of what had occurred. I told Sr. REDACTED about my conversation with Msgr. REDACTED and with Sr. REDACTED

I was quite upset and crying while speaking to Sr. REDACTED explaining it was the first I had heard that the inappropriate relationship had been going on since my daughter REDACTED was just 16 years old and was shocked that we had been lied to about Fr. Chris' transfer (or lack of transfer), lack of discipline, and present whereabouts. Sr. REDACTED thanked me for my phone call, apologized for the pain and suffering our family was experiencing and offered counseling for my husband and me. I have not spoken to Sr. REDACTED or anyone else from the Archdiocese since that night.

25. Neither my husband nor I have been practicing Catholics since this happened to REDACTED. My husband and I placed our children in Catholic Schools because we believed they would be safer than in any other environment. My husband and I were very distraught especially since we had worked and sacrificed to send REDACTED to Catholic school and we felt we were lied to and betrayed by both Fr. Chris and the Catholic Church. We are very upset now to learn that the Church did not do as they promised us and furthermore, to see not only how this affected REDACTED when it happened, but how this is now affecting REDACTED. Our family has been devastated for a second time by these tragic and terrible events. Since speaking to Sr. REDACTED I have been consumed by thoughts of what happened so long ago, I have been consumed by guilt for having trusted the Church and Fr.

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Chris, which resulted in my daughter ^{REDACTED} being hurt, not once
but many times over.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of
California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 17th
day of January, 2003, at Glendale, California. [^]
REDACTED

DECLARATION OF REDACTED

I, REDACTED, declare:

1. The following facts are known by me personally, except to those matters that are specifically stated to be based on information and belief. If called as a witness, I would and could competently testify thereto.

2. My full name is REDACTED. I was born in San Diego, California, on REDACTED. Other names I have used in the past are REDACTED and REDACTED

3. My present address is REDACTED REDACTED My current phone number is REDACTED

4. I attended Holy Family Grade School in Glendale, California, from 1964 through 1971. I attended Holy Family High School in Glendale, California, from 1971 through 1975.

5. I presently work at REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED

6. From in or about October 1971 through April 1977, I resided with my parents at their residence located at REDACTED REDACTED

7. I met Fr. Christian Van Liefde (hereinafter "Fr. Chris") in June 1973. Fr. Chris was a new associate Pastor at Holy Family Church and visited the high school often, acting in the capacity of

1 religious counselor, School Chaplain, and instructor. Fr. Chris led
2 the prayer group, church choir and various other groups as well.

3 8. The first time I met Fr. Chris, he told me he had a sister who was
4 much younger and who had died in a tragic auto accident many years
5 prior. Her name was also REDACTED and he told me my eyes
6 reminded him of her eyes. He asked if he could call me REDACTED which
7 was his nickname for her. I was involved in the prayer group and
8 church choir that Fr. Chris led so we had an opportunity to see each
9 other at Mass, during rehearsals, prayer meetings, etc. which were
10 held at various days and times at either Holy Family Church or Holy
11 Family High School.

12 9. Fr. Chris would always make it a point to talk to me privately at
13 these functions, typically after the function ended. We would take
14 a walk or sit and talk about ourselves, our families, and I confided
15 in him about my feelings and things going on in school. Fr. Chris
16 was always very nice to me and paid attention to me. On many
17 occasions, Fr. Chris would secretly pass me a note or leave a note
18 on my car windshield for me to find at the end of my school day.

19 10. In or about July 1973, I volunteered to have a home Mass and
20 luncheon at my parent's home for one of my church groups. Fr. Chris
21 was the Celebrant of the Mass. This was the first time my parents
22 met Fr. Chris.

23 11. Fr. Chris thereafter became good friends with my family. He
24 would come over to my parents' house two or three times per week and
25 have dinner or come over after dinner and evening Mass, to relax and
watch television or talk. Fr. Chris said his family reminded him of

1 his own family and he felt towards my parents like his own mom and
2 dad and he thought of me like a sister. Fr. Chris spoke a lot about
3 his family and how he missed them as they were living in Mission
4 Viejo and he did not get to see them too often. Fr. Chris enjoyed
5 coming over to our house because he could 'take off his collar'
6 figuratively and literally. Fr. Chris would tell us how stressful
7 life was for a parish priest and that he enjoyed the opportunity to
8 escape away from the Parish house.

9 12. On or about August 26, 1973, I handmade a Vestment for Fr. Chris
10 for his birthday. Fr. Chris was a newly ordained priest and did not
11 have a variety of Vestments to wear while saying Mass throughout the
12 year.

13 13. On or about August 30, 1973, Fr. Chris, my mother, my father and
14 I went to dinner for Fr. Chris 26th birthday to the 1520 A.D.
15 Restaurant in Los Angeles. Chris brought me a bouquet of daisies
16 when he arrived at my parents' house. He said it was to thank me
17 for the Vestment. Fr. Chris did not dress as a priest; instead he
18 wore street clothes, which he typically did when we were together or
19 when he would visit my parents.

20 14. After the dinner, we came back to my parents' house. Later that
21 night, after my parents went to bed, the first physical contact
22 occurred between Fr. Chris and me. We were sitting on the sofa
23 together in the living room; my parents were in their bedroom on the
24 opposite side of the house. Fr. Chris hugged me and told me how
25 special I was to him and how special his birthday was because of the
dinner and my gift. He kissed me on the cheek and then kissed me on

1 the lips. He told me it was okay and that we had a very special
 2 friendship. He continued to hug me and kiss me a few more times.
 3 Fr. Chris left that night and I remember feeling very special that
 4 he thought so much of me. This was the first physical/sexual
 5 encounter in my life as I was not allowed to date prior to my 16th
 6 birthday and I had no boyfriends or dates prior to this time.

7 15. Fr. Chris continued to visit us at my parents' home,
 8 approximately two or three times per week. The physical contact
 9 occurred almost on every occasion, depending on if my parents went
 10 to sleep early or not. Once in a while we would go out for a drive
 11 in Fr. Chris' car or for an ice cream. We would sometimes end up
 12 down at the beach, one of Fr. Chris' favorite places. On these
 13 occasions, we would have physical contact either in his car or on
 14 the beach.

15 16. The primary contact between Fr. Chris and I occurred at my
 16 parents' home after they went to sleep. Fr. Chris would come over
 17 for dinner or just to visit after evening Mass and we would talk in
 18 the living room with my parents or watch television. My parents
 19 usually went to bed between 9:30 and 10:00. After usually 30 or 40
 20 minutes, Fr. Chris would ask me to rub his back because he was very
 21 stressed and it helped him to relax. He would usually take his
 22 shirt off. After a while, Fr. Chris would sit closer to me and
 23 would start kissing and fondling me. We either kept our clothes on
 24 completely or he would remove his shirt and partially undress me.

25 17. Over the next five or six months, the physical contact continued
 to occur and became more sexual and intimate in nature. The kissing

1 advanced to French kissing, which occurred on every occasion I saw
 2 him alone. Fr. Chris first started fondling me over my clothes but
 3 gradually the fondling would take place under my clothes, and then
 4 ultimately, when I was partially or scantily clothed. The sexual
 5 contact would excel almost in stages; when he would do something new
 6 or different, he would explain the actions as being a new and
 7 special way of showing our friendship, or telling me it was okay
 8 because he would never hurt me and he would always take care of me.
 9 Fr. Chris said he had experience and told me he would teach me what
 10 to do and not to worry and just relax.

11 18. Fr. Chris was very different with me when we were alone than when
 12 we were at school or church. Fr. Chris would be distant to me when
 13 other people were around and this would hurt me greatly. When we
 14 were alone together, he would explain that we must keep things
 15 private because people would not understand. He told me that it was
 16 as much for me as for him because he did not want anyone to ever say
 17 that I was promiscuous. He said people would not understand our
 18 relationship. When Fr. Chris said Mass and I was in attendance, he
 19 would only consume half of the priest's host and give me the other
 20 half when I would take Holy Communion. He told me that this was his
 21 special way of letting me know I was important to him even though he
 22 couldn't show it publicly.

23 19. After the sexual contact, Fr. Chris would always tell me to go to
 24 confession and that he was going to also go to confession and that
 25 would absolve us from what we were doing. Fr. Chris said that we
 had a special friendship and a special love that the Church and

1 other people did not understand so confession would absolve us from
2 what happened and from having to lie.

3 20. On or about Valentines Day, February 14, 1974, Fr. Chris brought
4 me a tulip plant. A month later, on or about March 10, 1974, Fr.
5 Chris bought me a watch and brought me out to dinner and to a drive-
6 in movie for my 17th birthday. While we were parked at the drive-in
7 movie, Fr. Chris started kissing me and fondling me. This was the
8 first time Fr. Chris placed my hand on his groin and he had an
9 erection. He guided my hand with his own to masturbate himself.
10 This was also the first time that Fr. Chris touched my genitals. We
11 did not remove our undergarments.

12 21. The sexual contact as described above, to wit, mutual
13 masturbation, fondling, kissing, and other sexual activity continued
14 on a two to three times per week basis. The intimacy of the sexual
15 activity increased however, there was no intercourse or penetration
16 at any time.

17 22. In or about May 1974, Fr. Chris was visiting with an old friend,
18 REDACTED after Mass one Sunday. I walked by and waved to Fr.
19 Chris. Fr. Chris called me over and introduced me to REDACTED Fr.
20 REDACTED Chris told me that he and REDACTED were very good friends, having
21 attended St. John's Seminary in Camarillo together. REDACTED was at St.
22 John's Seminary for 7 years before leaving the Seminary to become a
23 REDACTED REDACTED was attending REDACTED
24 REDACTED, California, at the time. It was a very
25 short introduction and I did not see REDACTED again for approximately 9
or 10 months.

1 postcard. On the postcard he stated that he "missed the back
 2 scratches". I hid the postcard from my parents because I was sure
 3 that they were unaware of the activity. My mother later found the
 4 postcard and questioned me about it and I told her it was because
 5 Fr. Chris had a lot of stress and it helped him to relax. My mother
 6 was very upset when she found the postcard.

7 26. On or about August 26, 1974, I made Fr. Chris another Vestment
 8 for Mass for his 27th birthday. We celebrated his birthday at my
 9 parents' house for dinner. In or about that same week, Fr. Chris
 10 and I spent the afternoon swimming at my grandmother's house in Los
 11 Angeles, California. There was no one at home during the day and
 12 Fr. Chris and I were swimming and sunbathing. Fr. Chris and I were
 13 in the swimming pool, wrestling and playing around. Fr. Chris
 14 started to kiss and fondle me. Fr. Chris slid my bathing suit
 15 bottoms down and fondled my genitals. Fr. Chris brought me to the
 16 swimming pool ledge and started to engage in oral sex when I stopped
 17 him because I got frightened and asked him to stop, which he did
 18 immediately.

19 27. In October 1974, I was diagnosed with mononucleosis and Fr. Chris
 20 came to visit me often at home. However, Fr. Chris did not kiss me
 21 during the one to two weeks I was home because he was worried he
 22 would contract it and not be able to explain it.

23 28. On one night in or about November 1974, Fr. Chris and I were in
 24 my parents' living room on the couch. At approximately 2:00 or 3:00
 25 a.m., my mother came into the living room with her robe on, she was
 upset, she asked Fr. Chris to leave and that she would call him the

1 next day. Fr. Chris left immediately. My mother said that my dad
2 looked into the living room and saw us. My mom asked me if Fr.
3 Chris was kissing me and I said yes. She asked me if he kissed me
4 like "daddy kisses me" and I said no. I told her to leave us alone
5 and that Fr. Chris was in love with me.

6 29. On or about the following day, my mother told me she spoke with
7 Fr. Chris. I was very upset and angry but my mother assured me he
8 was still our friend and he understood that he made a mistake and it
9 wouldn't happen again. My mother asked that we not see each other
10 alone any more and she told me that it wasn't my fault.

11 30. Fr. Chris continued to come over to my parents' house but not as
12 often. I saw Fr. Chris at school, at church or at the rectory. Fr.
13 Chris and I had physical contact in the storage room off the
14 Sacristy in the Church or we would go for a drive in his car. We
15 would talk about the fact that what we were doing was wrong but he
16 would always make us say a prayer at the end and ask God to forgive
17 us.

18 31. In or about late December 1974, REDACTED was hospitalized
19 for a serious medical problem. In or about January 1975, my mother
20 told me that she had spoken with Sr. REDACTED, the Girls' Dean
21 of Discipline at Holy Family High School and also Msgr. REDACTED
22 about Fr. Chris and me and that she asked that he be transferred
23 immediately. I was very upset and angry with my mother because I
24 knew Fr. Chris would get in trouble and probably be transferred.

25 32. Fr. Chris would make it a point to avoid me at school after this,
but would usually get a note to me secretly or a glance that meant I

1 should wait until everyone left. Fr. Chris said that Msgr^{REDACTED}
 2 told him about my mother's conversation and Fr. Chris told me he did
 3 not blame my mother for what she did. Fr. Chris said what we did
 4 was wrong but that he loved me and would always love me. Fr. Chris
 5 said it went too far. Fr. Chris and I continued to engage in French
 6 kissing and light petting but nothing more intense. Fr. Chris tried
 7 to avoid me and ignore me anytime anyone was around, especially
 8 other teachers, priests or students.

9 33. On or about February 19, 1975, a picture and article appeared in
 10 the Glendale NewsPress newspaper about Msgr. ^{REDACTED},s upcoming
 11 Investiture Mass on March 9, 1975.

12 34. The last physical contact between Fr. Chris and I was in or about
 13 the week following February 20. I saw Fr. Chris at school and told
 14 him I needed to speak with him. He told me to come over to the
 15 Rectory after school. When I arrived, Fr. Chris took me into the
 16 first office off the hallway and closed the door. I was upset and
 17 angry because he was growing more distant and I wanted to confront
 18 him about our relationship. I asked him if he was in love with me
 19 or not. He said he loved me like a sister; he said he was sorry
 20 that things got out of control. He said that we were only human and
 21 that I was very beautiful and he could not help but have feelings
 22 for me. I told him I loved him and we started to embrace. Fr.
 23 Chris kissed me on the cheek at first and hugged me but before I
 24 knew it, we were embraced in a passionate kiss and fondling. It
 25 lasted only a few minutes and then Fr. Chris stopped, he said he

1 was scared someone would see me there, he was sorry but I had to
2 leave. I left and told him I understood.

3 35. In or about March 1975, I became reacquainted with REDACTED
4 (hereinafter REDACTED, who had been introduced to me by Fr. Chris
5 approximately 10 months earlier in or about May 1974. I saw REDACTED
6 after Mass one day and we recognized each other immediately.

7 36. From approximately March through May 1975, REDACTED and I started
8 seeing each other on a platonic, friendly basis. We would
9 occasionally have breakfast together or to see a movie. REDACTED was a
10 student living in Glendale and I was finishing up my senior year at
11 Holy Family High School. It was during this time period that REDACTED
12 introduced me to one of his best friends, REDACTED was also
13 at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo at the same time as Fr. Chris
14 and REDACTED. It was also during this time period that REDACTED and REDACTED
15 introduced me to REDACTED another priest and classmate from St.
16 John's Seminary. I told REDACTED about Fr. Chris and our relationship.
17 REDACTED told me it was wrong and that I was not to blame, it was Fr.
18 Chris who was responsible because he should have known better.

19 37. In or about the late Spring or Summer of 1975, REDACTED kissed me.
20 He told me he had feelings for me and thought we should consider
21 dating. I was very infatuated with REDACTED, who was eleven years older
22 than me and very intelligent and very nice to me. REDACTED never tried
23 to take sexual advantage of me; he was very cautious and considerate
24 because of my age. REDACTED and I continued to date. We often had
25 dinner and socialized with REDACTED We did not socialize or ever
see Fr. Chris. On REDACTED and I were married; REDACTED

1 REDACTED was the main Celebrant. Fr. Chris was not invited to the
2 wedding as REDACTED had no longer stayed friends with him and I did not
3 want him invited.

4 38. REDACTED and I were married until in or about September 1984. During
5 that time, REDACTED and I remained good friends with REDACTED My
6 marriage to REDACTED was dysfunctional in many ways, sexually, socially
7 and otherwise. REDACTED was controlling of my demeanor and my actions
8 in the same manner as Fr. Chris was to me. My marriage to REDACTED
9 ended in civil divorce and a Catholic annulment in or about
10 September 1985. REDACTED (herainfter REDACTED) and I remained very
11 good friends after the divorce and REDACTED acted as my sponsor
12 during the annulment proceedings, which were granted.

13 39. In or about 1975 or 1976, I confided in Fr. REDACTED (then
14 a Deacon) at Holy Family Church about Fr. Chris and me. Fr. REDACTED
15 told me to pray about it and make sure it did not happen again. The
16 conversation happened just prior to his being ordained a priest. I
17 attended Fr. REDACTED's ordination although I have no recollection of the
18 date.

19 40. In or about 1980, I told REDACTED about Fr. Chris and me. REDACTED told me
20 that there was no use going to the Archdiocese because what was done
21 was done and it had been handled by the Archdiocese appropriately.
22 He said it was not because Fr. Chris was a friend, it was because it
23 would create too much scandal for both Fr. Chris and me. Over the
24 years, REDACTED and I spoke about the matter a few more times, his
25 opinion never changed.

1 41. From October 13, 1991 to the present, I have been married to REDACTED
2 REDACTED

3 42. In or about November 1994, I found out about the allegations of
4 child molestation against REDACTED via the television and newspaper. I
5 tried to contact REDACTED but could not locate him. At that time, I did
6 not believe the allegations were true. I was one of REDACTED closest
7 friends and knew him very well. I felt the police and others were
8 on a 'witch-hunt' for REDACTED I contacted Fr. REDACTED
9 (hereinafter "Fr. REDACTED") who was at the time, the REDACTED

10 REDACTED My parents and I knew

11 Fr. REDACTED personally because he operated the Bingo game at St.
12 Francis High School in La Canada, California for a long time and my
13 parents played weekly. I called Fr. REDACTED reintroduced myself and
14 he stated clearly that he knew who I was. Fr. REDACTED was very nice
15 and asked what he could do for me. I started to cry and told him I
16 was frantic to reach REDACTED because of the allegations against him. I
17 explained we were close friends and asked Fr. REDACTED to either give me
18 his address or call REDACTED and have him contact me. I was concerned
19 that REDACTED could not find me because my husband and I had recently
20 moved back to California from a sabbatical in Lake Tahoe. Fr. REDACTED
21 told me he could not tell me where REDACTED was and would relay a message
22 to try and have REDACTED call me. Fr. REDACTED asked me on three occasions
23 during this telephone call if REDACTED and I were or had been engaged in
24 any inappropriate relationship whatsoever. I told him absolutely
25 not - REDACTED was my best friend and nothing more. I explained that REDACTED
and I truly had a brother/sister relationship in every way. Fr.

1 REDACTED did not say if REDACTED was guilty or not. Fr. REDACTED asked that I
 2 not speak to the Long Beach Police Department or any other officials
 3 regarding this matter. Fr. REDACTED said he was sorry he couldn't help
 4 me and hung up.

5 43. A few days passed and I heard nothing so I decided to call Fr.
 6 Chris. This was the first time I had any substantive contact with
 7 Fr. Chris. I thought Fr. Chris would be able to find REDACTED
 8 whereabouts and I felt like he owed me something for what he had
 9 taken from me. I contacted the Archdiocese and found out which
 10 parish Fr. Chris was and called him. He sounded shocked to hear my
 11 voice and he sounded very distant and fake. His voice sounded
 12 nervous on the phone. I believe he was in Whittier, California.

13 44. I told Fr. Chris about my friendship with REDACTED and that I needed
 14 him to help me find him by calling the Archdiocese or getting a
 15 message to REDACTED himself to contact me. Basically, Fr. Chris said it
 16 was a shock to everyone. He implied that REDACTED was guilty. He
 17 promised to call the Archdiocese and call me back. In a few
 18 minutes, Fr. Chris called me back to tell me there was nothing he
 19 could do for me - that he could not get any information. I told Fr.
 20 Chris I was disappointed considering what we had been through and
 21 that I thought he at least owed me this favor. Fr. Chris said that
 22 what happened was as much my fault as his and the conversation
 23 ended.

24 45. I heard nothing from the Archdiocese so I contacted Fr. REDACTED
 25 again. This time he was angry and did not want to speak to me and
 asked me to not call back. I told Fr. REDACTED that the Catholic Church

1 had destroyed my life one too many times and I would not allow it
2 again. I told him the entire story about Fr. Chris and that I too
3 had been a victim. I told Fr ^{REDACTED} that I knew there were probably
4 other people like me out there and he told me that if young girls
5 did not throw themselves on priests, there wouldn't be a problem.
6 He said if I had a problem with Fr. Chris he was sorry but it was
7 just as much my fault and I should confess my sins and forget about
8 the past. He said he had never heard of any other complaints from
9 anyone, about Fr. Chris or any other priest and he refused to speak
10 to me any longer.

11 46. Through an attorney service, I found the name of ^{REDACTED}; attorney
12 and contacted him. I received a response from ^{REDACTED} almost
13 immediately and we spoke and corresponded until his death in
14 December 1996.

15 47. When I learned of ^{REDACTED}'s suicide, through the news media, I again
16 was very upset. I tried to contact Fr. ^{REDACTED}, who refused my calls.
17 I left a message for him that I wanted funeral arrangement
18 information. I called Fr. Chris and told him I wanted to know about
19 the funeral arrangements for ^{REDACTED} Fr. Chris again told me he would
20 call me back with the information. Fr. Chris never called me back
21 and when I finally reached him, he told me that the funeral services
22 were private and he had no information.

23 48. As a result of Fr. Chris' entirely inappropriate conduct, I have
24 suffered from depression and anxiety for the majority of my adult
25 life. My adolescence, innocence and trusting behavior were taken
away from me not only because of the physical/sexual conduct, but

1 also because of the associated deception and lies. I lost my
2 religion and my faith in the only church I knew and loved.

3 49. I suffered with guilt for many years about what happened with Fr.
4 Chris, having been told that I was also to blame. I have always
5 harbored guilt that my parents were lied to and deceived as to Fr.
6 Chris and his behavior.

7 50. I have chosen to never have children because of the insecurity
8 that they could not be protected, under any circumstances. I
9 watched my parents struggle and sacrifice to send me to Catholic
10 School to be in a safe and secure environment and that is where I
11 was the most vulnerable ultimately. I do not trust individuals who
12 are supposed to be in positions of authority, and have difficulty
13 trusting friends and other people because I feel I have been so
14 easily deceived in the past.

15 51. I have gone to various therapists through my adulthood for REDACTED
16 REDACTED

17 R
18 California.

19 52. My physician is Dr. REDACTED in REDACTED since
20 REDACTED Dr. REDACTED has prescribed REDACTED
21 REDACTED

22
23 53. On April 29, 2002, I delivered a letter to REDACTED REDACTED at
24 the Los Angeles Catholic Archdiocese notifying them of the prior
25 events pertaining to Fr. REDACTED Thereafter, on May 2, 2002, my
husband and I met with Sr. REDACTED and Msgr. Richard Loomis at the

1 Archdiocese offices in Los Angeles to discuss the matter. We
 2 advised Sr. REDACTED and Msgr. Loomis that we were making the
 3 complaint under strict confidentiality and that we did not want
 4 anything done without our prior notification. Msgr. Loomis agreed
 5 and advised us that he had the authority to agree to such
 6 confidentiality. Sr. REDACTED also advised that no actions are taken
 7 unless the victim is first notified. I told them that I wanted to
 8 know if there were any other complaints against Fr. Chris and that I
 9 wanted them to investigate my complaint. I also told them that I
 10 wanted Fr. Chris removed from a parish with a girl's high school
 11 because that was what had been promised to my mother many years ago.
 12 We discussed the events at length and both Msgr. Loomis and Sr.
 13 REDACTED took copious notes of our conversation. I brought the
 14 photographs of Fr. Chris and me, the memorabilia items and other
 15 postcards for them to look at, which they both did and took notes.

16 54. My husband asked how long the investigation would take and we
 17 were told two to three weeks. I was offered counseling immediately
 18 and was told to work with Sr. REDACTED to accommodate this. We were
 19 told they would start an investigation and would speak to Fr. Chris
 20 (Fr. Chris became a Monsignor sometime earlier), as well as Fr.
 21 REDACTED Fr. REDACTED and Msgr. REDACTED They explained that Msgr. REDACTED
 22 was in poor health after a couple of strokes and may not be helpful
 23 due to his physical and mental condition. They advised when their
 24 investigation was complete, they would notify us of the outcome.
 25 They advised me there were no other claims against Fr. Chris and
 that if any claims did arise, they would advise me promptly.

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55. In the meantime, I contacted Sr. REDACTED regarding the counseling. Sr. REDACTED gave me the names of counselors who work for the Archdiocese. I wanted to go to a private psychologist and although Sr. REDACTED told me that was acceptable, I have never been able to find a psychologist willing to sign the Archdiocese agreement for treatment.

REDACTED

56. I have requested a copy of the therapist's agreement from Sr. REDACTED as well as from their attorney, REDACTED but I have not received the document. I have been informed and believe and thereon allege that the document requires, inter alia, that the therapist divulge the contents of the treatment with the Archdiocese which none of the private psychologists are willing to do. In addition, it is my information and believe that the document also requires to psychologist to separate all treatment billing between the Archdiocese and the patient, however, I am not privy to the exact nature of this requirement. The psychologists I have contacted are also unwilling to agree to that provision. I specifically wished to treat with REDACTED, Ph.D. however, he could not come to a mutual agreement with the Archdiocese for my treatment.

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57. On or about May 20, 2002, I contacted Sr. REDACTED because I had heard nothing about the investigation. Sr. REDACTED advised that she did know the allegations were made to Fr. Chris and steps were being taken to interview the other witnesses. She said she would talk to Msgr REDACTED and give me a call in 2 or 3 days with an update.

58. On or about May 28, 2002, I contacted Sr. REDACTED again because I had not heard back from her. She told me that Msgr. REDACTED spoke to

1 the witnesses who "did not recall speaking to me". I asked her to
 2 elaborate as to who said what and she refused, saying she knew
 3 nothing else. Sr. REDACTED told me that there was nothing else they
 4 could do without corroboration of my story. I asked for a meeting
 5 with Fr. Chris and the witnesses to confront them. Sr. REDACTED
 6 refused. Sr. REDACTED said the only way to corroborate my story was
 7 to talk to my mother and she told me she knew I didn't want that to
 8 happen. I reiterated that there had to be some other way to
 9 corroborate my story, especially given the photographs, postcard and
 10 other evidence I had, and she said there was not enough physical
 11 evidence to prove inappropriate behavior. She would have to speak
 12 to my mother.

13 59. That night, I told my parents that I went to the Archdiocese
 14 about Fr. Chris. I explained what Sr. REDACTED had told me and that
 15 they needed to speak to my mother to corroborate my claim. My mother
 16 asked me if there was more physical activity than she thought, which
 17 was just the one kiss. I told her yes. I have not gone into detail
 18 with my parents because I do not want to hurt them even more. My
 19 parents were very devastated that night and my mother cried for
 20 three days afterwards.

21 60. My mother told me that she called and spoke to Sr. REDACTED that
 22 same night after I left.

23 61. I called Sr. REDACTED the next day and she confirmed that she spoke
 24 to my mother. She was sorry for upsetting them again. She told me
 25 the investigation would now continue but that nothing would happen
 until I was notified. She was to call me the next day.

1 62. I did not hear from Sr. REDACTED The next thing I knew, I read
 2 the newspaper that Fr. Chris had been removed from his parish. Both
 3 my husband and I contacted Sr. REDACTED, Msgr. Loomis and Msgr. Cox to
 4 find out what happened, why we were not notified earlier and why I
 5 had to see the information in the newspaper and on the television
 6 news when they had promised me complete confidentiality. We never
 7 received responses other than it was their normal course of action.

8 63. Within three days, two reporters from the Los Angeles Times and
 9 the Daily News contacted me - they refused to say who had given them
 10 my name but it is my information and belief that it was the
 11 Archdiocese that provided that information; there was no one else
 12 who had the information. I have never spoken to the press about
 13 this matter.

14 64. Approximately one month later, I was contacted at my home by the
 15 Los Angeles Police Department. They advised me that they received
 16 my name from the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

17 65. I have been informed by the Los Angeles Police Department and
 18 others that a prior victim of sexual abuse of Fr. Chris has come
 19 forward and made a formal claim against Fr. Chris. The Los Angeles
 20 Archdiocese continues to deny this information.

21 66. In addition to Fr. Chris' actions, the actions of the Los Angeles
 22 Archdiocese have caused not only tremendous grief and pain for me,
 23 but for my husband and family as well. I was devastated having to
 24 bring this matter to my parents again, after all they originally
 25 went through. I was devastated having to tell my husband about Fr.
 Chris and his actions. I have experienced sleeplessness and extreme

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anxiety trying to deal with the Archdiocese on the counseling and other issues. The Archdiocese staff has continually misrepresented and lied to me and my husband, simply to protect themselves without regard to our feelings. We were made promises that the Archdiocese went back on that had serious consequences to my family and me.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 8th day of January, 2003, at Los Angeles, California.

REDACTED

REDACTED

DECLARATION OF REDACTED

1
2 I, REDACTED declare:

3 1. The following facts are known by me personally, except to those
4 matters which are specifically stated to be based on information and
5 belief. If called as a witness, I would and could competently
6 testify thereto.

7 2. My full name is REDACTED I am married to REDACTED We
8 are the natural parents of REDACTED, born REDACTED
9 in San Diego, California. We presently reside at REDACTED
10 REDACTED We have lived at this property from March
11 31, 1979 to the present.

12 3. Our prior address was REDACTED We
13 lived in that property from in or about October 1971 through in or
14 about March 1979.

15 4. In or about November 1964 we enrolled our daughter, REDACTED
16 REDACTED (hereinafter "REDACTED") in the second grade at Holy
17 Family Grade School in Glendale, California. REDACTED attended Holy
18 Family Grade School from 1964 through eighth grade graduation in
19 June 1971. REDACTED then attended Holy Family Girl's High School in
20 Glendale, California, from September 1971 through graduation in June
21 1975.

22 5. In or about July 1973, we met Fr. Christian Van Liefde (hereinafter
23 "Fr. Chris") during a home Mass and luncheon we hosted for one of
24 REDACTED's High School groups. Fr. Chris was the Celebrant of the
25 Mass. REDACTED had just turned 16 years old and it was the summer
before her Junior year at Holy Family High School.

Declaration of REDACTED 1

72056

REDACTED

- 1 6. Fr. Chris became a friend of the family, often eating dinner at our
2 home, spending time with our family, and enjoying other family
3 activities. Fr. Chris became a trusted family friend and confidant.
4 Fr. Chris told me that he considered our family very much like his
5 own family and often spoke of how he missed his family, who lived in
6 Mission Viejo, California. He told me that REDACTED was a very
7 special friend because she reminded him very much of his deceased
8 younger sister, also named REDACTED and that he thought of
9 REDACTED like his own sister.
- 10 7. On or about August 30, 1973, Fr. Chris, my husband REDACTED and
11 I went to dinner to the 1520 A.D. Restaurant in Los Angeles,
12 California to celebrate Fr. Chris' 26th birthday.
- 13 8. In the months following, Fr. Chris continued to visit our home
14 regularly, two to four times per week. On many occasions, Fr. Chris
15 would come over after saying the evening Mass to "unwind and relax",
16 some occasions he would come over for dinner. My husband and I gave
17 a key to our house to Fr. Chris so he could come over as he pleased
18 as he often spoke about the stressful life of a parish priest and
19 that it was nice to have a "retreat" away from the parish.
- 20 9. In February 1974, REDACTED attended the CCD Congress, a convention
21 for Catholic Catechism teachers to be held in Anaheim, CA. She
22 would be attending the convention with other friends from Holy
23 Family High School and Fr. Chris. I was concerned that REDACTED
24 would be at a convention alone for the first time, and Fr. Chris
25 assured me he would be there to watch over her and told us we could
trust him to take care of REDACTED.

Declaration of REDACTED - 2

72057

REDACTED

1 July. The postcard contained a comment that he missed the backrubs.
2 I questioned REDACTED about this again and she told me that she
3 rubbed his back at night because he told her he was very stressed
4 from his parish priest duties and it helped him to relax. This
5 concerned me greatly and I decided to speak to Fr. Chris again.

6 15. In or about late August 1974, I once again asked Fr. Chris over
7 to the house when REDACTED was not home and I confronted Fr. Chris
8 about their friendship, the late nights, the backrubs, etc. Fr.
9 Chris assured me again there was no inappropriate behavior, he was
10 "100% priest" and had no feelings for REDACTED other than a good
11 friend and he loved her like a sister. He asked for our trust and
12 assured me I had nothing to worry about. He assured me they were
13 very close friends and affectionate only as a brother and sister
14 would be.

15 16. In or about October 1974, REDACTED was diagnosed with
16 mononucleosis and was at home for two weeks. Fr. Chris came to see
17 REDACTED regularly during that period of time, often bringing her
18 flowers or cards.

19 17. In or about late October to mid-November 1974, my husband awoke
20 one night at 3:30 in the morning and looked in the living room from
21 where he heard noises. My husband came back to bed and woke me up
22 to tell me he saw Fr. Chris and REDACTED embraced and kissing. I
23 went into the living room and found Fr. Chris and REDACTED sitting
24 next to each other on the sofa. I asked Fr. Chris to leave
25 immediately and that I would speak to him the next day. After Fr.
Chris left, I asked REDACTED if Fr. Chris was kissing her. She

Declaration of REDACTED - 5

72058

REDACTED

1 replied "yes". I asked REDACTED if Fr. Chris kissed her like daddy
2 kisses her and she said "no".

3 18. The next day I called Fr. Chris and asked him to come to my home
4 so we could talk. Fr. Chris came over and I confronted him about
5 the previous night, and his feelings about REDACTED. He cried and
6 admitted what happened. Fr. Chris said he loved REDACTED and begged
7 me not to report him to REDACTED. I told him he should ask for
8 a transfer, or leave the priesthood altogether, but I did not want
9 him to hurt REDACTED anymore. He assured me he would never be
10 inappropriate towards REDACTED again and I trusted him. Fr. Chris
11 said that it was a big mistake and would not happen ever again.

12 19. I told REDACTED that I confronted Fr. Chris. REDACTED was very
13 angry with me because she wanted to continue the friendship with Fr.
14 Chris. I told her I did not want to break up the friendship
15 because I knew how important he was to her, and told her I did not
16 want her to get hurt.

17 20. Fr. Chris occasionally still came over to visit the family and
18 to visit REDACTED however I was suspicious of their relationship. In
19 or about late December or early January, I called the Dean of Girl's
20 at Holy Family High School, Sr. REDACTED. I told Sr. REDACTED
21 about Fr. Chris, including the discovery of them kissing. Sr.
22 REDACTED was very upset and apologetic and was very concerned about
23 REDACTED. Sr. REDACTED advised me to immediately contact the Pastor
24 of Holy Family Church, Msgr. REDACTED, and advise him of the
25 situation. Sr. REDACTED explained that while she was very sorry, it

Declaration of REDACTED - 6

72059

Clergy Misconduct

Complainant: REDACTED reported
REDACTED

Date: June 13, 2003

Complaint for: REDACTED

Accused: Fr. Chris Van Liefde

Date: June 13, 2003

Report: *"My sister was abused by Msgr. Chris Van Liefde"*

Context:
REDACTED called to speak with Cardinal Mahony. The office forwarded the call. REDACTED
was angry and ventilating in response to the media coverage of June 12 & 13, 2003.

In the course of his distraught outburst he said that his sister, REDACTED was abused by
Msgr. Chris Van Liefde. No specific data was given.

Since he has an attorney I did not ethically believe that I could further the conversation.

REDACTED

Signed: _

Date: June 13, 2003



Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • REDACTED

August 8, 2003

His Eminence
 Roger Cardinal Mahony
 REDACTED

3424 Wilshire Blvd
 Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

Your Eminence,

As we approach the second anniversary of the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is putting together a collection of stories about how priests responded to the tragedy. I would like to inform you that we have approached Rev. Msgr. REDACTED and Rev. Msgr. Christian Van Liefde of your archdiocese to be a part of this project.

We hope to have the project completed in a couple of weeks so that it can be presented to the public by the anniversary date. The project is entitled:

September 11, 2001
 We Were There...
 Catholic Priests and How They Responded

We have interviews and reports from priests across the country, these men are from New York, Washington, DC, Virginia, Pennsylvania, California, and Massachusetts. As we prepare to present this information, we find it important to keep you, as the archbishop, well-informed that two of your priests will be highlighted in this project. At the same time, we are sending a letter to your communications director, indicating to them that two of your priests will be a part of this project.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Be assured of my prayers for all that you do in shepherding the people of God entrusted to your care.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
 REDACTED

Executive Director

72028



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

August 13, 2003

Reverend REDACTED
Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
3211 Fourth Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20017-1194

Dear Father REDACTED

This is to follow up a brief phone call I made to your office earlier today in response to your letter of August 8, 2003, to Cardinal Roger Mahony.

Monsignor Christian VanLiefde did indeed respond after 9-11 and did some marvelous ministry at that time. You need to be aware, however, that accusations of sexual misconduct with a minor have been lodged against him. Currently, he is on administrative leave. No final determination of guilt or innocence has been made and a canonical action is pending.

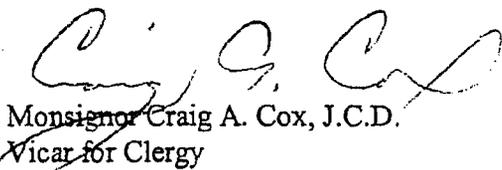
Given this, it would probably not be prudent for the USCCB to feature Monsignor VanLiefde.

There are no similar concerns about Monsignor REDACTED

I did mention on the phone that Reverend REDACTED, Chaplain to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) also responded in the aftermath of 9-11. He might be an excellent contact for your project.

May God continue to bless you in your very service at the USCCB.

Your brother in Christ,



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

72027



FILE

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

August 18, 2003

Personal and Confidential

Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
c/o St. Genevieve Parish
14061 Roscoe Boulevard
Panorama City, CA 91402

Dear Monsignor Van Liefde:

I know that you have been in terribly trying circumstances for well over a year. I regret that these circumstances prevented us from acting more quickly.

Since the allegation leveled against you relates to supposed incidents long ago, the recent Supreme Court decision in the Stogner case forecloses any possibility that the District Attorney will be able to prosecute you on the basis of those allegations. This obviously changes your circumstances.

Given these new circumstances, we are now able to move forward with the canonical process that we had previously held in abeyance so that we would not be perceived as in any way interfering with any criminal investigation. As is now required by the provisions of the Apostolic Letter, *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, and its accompanying norms of procedure, the Cardinal is presenting your situation to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for their direction. Upon receiving the guidance and directives of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, it is the Cardinal's hope to initiate a formal canonical process to assess the allegations raised against you. The purpose of the canonical investigation is to fully air the charges, provide you the opportunity for a full defense, and then to have a formal canonical finding.

During the time of the canonical process, you will continue to be on administrative leave. You will need the services of a canonical advocate for the canonical process. You may receive referrals for an advocate from the Canon Law Society of America. You can contact the CLSA at
REDACTED The Archdiocese will pay a stipend and reasonable expenses for your advocate.

I will inform you as soon as we hear from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. It is our intent to move forward expeditiously so that you do not suffer from any further excessive delays. You continue to be in my prayers. May God bless you.

Yours in Christ,


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

72026

Pastoral Regions: Our Lady of the Angels San Fernando San Gabriel San Pedro Santa Barbara

TO: File
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox
RE: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
DATE: 25 August 2003

I finally connected with Chief^{REDACTED} of the Los Angeles Fire Department today., His number is (213)^{REDACTED}

Chief^{REDACTED} explained that Detective^{REDACTED} of the Los Angeles Police Department, Sexually Exploited Children Unit, has communicated with him by telephone. In that conversation, Detective^{REDACTED} had indicated that the police were closing the investigation on Monsignor Van Liefde. The reason communicated was the Supreme Court decision. There was no communication of any of the specifics that the investigation had discovered, and whether that information tended either to incriminate or exonerate Monsignor Van Liefde.

I informed Chief^{REDACTED} that we would be conducting out canonical process with regard to Monsignor Van Liefde and that I would keep him informed appropriately.

72025

REDACTED

August 26, 2003

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90010-2241

Dear Cardinal Mahony,

It is understood that the Church must not act hastily and a thorough investigation of all accusations is essential to assure "due process" in each case. While we comprehend that our Church must review all accusations, it seems that more than a year is an inordinate period of time for a priest to be removed from his community. Monsignor Christian Van Liefde is a valuable asset to our Church and to the community he serves.

Throughout history, the Church has encountered and overcome trials, even those brought on itself. The current adversity must rank high on religious tragedy. It is particularly sad that the innocent must be trapped among the quagmire of the guilty.

Our Church is bereft of competent, experienced priests, as many retire each year and the numbers of the newly ordained diminish. We pray that you will hasten the resolution of this case, in favor of the dedicated and competent Monsignor Van Liefde.

A letter written to you over a year ago regarding Monsignor Van Liefde paraphrased a quote;

"Be careful of raising your head above the crowd, for it may be chopped off."

We are willing to raise our heads above the crowd, are you willing to raise your head above the crowd and make the just decision?

Yours in Christ,

Encl.

Cc: Most Reverend REDACTED
Most Reverend REDACTED
Monsignor Craig Cox
Monsignor REDACTED
Monsignor Christian Van Liefde

401101

NAME
REDACTED

PARISH/AFFILIATION

St. Hilary

St. Hilary

St Hilary

St. Hilary

St. Hilary

St. Hilary

St Hilary

St. Hilary

St. Hilary

~~St Hilary~~

St. Hilary

St Hilary

ST. HILARY

St. Hilary

St. Hilary

NAME
REDACTED

PARISH/AFFILIATION

Parish of St. Hilary

" "

" "

" "

" "

St. Hilary

" "

" "

NAME
REDACTED

PARISH/AFFILIATION

St. Hilary
St. Hilary
St. Hilary
St. Hilary
St. Hilary

"

"

Saint Hilary

ST. Hilary

St. Hilary

St. Hilary

" "

St. Hilary

St. Hilary

NAME

REDACTED

PARISH/AFFILIATION

Former coworker '79-'80

former teacher St Hilary 83-84

Former Student '79-80' / ^{St. Mar} ^{St. Brn} ^{St. Hilary} ^{St. Greg.} ^{St. Edua Jls} ^{St. Thomas} ^{St. Barbara}

Saint Hilary Parish

Friend, St. Paul High ¹⁹⁷⁰

St. Mary's of the Assumption
St. Mary's of the Assumption

FRIEND

St. Hilary Parish

St. Brn's

St. Gregory the Great

70

Friend / St. Hilary

Coworker, Friend, St. Hilary

Friend - St. Hilary

Friend - St. Hilary

Friend - St. Hilary

Friend - St. Hilary

Friend

401105

NAME

PARISH/AFFILIATION

REDACTED

Confirmation
St Hilary

St Hilary

St Hilary

St Hilary's

St Benedict

ST. HILARY

REDACTED

St Hilary School Vice Principal / St Marianna Parishoner

NAME

PARISH/AFFILIATION

REDACTED

St. Hilary / Catholic

St Hilary Catholic

St. Hilary Catholic

St Hilary Catholic

St. Hilary - Catholic

ST. HILARY CATHOLIC

Rafael Cardenas / St. Hilary

St. Hilary

ST HILARY

St. Denis

St. Hilary

ST DENIS

ST. DENIS

St. Hilary

St. Hilary

St. EDWARDS

St. John De God

St Anthony's

St. Joseph's

St. Joseph's

St. Justin Martyr

401107

NAME

PARISH/AFFILIATION

REDACTED

St. Hilary

St. Hilary

St. Hilary

St. Hilary

St. Hilary's

St. Hilary

Friend / St. Paul H.S.

1970

Friend / OLG



FILE

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
the Archbishop

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2241

August 29, 2003

His Eminence
Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
00120 Vatican City State

RE: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
Request for Dispensation in Accord with *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*

Your Eminence:

I am writing to seek a dispensation from prescription so that a canonical trial can proceed to examine allegations that Monsignor Christian Van Liefde violated his responsibility under canon 1395, §2 by engaging in sexual misconduct with minors. The allegations date back approximately thirty years. While the normal term of prescription is past, it is essential for the welfare of the Church that we conduct a full canonical trial in order to establish the facts and make a just decision in the face of these allegations. Let me provide some background with regard to Monsignor Van Liefde and the charges raised against him.

In May of 2002, we received an initial accusation that Monsignor Van Liefde had engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor. This information was brought forward by REDACTED REDACTED the purported victim. In accord with canon 1717, my Vicar commenced a preliminary investigation and appointed Monsignor Richard Loomis as auditor.

When confronted with the accusation, Monsignor Van Liefde denied having engaged in any sort of sexual misconduct with anyone. Since that time, Monsignor Van Liefde has continued to insist that he is totally innocent. Given the furor then raging and the fact that the civil authorities had initiated a criminal investigation, Monsignor Van Liefde was asked to leave the parish and not engage in any public ministry pending the outcome of the investigation. He concurred. He remains the canonical pastor of St. Genevieve Parish, Panorama City, although the other priests assigned to that community have provided for the care of souls during Monsignor Van Liefde's absence. Monsignor Van Liefde had also been serving as Chaplain of the Los Angeles Fire Department. In accord with their own regulations, he was placed on a leave of absence from that responsibility.

Because I did not want to give occasion to a charge that the Church was in any way "interfering" with the investigation of law enforcement authorities, after its initial stages we placed our preliminary investigation in abeyance hoping that the civil authorities would either dismiss the

72020

Request for Dispensation from Prescription
Re: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
Page 2

case or file charges. Originally, I had envisioned that the investigation being conducted by law enforcement would be completed within a period of some three to six months, at which time we could resume the appropriate canonical process and make an ecclesiastical determination in the matter. Unfortunately, that was much too optimistic, and after its initial stages the canonical preliminary investigation has been in abeyance.

With the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court (*Marion Reynolds Stogner v. California*, 01-1757), it now appears that there will be no criminal prosecution of Monsignor van Liefde by the civil authorities. Thus, the primary obstacle that had prevented us from moving the canonical process forward has been removed.

In addition to the complaint and information she provided to the canonical auditor, the person who originally came forward eventually presented a sworn affidavit describing her contentions with a great deal of detail. This affidavit is included along with selected other materials.

Recently, a second woman has come forward claiming to have been the victim of sexual misconduct at the hands of Monsignor Van Liefde, also approximately thirty years ago. These new allegations remain vague in nature, since all we have at this point is the notice that she is joining the class action civil lawsuit that may be filed against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. We are in the process of trying to obtain additional information from her to be considered as part of a canonical trial, should the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith choose to dispense from the prescription and authorize us to conduct a judicial trial.

The evidence discovered during the preliminary investigation certainly meets the criteria of a "semblance of truth" and provides sufficient foundation to suspect that Monsignor Van Liefde may have sexually abused two minor girls in the years 1973-1976.

I am writing to seek dispensation of the prescription in order to permit a judicial trial of the allegations made against Monsignor Van Liefde. Given the publicity that the case has received, the prominence of Monsignor Van Liefde as Fire Department Chaplain, and the fact that there are two separate individuals who have lodged allegations against him, it is necessary that we undertake a full trial on the merits of the charges. Justice requires nothing less than a careful and considered determination being made in the canonical judicial forum.

Therefore, I hereby request that prescription be dispensed to enable an ecclesiastical trial on the two offenses of sexual misconduct with minors.

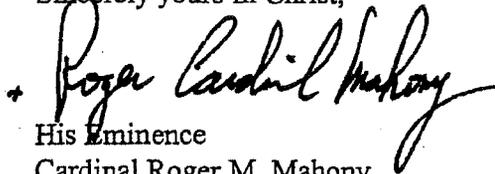
Out of fairness to both Monsignor Van Liefde and those who have accused him, I ask for a favorable and speedy reply to this request.

72021

Request for Dispensation from Prescription
Re: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
Page 3

Enclosed is selected documentation from Monsignor Van Liefde's file for your review. Thank you for your attention to this difficult and critically important matter. Please know that you are in my prayers. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Roger Cardinal Mahony". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

His Eminence
Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles

enclosures

72022

SELECTED DOCUMENTATION
Monsignor Christian Van Liefde

1. Initial Letter of Complaint by REDACTED
2. Summary of Initial Interview with REDACTED
3. Summary of Meeting with Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
4. Notes of Auditor's Conversation with Monsignor REDACTED
5. Summary of Assistance Minister on Contacts Regarding REDACTED's Complaint, with a summary of a telephone conversation with REDACTED, the mother of REDACTED REDACTED
6. Brief response of Monsignor Van Liefde to REDACTED's statement
7. Second Abuse Complaint, but no contact information given
8. Sworn Declaration of REDACTED

**FILE**

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-72843424
Wilshire
BoulevardLos Angeles
California
90010-2202

August 30, 2003

CONFIDENTIAL

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, J.C.D.
Apostolic Nunciature
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

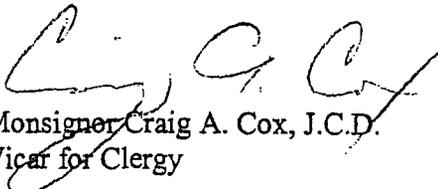
RE: Request for Assistance of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Case of Monsignor Christian Van Liefde

Your Excellency:

Would you please be so kind as to forward the enclosed letter of Cardinal Mahony with its attachments to Cardinal Ratzinger at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith?

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter. May God continue to bless you!

Yours in Christ,



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

enclosures

72019

TO: REDACTED
FROM: Monsignor Craig
RE: Materials for the CDF
DATE: 30 August 2003

Please send this packet to the Apostolic Pro Nuncio in a manner in which we received a signed receipt confirming the delivery.

I have made copies of the letter to Cardinal Ratzinger and the index of enclosures. There is no need to copy any of the enclosures, since they are all in the file already.

Thank you.

72018



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

September 1, 2003

Personal and Confidential

Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
REDACTED

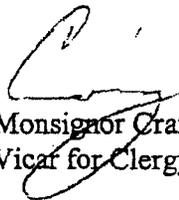
Dear Chris:

I'm glad we were able to talk on the phone last week. Enclosed is the copy of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela* that I promised to send to you.

I will be in touch with you as soon as we hear back from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

God bless!

Your brother in Christ,


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

enclosure

72017



COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-72843424
Wilshire
BoulevardLos Angeles
California
90010-2202

September 5, 2003

REDACTED

Dear REDACTED

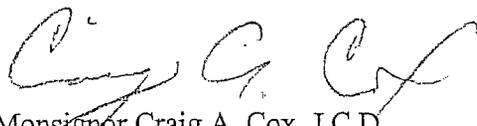
Cardinal Mahony has asked that I reply to the letter of August 26, 2003, that was sent by you and many other friends of Monsignor Christian Van Liefde. You are free to communicate this letter with the other signers.

First, let me thank you for supporting Monsignor Van Liefde. Priests who have been accused often feel very much alone. Let me also express my own frustration at the slow pace of resolving some of these charges against priests. We had expected the criminal investigations to be completed much more quickly. In order to avoid being perceived as in any way interfering with the civil authorities, we held any full canonical investigation in abeyance. We would much prefer to have acted more quickly. The circumstances prevented us from doing so. Monsignor Van Liefde has been extremely patient with these delays, for which I admire him.

At this point, we have received information that he is free of any potential criminal vulnerability. A threatened civil claim against him based on serious allegations still remains. We have nonetheless taken the initial steps to hold a canonical hearing now that the criminal process of civil society is closed. Monsignor Van Liefde has been informed that such a process will take place. I am not able, however, to hazard a guess as to when that process will reach a definitive conclusion.

I do ask you to learn from the example of Monsignor Van Liefde and to be patient. And I urge you even more strongly to pray that the Holy Spirit give us wisdom, so that we may uncover the truth and act in accord with it. Again, thank you for writing. May God bless you!

Yours in Christ,

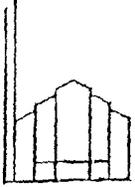


Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy

cc: Most Reverend REDACTED
Most Reverend REDACTED
Monsignor REDACTED
Monsignor Christian Van Liefde

401100

Pastoral Regions: Our Lady of the Angels San Fernando San Gabriel San Pedro Santa Barbara



St. Genevieve Church

14061 Roscoe Boulevard, Panorama City, California 91402-4214
Telephone: (818) 894-2261 Fax: (818) 893-4284

SEP 30

September 25, 2003

Rev. Msgr. Craig Cox, J.C.D.
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA. 90010

Dear Msgr. Cox,

This letter is to inform you that I have requested
Rev. REDACTED REDACTED of the diocese of Las Vegas to
act as my canonical Advocate for the forthcoming
canonical trial.

Would you be so kind as to send to him a notarized
copy of the letter of complaint received by you
in my regard.

I add his name and address for your convenience,
and I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(Rev. Msgr.) Christian Van Liefde

REDACTED
cc.

401127

XXI 0001

401097

REDACTED

allegation

*OCT. 2003
LIST FROM PLAINTIFF
ATTORNEYS*

344	Van Liefde, Christian	Archdiocese of Los Angeles	Plaintiff's parents' home; Drive-in San Gabriel Valley; C.C.D. Conference (Anaheim); Anaheim motel; Perpetrator's car	Holy Family	1973 - 1975	100-150 times	Vaginal manipulation; Digital penetration of vagina; Masturbation by perpetrator in front of plaintiff; Plaintiff masturbating perpetrator; Oral copulation; French kissing; Sacramental abuse; Confessional solicitation; Molestation of breasts and buttocks; Grooming (alcohol, tobacco)	MM
345	Van Liefde, Christian	Diocese of Orange	Perpetrator family home/pool	Saint Killians	1971 - 1973	Weekly over 2 years	Hugging; Physical molestation over and under clothes of genitals, buttocks; Digital penetration	MM



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

December 13, 2004

Personal and Confidential

Monsignor Christian M. Van Liefde
REDACTED

Dear Monsignor Van Liefde:

Please know that you continue to be in my prayers during this very difficult time. It is times like these we know the wisdom of St. Paul when he experienced his powerlessness but found the grace of God in his weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). So may the grace of Christ fill you and strengthen you in this time of trial.

As you know, we are endeavoring to reach equitable settlements to the many lawsuits filed against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. As you may not know, as part of the settlement process in southern California, the judge has required that the Archdiocese as well (as other dioceses and religious orders) prepare "proffers" or summaries of the contents of most of the accused priests' clergy and confidential files. The Archdiocese recently completed the process of having the proffers it prepared reviewed and verified by the judge.

Cardinal Mahony is now consulting with his advisors, especially our Presbyteral Council, on the wisdom of making these proffers available for review by our Catholic people. Currently, it is his intent to proceed with making this information available in some form, especially since some victims have indicated that the release of this kind of information can be helpful to their healing process. Release of such information also responds to the call from so many of our Catholic people for greater openness about how complaints of sexual misconduct with minors have been handled. Thus, our sense is that there will be great value in taking the initiative now to release these documents ourselves, allowing us to do so in a constructive context and with appropriate explanation.

The Cardinal has asked that I write to each person for whom we have prepared proffers and to enclose for your review a copy of the proffer related to you. As you can see, for the most part the proffer includes information on your dates of birth and ordination as well as your assignment history. When applicable, the proffer also includes information on when any kind of sexual misconduct was reported to Archdiocesan authorities. This relates to the critical legal question of "notice." It also sketches the actions taken by officials of the Archdiocese in response to any complaints.

401076

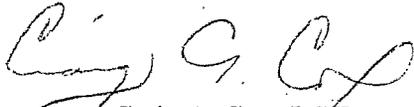
Letter to Priest Regarding Proffers
Page 2 of 2

Out of respect for your rights, the Cardinal did not want to release this proffer without first communicating our thinking to you and allowing you to review the proffer. Certainly, if any of the information in our files is erroneous, we would very much appreciate receiving corrected information from you.

Also, if you have any comments or questions, please feel free to phone REDACTED one of the attorneys most familiar with the proffers, at REDACTED. You are also welcome to phone me on December 20, 21, or 22 at REDACTED. I am not available from December 14-19 due to duties that take me outside the Archdiocese.

Again, please know that you are in my prayers, especially during this Advent season of hope. May these wonderful days of the liturgical year be a time of healing and renewal for us all!

Yours in Christ,



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

enclosure

401077

XXI 000126

PROFFER RE MSGR. CHRISTIAN M. VAN LIEFDE

Date	Description
8/26/48	Born.
6/15/72- 8/15/72	Deacon, St. Genevieve, Van Nuys.
5/26/73	Ordained priest.
6/11/73	Associate, Holy Family, Glendale.
6/21/76	Teacher, Bishop Montgomery High School, Torrance. In residence, St. Philomena Church, Carson.
7/15/77	Teacher, Bishop Garcia Diego High School, Santa Barbara. In residence, San Roque Church, Santa Barbara.
7/10/79	Teacher, St. Paul High School, Santa Fe Springs. In residence, St. Bruno Church, Whittier.
6/15/80	Principal, Our Lady of Loretto High School, Los Angeles. In residence, Our Lady of Loretto Church, Los Angeles.
2/1/83	Associate, Francis de Sales Church, Sherman Oaks.
11/25/85	Part-time chaplain to Los Angeles City Fire Department.
3/8/87	Administrator, St. Hilary Parish, Pico Rivera.
5/1/90	Pastor, St. Hilary Church, Pico Rivera.
08/01/96- 11/30/96	Administrator Pro Tem, St. Francis Xavier Church, Pico Rivera. Continued as pastor of St. Hilary.
07/01/99	Pastor, St. Genevieve Church, Panorama City.
04/19/02	Victim ^{REDACTED} reports inappropriate sexual conduct by Msgr. Van Liefde in 1973 and 1974 to Victim Assistance Ministry Department of Archdiocese of Los Angeles.
5/02	Placed on administrative leave.
06/13/03	^{REDACTED} alleges that his sister, ^{REDACTED} was "abused" by Msgr. Van Liefde. No dates or details given.



St. Genevieve Church

14061 Roscoe Boulevard, Panorama City, California 91402-4214
Telephone: (818) 894-2261 Fax: (818) 893-4284

June 8, 2005

Cardinal Roger Mahony
Archdiocesan Catholic Center
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA. 90010

Your Eminence,

First of all, I want to thank you again for our conversation of several weeks ago. As I said then, it means so much to me to be able to talk to you from time to time.

One of the things that you mentioned was my future in ministry, assuming I will be able to return to active status. After much thought and prayer, I would like to be able to return to St. Genevieve's to take up my work there as pastor.

I recognize that this might be difficult, but I am certainly willing to give it my best efforts.

Again, my thanks to you for your time. I look forward to our next conversation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christian Van Liefde". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

(Rev. Msgr.) Christian Van Liefde

401073



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
the Archbishop
(213) 637-7288

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

CONFIDENTIAL

June 21, 2005

Reverend Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
St. Genevieve Church
14061 Roscoe Blvd.
Panorama City, CA 91402

Dear Chris:

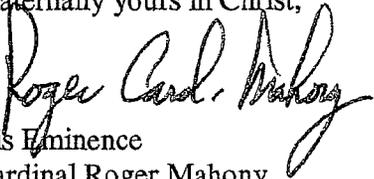
I have received your letter of June 8, 2005, and I was so pleased to be able to speak with you recently. Please let us plan to do that again during the summer.

I understand that it is your desire to return to St. Genevieve's Parish as the active pastor once you have been cleared of all accusations and have been recommended for full and active ministry once again.

I certainly wish to abide by your decision, and I look forward to the processes which lie ahead to help finalize this matter once and for all – both for you as well as for the good of our Archdiocese.

Asking the Lord's continued blessings and peace in your life, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Fraternally yours in Christ,

+ 
His Eminence
Cardinal Roger Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles

cc: REDACTED REDACTED
Reverend Monsignor Craig Cox

REDACTED

401072

RECEIVED
JUL 6 - 2005
BY: _____

July 1, 2005

Rev. Msgr. Craig Cox
Archdiocesan Catholic Center
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA. 90010

Dear Craig,

This is to inform you that I have decided to take a few weeks vacation, my first in over 3 years.

I'll be leaving L.A. on July 4th, returning on July 28th. I'll be visiting family in REDACTED during this time.

I enclose a list of contact numbers if you need to get in touch with me. Please be aware that there is a 9 hour difference in time, so if you call before Noon (L.A. time), it will be before 9:00 P.M. in Belgium.

Otherwise, I'll talk to you when I return.

Sincerely yours,



Msgr. Christian Van Liefde

Christian Van Liefde--Contacts in REDACTED --July 4-28

My Parents
REDACTED

My uncle
REDACTED

My cousin
REDACTED

401071

XXI 000131

RECEIVED
SEP 28 2005
BY: _____

REDACTED

September 24, 2005

Msgr. Craig A. Cox
Vicar for Clergy
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2202

Dear Msgr. Cox,

I have sent an e-mail and am following it up as requested to make the following inquiry.

I have completed reading the extensive article, "Report to the People of God: Clergy Sexual Abuse", on the Diocesan web site. I am a practicing member of St. Katerine's

1

2.

Parish in Panorama City, and would like to kindly ask for a status update on our Pastor, Mr. Christian Van Liefde. He had been removed from our Parish a few years ago, but there was no information on his investigation provided in the above-mentioned article.

Thank you in advance for your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

U



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

October 3, 2005

REDACTED

Dear REDACTED

Thank you for your inquiry of September 21, 2005, into the current status of your pastor, Monsignor Christian Van Liefde.

Two different people have lodged complaints and civil lawsuits alleging that Monsignor Van Liefde abused them as minors. Due to the legal situation, we have not yet been able to complete our canonical investigation into these complaints. The lawyers for the plaintiffs have not allowed us to interview one of the persons accusing Monsignor Van Liefde. Obviously, until we can do a complete investigation we cannot make a responsible judgment as to his guilt or innocence.

The slow pace of the civil legal cases is very frustrating, certainly for Monsignor Van Liefde himself, for you and other parishioners, as well as for the Cardinal. For those priests who are innocent, we would like to restore them to ministry. For those who are guilty, we want to take the required canonical action to permanently remove them from priestly service.

Therefore, please continue to pray that the full truth will emerge, as quickly as possible, so that we may act in a way that is truly right and just.

Again, thank you for writing. May God bless you!

Yours in Christ,

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

401067

TO: File
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox
RE: Monsignor Chris Van Liefde
DATE: 5 June 2006

The phone number for the parents of Monsignor Van Liefde is REDACTED

This is often the best way to reach him.

401066

**Msgr Christian Van Liefde (CMOB #012)
Review Dec 22, 2008**

Born 8-26-48; ordained deacon 6-15-72; priesthood 5-26-73.

June 2002 . Placed on administrative leave, restricted from public ministry

March 22, 2006 Rome authorized a canonical trial, but that trial is on hold pending an interview of a second victim.

Victim #1: REDACTED

- 1. Born REDACTED
- 2. Abused 2 to 4 times a week from 8-73 to 2-75
- 3. She was 16 years 5 months old when it began, so it did not constitute a canonical delict.
- 4. He was 25 years old and became a priest 3 months before it started
- 5. Abuse consisted of fondling, hugging, messages, attempted oral sex, digital penetration and attempted intercourse.
- 6. He was close family friend
- 7. IV by REDACTED
- 8. Her ex-husband was seminary room mate with Van Liefde
- 9. Father was deposed and corroborated the abuse.

Victim #2: REDACTED

- 1. Born REDACTED
- 2. Abused 6 or times between 1972 and 1976, when she was in the 9th & 10th grades.
- 3. She was not yet 16, so the acts constitute a canonical delict.
- 4. He would have been about 25 years old and either a deacon or priest.
- 5. Abuse consisted of touching her genitals, buttocks & breasts over and under the clothes, masturbation and attempted vaginal penetration.
- 6. Occurred during pastoral relationship.
- 7. Claims he also abused her brother, but her brother adamantly denies that occurred.

12-03 REDACTED contacted LAPD investigator who opined that, had statute not run, the facts were sufficient to sustain a criminal child molestation charge.

Detective confirmed that REDACTED was the more egregious case and that they knew of a second victim, but would not confirm or deny that REDACTED was 2nd victim.

To do:

- 1. Follow-up with LAPD to identify second victim.
- 2. While denying that VanLiefde abused him, REDACTED alleges that "Father REDACTED" did abuse him—who is he?
- 3. IV REDACTED's ex-husband who roomed with Van Liefde at the Seminary

4. *Beth victim received settlement from clergy one*

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Friday, December 26, 2008 1:34 PM
To: REDACTED
Cc: REDACTED, REDACTED
Subject: MSGR VAN LIEFDE CMOB 012

Fr REDACTED

On Monday 12-22-08, we all met to review this case. It was decided that Fr ^{REDACTED} has the canonical lead and that ^{REDACTED} would continue to provide investigative support for this case. We also concluded that the following work needs to be done before this case can be brought to the CMOB for recommendation:

1. LAPD needs to be asked (Deputy Chief ^{REDACTED}) if the two victims they identified are the same victims we already know about, e.g., REDACTED
2. A interview needs to be done of REDACTED 's ex-husband as he also roomed with Van Liefde at the Seminary. Caution must be exercised to respect spousal privilege.
3. The attorneys representing REDACTED and ^{REDACTED} in the civil suit need to be contacted and asked if they found anything we need to know about.
4. The attorney(s) representing the Archdiocese in the civil cases needs to be contacted and asked if (s)he found anything we need to know ^{about}.
5. Finally, Van Liefde needs to be interviewed. ^{REDACTED} will do the actual interview, but Fr REDACTED and/or Msgr REDACTED may need to be present.

So, the status of this case is returned to Canonical Services for further investigation as of 12-22-08. Please notify me once the additional investigation is completed including any significant leads it may generate, and I will schedule it for a special CMOB review ASAP.

Thanks,

REDACTED



FILE COPY
COPY

REDACTED

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

s 3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

6 February 2009

Msgr. Christian Van Liefde
REDACTED

Dear Chris,

The task has fallen to my office as REDACTED to try to resolve the outstanding cases in which a penal trial has been authorized for allegations of sexual misconduct by clergy with minors. It is in this capacity that I am writing you now.

Given the settlement of the lawsuits against the Archdiocese that occurred a little over a year ago, additional efforts were made to secure testimony and any other information relevant to your case. This has taken much effort and time but is now almost complete.

The final step of the so-called preliminary investigation is to invite you to an interview in which you will have the opportunity to review all the material and to make any statement that you may wish to give.

For this interview you will need to have your canonical advisor with you. The principal reason for this letter is to learn from you if indeed you have such a person. Please be aware that he must be a cleric. If you have not secured anyone's services as yet, I will be happy to supply you with a list of qualified priests to select from.

While we will advise you of your rights and apprise you of our estimate of the case as it has developed, it is important that you have access to professional, independent advice.

If you wish, a simple phone call will suffice to give me the name of your advisor or to ask that I send you a list. My direct office line is REDACTED. A written reply is also fine.

I realize that this has been a very long, difficult road. I will make every effort to move the matter to a suitable conclusion. Praying for God's blessing on you, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

REDACTED

401063



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Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

May 15, 2009

Reverend Monsignor Chris Van Liefde
REDACTED

Dear Chris:

REDACTED informed me that you and he spoke by telephone on the evening of Monday, May 11, concerning the matter of canonical counsel.

I am sending you two names for your consideration.

REDACTED

Fr. ^{REDACTED} teaches Canon Law at REDACTED. He is very competent in matters such as this. He has indicated willingness to be of assistance. E-mail would probably be the most efficient method of contact. The Archdiocese would pay the expenses for him to come to Los Angeles to consult with you.

REDACTED

Fr. REDACTED is a local superior for his religious institute. He has been actively involved in the practice of Canon Law for many years. He is very competent in matters such as this.

I highly recommend either of these two canonists. In that Fr. ^{REDACTED}'s teaching duties are over until the fall, he may be more readily available. Should it happen that neither of these is available to you, please let me know at your earliest convenience and I will provide you with further names.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Monsignor Gabriel Gonzales
Vicar for Clergy

401062



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Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

June 2, 2009

Rev. Msgr. Chris Van Liefde
REDACTED

Dear Chris,

This letter is by way of following up on my previous letter of May 15, in which I sent you the names of two canonists who be able to offer you canonical counsel.

I am writing to ask if you have selected an adviser yet, and if so, who it is, so that we can make arrangements for him.

Since it is in everyone's interest not to delay the resolution of the matter, I need to inform you that Monsignor REDACTED will appoint Father REDACTED as your *ex officio* adviser if we have not heard from you by the 15th of this month.

He is an excellent canonist and will have other duties this fall, so it is necessary that we schedule him soon.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Monsignor Gabriel Gonzales
Vicar for Clergy

Chris -
you can reach me at
REDACTED
REDACTED
my cell
if you prefer.
REDACTED

401061



COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

June 19, 2009

Reverend Monsignor Chris Van Liefde
REDACTED

Dear Chris,

By a letter dated May 15, 2009, I provided you with the names of two competent Canonists and invited you to consider choosing one of them as your Canonical Advisor.

On June 2, I followed-up on my previous letter enquiring if you had made your selection and providing you with my cell phone number to afford the easiest possible access to me. At the same time I advised that if I had not heard from you by June 15, arrangements would be made to provide you with a competent advisor.

Now that June 15 has come and gone, and I have not heard from you, efforts are under way to have Father REDACTED come to Los Angeles. In making the necessary arrangements, every reasonable effort will be made to try to facilitate your schedule.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Monsignor Gabriel Gonzales
Vicar for Clergy

401060

Msgr. Christian Van Liefde

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Msgr. Van Liefde's file at the Vicar for Clergy's office contains letters of support of Msgr. Van Liefde, many of which attest to his good character. These letters are not included in this file.

Letter to Sr. REDACTED, Office of Victim's
Assistance, from REDACTED, dated April 26,
2002, alleging that she was abused by Christian Van
Liefde in the years 1973-1975

REDACTED

A

Via Personal Delivery

Personal & Confidential
For Addressee's Eyes Only

REDACTED

Assistance Ministry
Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

Dear Sr. REDACTED

This letter is written in the strictest confidence. The contents of this letter, either specifically or generally shall not be discussed with or disclosed to any other person without my written authorization.

The purpose of this letter is to advise the Archdiocese of Los Angeles of sexual misconduct involving a Los Angeles Archdiocese parish priest, Msgr. Christian Van Liefde during the period of 1973 – 1975. During this period, Msgr. Van Liefde was a parish priest at Holy Family Parish in Glendale, where I attended both grade school and high school. At the time of the incident, I was 16 through 17 1/2 years old. Although the incident is legally and in other respects classified as child abuse or molestation, I will refer to the incident as serious sexual misconduct and personal indiscretion, thereby avoiding any possible inference that Msgr. Van Liefde has in the past or is presently engaged in serial child molestation or other aberrant sexual behavior.

A brief chronology of events will place this matter into the proper perspective and will provide the basis for further detailed discussion. In or about June 1973, Msgr. Van Liefde was assigned to Holy Family Catholic Church in Glendale, California as an associate pastor. In or about July 1973, Msgr. Van Liefde became friends with my family, visiting my family's home often for dinner, social events, etc. For the next year and a half, until approximately January 1975, the "relationship" between Msgr. Van Liefde and I evolved from an innocent "friendship" to one that involved sexual activity consisting of kissing, hugging, fondling and other sexual behavior, that occurred on a weekly, sometimes daily basis. I was a 16 year old student at Holy Family High School and Msgr. Van Liefde was a 25 year old associate pastor. The sexual advances were always initiated by Msgr. Van Liefde and typically occurred either in my parents' home, in his car or at the beach.

Although unaware of the extent of the "friendship" or any of the sexual activity, my mother became suspicious and concerned in late 1974 and discussed the matter with Msgr. Van Liefde who advised her that the friendship was "innocent" and "nothing to be concerned with ...", and that we were just good friends. Shortly thereafter, my mother

Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Page 2

discussed the situation with REDACTED, the Dean of Girls at Holy Family High School. Sr. REDACTED told my mother to immediately advise Holy Family Church REDACTED of the situation and demand that he and the archdiocese resolve the matter. My mother spoke with REDACTED in or about January 1975, and almost immediately, Msgr. Van Liefde was transferred to another parish. REDACTED advised my mother that the situation had been "properly handled" and that Msgr. Van Liefde would not be transferred to another parish with high school girls. My information is that Msgr. Van Liefde did, in fact, serve at other parishes with high schools after the incident and, in fact, is currently at a parish with a high school.

In or about May 1975, I met and thereafter became friends with another parish priest, REDACTED. In or about December 1980, I advised REDACTED of the incident with Msgr. Van Liefde and asked him on numerous occasions over the following 3 or 4 years to assist me in filing the proper report with the Los Angeles Archdiocese. REDACTED, after many discussions, advised me against going to the Archdiocese about the situation, warning me that I would be viewed as a liar or that otherwise my reputation would be at issue. REDACTED told me that he felt the situation was properly handled by simply transferring Msgr. Van Liefde to a new parish, thereby stopping the misconduct and that further discussing the incident with the Archdiocese would not elicit any further response or action on their part. I was obviously unaware at the time that REDACTED was, concurrently, engaging in aberrant sexual behavior and child molestation with young boys.

In or about 1996, after the revelation of REDACTED actions and his ultimate suicide, I had at least two telephone conversations with Fr. REDACTED of the Los Angeles Archdiocese office. While the initial reason for my call to Fr. REDACTED was to discuss Fr. REDACTED situation, I took the opportunity to discuss the incident regarding Msgr. Van Liefde as well, in part seeking advice and direction from Fr. REDACTED and in part, hoping to confirm what was appearing to be an ever-growing problem of sexual misconduct by the clergy. In short, Fr. REDACTED told me that there was nothing that could be done, beyond what had been done and that I was best off trying to forget about the past, and go forward with my life. My concerns over both matters were promptly dismissed and, in fact, Fr. REDACTED was rude and abruptly ended the last conversation.

It is not my desire nor intention at this time to involve the courts, attorneys, media or persons outside of the Los Angeles Archdiocese regarding this matter. To the contrary, it is my intention to discuss and resolve this matter solely with the Archdiocese in a discreet and highly confidential manner. Any involvement by the courts, media or outside persons would only serve to create a negative environment for discussion in an already media-frenzied atmosphere, and would undoubtedly severely, negatively impact both Msgr. Van Liefde's life and my own life as well. It is not my desire to resolve this matter in today's

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Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Page 3.

volatile court of public opinion, but rather to bring closure to a very serious situation that has been left unresolved for over 25 years. To bring this matter into the public view would, in my opinion, only victimize me again, in light of my professional career and need for privacy and anonymity regarding the situation.

I am hereby requesting a personal meeting with you to discuss this matter more fully. I reiterate that this letter is written in the strictest confidence, the contents may not be disclosed or discussed with any other person without my written authorization. You may confidentially contact me at my office private line REDACTED if I am unavailable, I will promptly return your call.

Thank you,
REDACTED

Memo of meeting with [REDACTED], her husband, [REDACTED]
and Msgr. Loomis, Vicar for Clergy, May 2, 2002

REDACTED also recounted that she knew REDACTED and REDACTED (met them in 4/75 or 5/75). She became very good friends with REDACTED saying that they became "girlfriends" (going shopping together, etc.). REDACTED said she was his champion until it was clear he had indeed done what his victims said. She said that she smoked marijuana for the first time with REDACTED. After speaking of two other priests who never did anything sexual to her but were very inappropriate (REDACTED and REDACTED), she asked, "Why did I have contact with so many bad people (all priests)? And my mother sent me someplace safe (Catholic high school)!" *Interesting point: how did one person meet so many priests all of whom had problems?*

REDACTED spoke with REDACTED about this situation at length and he encouraged her to let it go. She said that, somewhere around 1980, when she told him, REDACTED and Chris confronted each other and it ended their friendship.

"The most Chris has ever said to me is that we both made serious mistakes."

REDACTED presented photos of Father Chris in their home in Glendale, photos that appeared to be his brother in a tuxedo taking her to the Prom, and a postcard from a vacation in which Father Chris said it was nice where he was but that "he missed the back scratches."

REDACTED said that she discussed her situation with Father REDACTED in 1995 or '96. He told her not to be so naïve. She said that REDACTED gave her no resolution but told her it was her own fault.

**Decree opening the Preliminary Investigation into
allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by Msgr. Christian
Van Liefde (Canon 1717), May 3, 2002**

6



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

DE C R E E

Preliminary information has come forward indicating that Monsignor Christian Van Liefde may have committed a delict against canon 1395. Therefore, in accord with the provisions of canon 1717, in accord with my authority as Vicar for Clergy, I hereby decree the opening of a canonical preliminary investigation.

I hereby designate Monsignor Richard A. Loomis as auditor to conduct the investigation. He has the authority to subdelegate this responsibility and involve other investigations to assist in this investigation.

In the course of conducting this investigation, the auditors are reminded of their duty to respect the rights and reputation of all involved and to respect the canonical requirements of secrecy attached to such an investigation.

Given this 3rd day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2002 at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in California.

Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Episcopal Vicar for Clergy

REDACTED

Archdiocesan Seal

Memo of telephone conversation of Msgr. Loomis with
[REDACTED], May 7, 2002

Notes on the telephone conversation of Monsignor Richard Loomis with [REDACTED], May 7, 2002, approximately 3:30 PM.

I briefly reviewed with [REDACTED] the allegation presented by [REDACTED]

He said that he remembered her as a student in the high school but initially thought her name was [REDACTED],” correcting himself when I said “[REDACTED]” He also commented that he remembered the family name.

He commented that “all the high school girls liked Chris” but that he never had any thought that there was anything out of line with his conduct.

[REDACTED] stated very clearly that no one had ever brought a complaint to him regarding Father van Liefde. He said that he would remember such a thing and would have confronted him about it if it had happened. I mentioned that Sister [REDACTED] was the one that was reported to have received the initial complaint. He said that she had never mentioned anything to him concerning a complaint about Father van Liefde, commenting that she had been dead for some years. But he was very clear and said that he would indeed remember a report of misconduct with a teen.

[REDACTED] stated that he did not request to have Father van Liefde transferred. He remembered [REDACTED] calling about him going into school work. He would never have let a school assignment go forward if he had the idea that there might have been incorrect conduct with teens.

Memo of meeting of Monsignors Cox and Loomis with
Christian Van Liefde, May 7, 2002

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Notes on the meeting of Monsignors Craig Cox and Richard Loomis with Monsignor Christian van Liefde, May 7, 2002, 10:30 AM, at the Archdiocesan Catholic Center.

After hearing Monsignor Loomis present the complaint brought by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Monsignor Van Liefde said that he remembered her clearly. She had recalled details in her story that he could neither confirm nor deny.

He said that [REDACTED] had indeed made vestments for him, acknowledging that he still had them. He believed it was a sewing project in school.

He vaguely remembers that [REDACTED] was at Mass one day and he introduced him to several parishioners. [REDACTED] may very well have been among them. She did end up marrying him. He believed that Father [REDACTED] had done the wedding either at Holy Family or in Eagle Rock.

Monsignor Van Liefde said that he did not believe that the matter was ever taken to [REDACTED], commenting that the pastor had never spoken to him about it as long as he had known him. [REDACTED] is the kind of pastor who would have confronted him about it.

Monsignor Van Liefde was not moved early because of any problem. He served at Holy Family from 1973 through 1976 and moved at the usual July time. [REDACTED] recruited him to go into Catholic schools ministry.

There were "six or so" of the high school girls who came to the weekly charismatic prayer group meeting. [REDACTED] was among them. Periodically he would give them rides home.

He recalled that his brother did take her to the Prom but said that it was more along the lines of <when it was a month before the Prom and she had no date, I asked if she would like me to arrange for my brother to take her>. There was nothing more to it than that.

Concerning the relationship, Monsignor Van Liefde acknowledged that some boundaries had been crossed. The two of them had hugged, given neck rubs and embraced – which had been inappropriate. However, he denied genital contact of any kind.

Concerning the incident in which [REDACTED] says her mother caught them necking, Monsignor Van Liefde said that there was one instance in which they were watching a movie on TV. The parents were in the house but elsewhere. [REDACTED] was leaning on his arm and when her mother came in she straightened up. Her mother may have been concerned but did not say anything to him about it.

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The last time he recalls having seen ^{REDACTED} was shortly after the death of ^{REDACTED}
^{REDACTED} They had lunch and a two-or-three-hour conversation. She was deeply disturbed
by ^{REDACTED} s situation.

When asked if Mrs. ^{REDACTED} statement that he said that they had "both made mistakes"
was true. He had no specific recollection but acknowledged that he very well might have
said something to that effect.

Memo to Cardinal Roger Mahony from Msgr. Loomis
updating him on the status of the case, May 21, 2002



CONFIDENTIAL

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MEMORANDUM

To: Cardinal Roger Mahony

From: Monsignor Richard Loomis *RL*

Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Re: Monsignor Christian van Liefde

As you may remember, [REDACTED] came forward about two weeks ago with an allegation of sexual abuse against Monsignor Christian van Liefde.

She alleges a two-year affair in which the then Father van Liefde molested her repeatedly between the ages of 16 and 18. She says that the abuse involved "a dysfunctional dating relationship" and alleges that the sexual misconduct included inappropriate touching, hugging, kissing and oral sex. She says there was no intercourse because both of them were afraid of pregnancy. She said that her mother reported the abuse to [REDACTED] in 1975, and that Father van Liefde was transferred immediately. She also claims to have reported the behavior to Father [REDACTED] (of Orange) who was a deacon at Holy Family at the time.

Monsignor van Liefde readily admitted that he knew [REDACTED] and admitted that there had been boundary violations with her, as well as hugging and embracing. He denies, however, any genital activity of any kind and specifically denied the allegation of oral sex. He also said that if there had been such a report about him, [REDACTED] would have confronted him immediately. (I was Associate at Holy Family immediately after Monsignor van Liefde and can verify from personal experience that [REDACTED] had no problem confronting people about things he thought were out of line. Also, there was no mention to me of any misconduct on the part of Father van Liefde by anyone in the parish: priests, sisters or laity. In fact, Father van Liefde was regularly welcomed back to the parish for weddings, funerals, baptisms and confirmations.)

I contacted [REDACTED] who categorically denied that anyone had ever made a report of sexual misconduct against Father van Liefde. [REDACTED] remembered the family name but commented that Father van Liefde was popular with many of the high-school girls. [REDACTED] also denied asking for Father van Liefde to be moved due to such an allegation, noting that he left Holy Family a year later than Ms. [REDACTED] reports and was assigned to high-school work. [REDACTED] specifically said that he would never have allowed someone to go into high-school work if he had known of misconduct with a teenager. The assignment record backs up this assertion.

CONFIDENTIAL

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I contacted Father [redacted]. He had no recollection of ever speaking with Ms. [redacted] during his time at Holy Family. He believes he would have remembered a high-school girl reporting sexual misconduct with a parish priest.

In the course of her story, Ms. [redacted] also noted that she was good friends with Father [redacted] and knew his brother [redacted]. I contacted Father [redacted] and asked him about Ms. [redacted], using all her possible last names ([redacted]) and he said he did not know her, though he also said that his brother had many friends that were unknown to him.

Monsignor Cox also gained access to the annulment file for Ms. [redacted]'s first marriage. In recounting her story to us, she spent considerable time telling us about the annulment and we thought there might be some reference to abusive behavior in the file. There was no note of any mention of abuse in the annulment proceedings.

The only other two people who have been cited as being able to corroborate her story were Sister [redacted], B.V.M., (now deceased) and Ms. [redacted]'s mother. I do not see the point in contacting Ms. [redacted] mother since she is quite elderly and her testimony could merely contradict or support [redacted]. Either response will leave the matter exactly where it is.

There appear to be some substantial holes in Ms. [redacted] story. All the people she named for us as corroboration do not back up her claims. This is somewhat balanced, however, by Monsignor van Liefde's admission of boundary violations. We seem to have a he-said-she-said situation with some definite inappropriate behavior.

Also, in her report, Ms. [redacted] stated that she did not want Monsignor van Liefde taken out of ministry. I am not sure what she wants. She did not immediately accept the offer of therapy, saying that she had worked through the matter already.

Monsignor van Liefde indicated that he would be most willing to render an apology if that is what Ms. [redacted] wanted.

I do not have the ability in this case to say that it has been "determined" that sexual abuse actually occurred. I would suggest that SAAB review the matter. I do not believe, however, that the admitted inappropriate behavior rises to a level requiring removal from ministry.

- 1) bring fully to the SAAB board for full review -
- 2) check with [redacted] + [redacted]
- 3) need to double-check with law enforcement? See no store internal -

+ RMM

5-22-02

Verification by the REDACTED of the Diocese of
Orange that there is no mention in the acts of the
marriage nullity case, REDACTED, of sexual abuse
suffered by REDACTED

12

TO: File
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox
RE: Monsignor Chris Van Liefde
DATE: 22 May 2002

I spoke with Father [REDACTED] of the Diocese of Orange. He examined the marriage nullity file of [REDACTED]. There is nothing in the file that makes any allusion to abuse suffered by [REDACTED] either from a priest or any other person.

ORANGE 43 F 86

REDACTED

~~copy~~

MARRIED 23 April 77
at St. Bede's

[REDACTED]

obtained from Orange Diocese
by phone 6 June 02

[REDACTED]

Record of telephone conversation between Sr. REDACTED
REDACTED and REDACTED mother of REDACTED
REDACTED May 28, 2002

Clergy Misconduct

Suspected Child Abuse

Survivor: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Birth: 3/10/57

Motivation for coming forward: "I'm looking for a resolution".

Priest: Fr. Chris Van Liefde

Birth: 8/26/48

Timeline:

- April 19, 2002 [REDACTED] hand delivered a letter. This letter details the abuse (see attachment #a.).
- May 2, 2002 [REDACTED] and husband [REDACTED] come for interview with Msgr. Loomis and Sr. [REDACTED] 2:30 p.m. (see attachment #b.) Msgr. Loomis writes a summary for the Vicar's office.
- May 20, 2002 [REDACTED] calls for an update on the investigation. [REDACTED] said that she was aware that an intervention was made with Fr. Van Liefde and that the Archdiocesan abuse policy was in progress. [REDACTED] informed Msgr. Loomis of the call. He said that the interviews had been made and that no data had been disclosed. He said that the only person that [REDACTED] had mentioned who was not interviewed was her Mother.
- May 28, 2002 [REDACTED] called for an update and requested a timeline for the completion of the investigation. [REDACTED] reported the above conversation with Msgr. Loomis. [REDACTED] responded that she wanted to talk to her Mother first. She also wanted to know the timeline.
- May 28, 2002 [REDACTED] Mother of [REDACTED] called. [REDACTED] was sobbing. [REDACTED] had talked to her. She kept repeating: "I just can't believe it. I just can't believe it. I can't believe he betrayed us. I had my suspicions. I had my fears. I talked to him."
"I had many talks with Chris. He had a key to our house. We considered him family. One night, my husband got up to go to the bathroom and he saw Chris and [REDACTED] on the couch. He came back to me. It was after 1:00 a.m. and my husband said to me, "Chris is still here". I got up and asked him to leave. I remember

14

he had on a Hawaiian shirt. That night I saw him kissing REDACTED on the couch."

"The next morning I asked REDACTED 'Does Chris kiss you the way Daddy kisses you?' REDACTED said 'No'. After she went to school I called Chris and asked him to come over. We talked at the dining room table. He put his head on the table and he said, 'I love REDACTED I love her.' I said, 'If you love her, take off that band aid (reference to the white roman collar) and marry her.' REDACTED

continued weeping. She said "I can't believe...he betrayed us".

She said that she called Sr. REDACTED and told her 'Chris kisses

REDACTED Sr. REDACTED responded 'that Son of a Bitch'.

I threatened him that I was going to call REDACTED I kept threatening.

At the same time REDACTED He was 24 years old. The day that they moved him from REDACTED

Hospital to REDACTED hospital it was very dangerous and I called REDACTED He was so kind and he stayed with me. During that time I also told him about REDACTED and Chris kissing. I told him everything. He said, 'You don't have to worry he can be transferred'.

REDACTED continues crying, "We have been betrayed. We sent our children to Catholic Schools we thought they would be safe. I cannot go back to Church."

"This is devastating me. REDACTED continues to cry. I talked to him. I wanted to make myself clear. She was a virgin. She was only 15 years old. Crying. He was molesting my baby. I can't believe it. I gave him the key to our home. He betrayed us. I don't know how I will tell my husband. He is at the dentist. I can't believe it. He will be so angry. This is a terrible thing in our hearts. I can't believe this happened. I'm Italian...I'm very emotional. I'm sorry..crying. I'm horrified. I tried to protect her."

I responded to REDACTED profound grief by saying, "it was so wrong. It never should have happened. I am very sorry, REDACTED.

I don't know what I will tell my husband. I said if she and her husband want to come and share how they feel or if counseling would be helpful for them since they are also victims whatever would help. She said, I don't know whatever will help REDACTED I ended by saying you have my number. Please call me REDACTED any time that I can be helpful to you.

Chronology of Events
Re: Chris Van Liefde

REDACTED /73	REDACTED 16 th birthday
5/26/73	Chris ordained a priest
6/73	Met Chris Van Liefde
REDACTED '73	Chris 25 th birthday (vestment)
8/30/73	Chris birthday - dinner - First sexual contact
2/74	Valentine's Day - Rec'd tulips from Chris - dinner/movie
3/10/74	REDACTED 17 th birthday - dinner
4/27/74	Junior Prom - Chris' brother REDACTED
5/74	Introduced to REDACTED after Mass
7/5/74	Postcard from Chris from Sequoia
REDACTED 74	Chris' 26 th birthday (vestment) - dinner
10 - 11/74	REDACTED mom's discussion with Chris re: situation
10-11/74	----- mom's discussion with Sr. REDACTED
11-12/74	Last sexual contact with Chris
1/75	REDACTED mom's discussion with REDACTED
2/75	Re-met REDACTED after Mass
3/75	REDACTED birthday
4-5/75	Met REDACTED and REDACTED
6/75	REDACTED graduated High School
4/77	Married to REDACTED
12/80	Tok REDACTED about Chris
8-9/84	Marriage to REDACTED annulled REDACTED
1995/96	Discussions with Fr. REDACTED r REDACTED and Chris

Response of Msgr. Van Liefde to input of REDACTED
REDACTED of May 28, 2002

16

TO: File

FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox

RE: Monsignor Chris Van Liefde

DATE: 29 May 2002

I spoke with Monsignor Van Liefde today and communicated briefly the input supplied by the mother of [REDACTED]

Monsignor Van Liefde made the following comments:

I do not recall ever having a key to their house.

I do not recall Mrs. [REDACTED] ever sitting me down to talk to me as she describes it, or making any comments along the line of "If you love her, take off that band aid and marry her."

I don't know what else to say other than I stand by what I told you earlier.

Reports of allegations against Christian Van Liefde in
the publication, Daily News, Friday June 7, 2002 and
Saturday June 8, 2002

Police investigating charges against pastor

By Ryan Oliyer
Staff Writer

Los Angeles police opened a criminal inquiry Friday into allegations that the pastor of St. Genevieve's Catholic Church in Panorama City engaged in "inappropriate conduct" 28 years ago.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles announced Thursday that it had placed Monsignor Chris Van Liefde, 53, on administrative leave last week, shortly after receiving the complaint.

Lt. Daniel Mulrenin of LAPD's Child Protection Section said police were unaware of the complaint until they read a Daily News story about it on Friday.

"We did speak to the archdiocese," Mulrenin said. "They're

in the process of providing us with information."

Mulrenin, whose unit is handling allegations of sexual abuse involving priests in the Los Angeles Archdiocese, said he did not know the nature of the complaint against Van Liefde.

Archdiocese spokesman Tod Tamberg refused again Friday to reveal the nature of the allegation.

"We're trying to determine its credibility," he said of the complaint. "We treat all complaints with respect, but not all complaints are treated equally.

"There is a sensitivity to those who make complaints, and at the same time you have to be real careful to be sure that those complaints warrant action of removal.

"You're dealing with someone's career and good name," he said. "There's always the

possibility someone out there could be making the complaint out of anger or revenge."

The decision to suspend Van Liefde and submit information to law enforcement is consistent with the archdiocese's new zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse within the clergy.

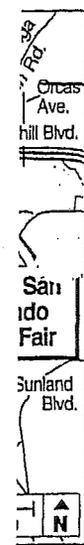
Tamberg said he did not know where Van Liefde was assigned when the misconduct is alleged to have occurred. He said the pastor had been at St. Genevieve's since 1999 and has no previous misconduct allegations.

Van Liefde was taken to an undisclosed location after being placed on administrative leave, he said.

Van Liefde is the second San Fernando Valley priest to be removed from his post because of misconduct allegations. The Rev. Dominic Savino, president

of Crespi High School in Encino, was removed in March after church officials found evidence

supporting allegations of sexual misconduct with 10 teen-age boys between 1966 and 1979.



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Family, police seek missing man

By Jason Kandel
Staff Writer

NORTHRIDGE — Police and family members pleaded for the public's help Friday for any information that would lead them to 21-year-old Peter Cruz, who has not been seen by family members since May 27.

Police suspect foul play in the case of the missing man, a Filipino, described as 5 feet, 7 inches

tall, weighing 160 pounds, with a shaved head. He has two thumbs on his right hand.

Friends told police they went by Cruz's Superior Street apartment May 31 when they had not heard from him for four days. They reported finding evidence of ransacking and foul play.

Los Angeles Police Department Devonshire Division detectives searched the Superior Street apartment, collected blood

evidence, and determined that property that Cruz owned had been removed.

A neighbor told police he had heard a fight and other commotion coming from inside Cruz's apartment in the early morning hours of May 29.

Police are asking that anyone with information on Cruz's disappearance call the Devonshire Division at (818) 756-8291 or (818) 756-8283.

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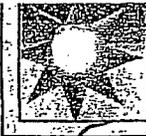
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... into a new Department of...
... the most extensive reorgani-...
... since World War II... did not...
... he question of how the govern-...
... ntelligence agencies, the Feder-...
... igation, the Central Intelligence...
... nal Security Agency, dropped the...

... ball in advance of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.
... The White House acknowledged on Thursday...
... that the president and his senior advisers have been...
... mining the veins of previous Republican adminis-...
... trations by soliciting advice from such stalwarts of...
... national security planning as Brent Scowcroft, who...
... served as national security adviser in the first Bush...

See SECURITY / Page 14



Should the Department of Homeland Security be made a Cabinet position?

See Page 2



Gene Blevins/Special to the Daily News



As fire swept through San Francisquito Canyon, it consumed this two-story home, above. At left, Mindy

2nd Valley priest put on leave

By Dana Bartholomew and Phillip W. Browne
Staff Writers



PANORAMA CITY — The pastor at St. Genevieve's Catholic Church has been placed on administrative leave over an allegation he engaged in "inappropriate conduct" 28 years ago, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles announced Thursday.

The allegation against Monsignor Chris Van Liefde, 53 — the only Catholic chaplain for the Los Angeles Fire Department — surfaced the day Cardinal Roger Mahony publicized a zero-tolerance policy against clerical sexual abuse in full-page ads in the Daily News and other newspapers.

Archdiocese officials said the allegation was brought

See ACCUSED / Page 16

Tobacco ads cost RJR \$20 million

By Seth Hettner

News (1) 6-7-2-2

Accused priest defended

ACCUSED / From Page 1

to their attention last week but they declined to provide the nature of the accusation or any other details.

In a written statement to his parishioners, the priest known affectionately as Monsignor Chris acknowledged the allegation and said he would suspend his ministry while the church investigates.

"I ask your forgiveness for the anxiety and embarrassment that this announcement must cause many of you," his statement said, "and I ask that you keep me in your prayers."

Van Liefde last celebrated Mass a week ago today, then was put on administrative leave and transferred from the church rectory to an unknown location. "Respecting the Boundaries," a forum that Van Liefde was scheduled to lead Tuesday on clergy sexual misconduct, was canceled.

The accusation against Van Liefde comes as the U.S. Conference of Bishops prepares to meet next week in Dallas, where the clerics will discuss how to deal with the growing sexual abuse scandal within the Catholic Church.

"This places a great amount of stress on the parish community," said archdiocese spokesman Tod Tamberg. "We are hoping for a resolution soon."

Tamberg said he did not know whether the accusation was received on a hotline created by

Mahony to report sexual abuse or by some other means. He declined to reveal any information about the victim or the allegation.

The allegation will be reviewed by Monsignor Craig Cox, vicar for clergy for the archdiocese, but it is unclear what steps will be taken after that, Tamberg said.

Van Liefde is the second San Fernando Valley priest to be removed from his post because of allegations of abuse. The Rev. Dominic Savino, president of Crespi High School in Encino, was removed from his position in March after the Carmelite Order found evidence supporting allegations of sexual misconduct with 10 teen-age boys between 1966 and 1979.

In his signed newspaper message, Mahony reiterated there would be "no exceptions" to a "zero-tolerance policy" on sexual impropriety. He also said he would establish a Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board headed by retired Presiding Superior Court Judge Richard Byrne.

In his ad, Mahony promised that the archdiocese would immediately notify civil authorities of allegations of clergy sexual abuse, offer assistance to alleged victims and families, and remove accused priests from active ministries.

Tamberg said the archdiocese would follow Mahony's plan to the letter, but he didn't know whether the allegations against Van Liefde had been reported to

the police or District Attorney's Office.

An LAPD spokesman said the department had not yet received any report on Van Liefde.

"The Los Angeles Police Department has not been informed of this case," said department spokesman Officer Jason Lee. "We've been here all day, and no one has contacted us about it."

A spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said she could not comment specifically on Van Liefde, but did say the statute of limitations begins at the time the abuse is reported.

"Investigators will have one year to look into the case," said spokeswoman Jane Robison.

Van Liefde has been a Los Angeles Fire Department chaplain for 22 years, celebrating Masses, and officiating at weddings and funerals for firefighters, along with conducting stress management courses. He occasionally went on location with firefighters to console families who had lost loved ones.

Van Liefde, a recipient of a LAFD Service to Mankind award in 1997, also visited ground zero in New York City after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in order to comfort firefighters.

Firefighters say he is well-respected throughout the department.

Battalion Chief Bob Franco said Van Liefde had informed the department of the allegations

two weeks ago.

"All I can say is that I was surprised — we all were surprised — because of the type of individual he is," said Franco, who personally knows Van Liefde. "But we know it is only an allegation, and we will wait and see how everything turns out."

Parishioners of St. Genevieve's sprawling church-school campus defended Van Liefde's reputation as an honest and upright priest and were saddened by the allegation.

Van Liefde was described by parents and students as a dynamic church leader whose homilies never failed to inspire his parish.

"It was very shocking," said David Delazari, 40, of Panorama City, as he picked up his two daughters from school. "He's very likable, very approachable, very honest. He's very moral."

"I know people who don't want to believe — my wife doesn't want to believe — that this is happening. I am very upset."

Students were also upset about the news of their spiritual leader they regard as "cool," "a good guy" ready with a smile, a joke, or to doff his coat for a game of hoops.

"It's a rough break," said Michael, 18, a St. Genevieve graduate from Panorama City who declined to give his last name. "It's weird. (He's) not at all guilty, he's a great guy — someone you can really trust."

Reynolds slapped for ads in magazines

TOBACCO / From Page 1

and Rolling Stone.

But Superior Court Judge Ronald Prager said the company "intentionally avoided" studying whether teens were being reached and that "casts doubt on RJR's intent to abide by the terms" of the agreement.

"It was, or should have been, apparent to the skillful and bright people who managed RJR's multimillion-dollar, sophisticated print advertising campaign that youth were exposed to tobacco advertising at levels substantially similar to targeted adult smokers." the

judge said.

Reynolds, maker of the Camel, Winston, Doral and Salem brands, planned to appeal and seek a stay of Prager's ruling, company spokesman Tommy J. Payne said.

"Today's decision might be politically correct but it disregarded the facts, the law, the First Amendment and the relevant provisions" of the nationwide tobacco settlement, Payne said Thursday.

The California Attorney General's Office, which sued Winston-Salem, N.C.-based Reynolds last year, had asked the judge to fine Reynolds \$20

million and ban it from advertising in 50 magazines often read by teens.

The judge did not go so far as to ban advertising in specific magazines but ordered Reynolds to take "reasonable measures" designed to reduce youth exposure to tobacco ads to a level "substantially lower" than its reach of adults.

Stephen Sugarman, a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley and an author of books on tobacco policy, said Prager's ruling could signal the first step in the lengthy process of interpreting how the 1998 tobacco settlement affects

magazine ads.

"Over time, one of two things is going to happen," Sugarman said. "One, they're going to reach a reasonable standard around the country." Or, he said, there could be a "splintering" of opinion. "It's not beyond the realm of possibility that as a practical matter you'll have different standards in different places."

Payne argued that the ruling imposed an "illogical double standard" in California because magazines that are "too youthful" for Camel cigarettes are still acceptable forums for beer, wine, liquor and R-rated movies.

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Published: Friday, June 7, 2002

Accused pastor on leave

By Dana Bartholomew and Phillip W. Browne
 Staff writers

PANORAMA CITY - The pastor at St. Genevieve's Catholic Church has been placed on administrative leave over an allegation he engaged in "inappropriate conduct" 28 years ago, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles announced Thursday.

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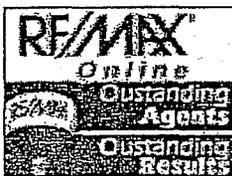
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presstelegram.com A

E-mail letter from REDACTED to Sr. REDACTED
REDACTED expressing assorted concerns

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REDACTED

From: REDACTED
 Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2002 4:39 PM
 To: REDACTED
 Subject: Therapy - Confidential
 Importance: High

Dear Sr. REDACTED

I am very upset. Dr. REDACTED just called and wanted me to know that he is not comfortable with the guidelines that were sent to him in order to treat me and be reimbursed by the Archdiocese. My appointment for next week has been cancelled. I am appalled and shocked. I really liked this doctor - I have had a couple of wonderful conversations with him. I cannot believe this has happened.

Dr. REDACTED says he cannot in good faith agree to some of the "conditions" the Archdiocese is imposing and cannot sign such agreements. Specifically, he stated that the Archdiocese only pays for treatment directly associated with the abuse - Sister REDACTED you know that is appalling. We know almost everything is associated with the abuse in one way or another - it is the culmination of my youth in a negative way. The way the agreement is written apparently is so limiting that Dr. REDACTED does not know when you would be billed, or I would be billed or should it be split billed or? What???

So let me get this correct, if I don't mention Chris' name or the word "sex", it isn't paid for... that is nothing more than intimidation in the form of an agreement. Are you going to assure me that my weight problem is not associated with the abuse - I assume that is a topic that will come up and it is very much associated with what happened - actually. What about problems I have communicating with my family, or husband, or intimacy, or responsibility, or guilt, or obsessive, compulsive disorder (you do recall that Chris did a good job teaching me to smoke) or ... is the Archdiocese prepared to assure me that none of these subjects which are most likely to come up during therapy, are completely unrelated to the abuse? That is what your "agreement" is apparently leading at least one therapist to believe. And by the way, who does make the decision - about what is or is not related - is that you, "legal" or exactly who???

Dr. REDACTED also mentioned some rather "stringent" requirements made upon him personally - some of the "obvious" not being a problem but others he is concerned he may not "fit the criteria". How can that be?

Please send me a copy of the agreement, conditions or whatever you are sending to my proposed therapists so that I can personally make a determination as to the reasonableness of it, or whatever. I want therapy - unconditional therapy - not with strings attached to hang someone with.

I am trying to be patient, to hold everyone off from exploding this into lawsuits and press releases, my parents want to file a suit immediately for the damage caused by forcing them to become aware of what truly happened - their statute has not run yet - please relay that message to these phantom lawyers I keep hearing about. I sat back, agreed to be patient, believed you would help me deal with the counseling - after you asked that we be patient, wait for the Bishops' Conference to end, wait, wait, wait

I am so upset - this was the first glimmer of positive hope I have found and now it is gone. Again I ask, doesn't anyone care about anything - the damage the Archdiocese has done and continues to do. How can such people of God continue to hide behind misrepresentations, delays, and legal documents?

By the way, where is the investigation report. I still have not received the written report of what was said by the witnesses, and by Chris. My parents and their attorney want to know exactly what was said - how and why my claim was "unsubstantiated" to the point of being dismissed despite physical evidence, and requiring my parents to be told the awful truth so that my "story" could be corroborated. Why did we just not go in for polygraphs like I proposed - I certainly have nothing to hide, does Chris? By the way, we are still waiting for an apology from the Archdiocese and from Chris - I know you are sorry - but you did not do anything wrong.

7/9/2002

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We want a meeting - enough is enough. If we don't get what we deserve - and immediately, then perhaps a meeting with the Cardinal, Msgrs. Loomis and Cox, "legal", [redacted] and you will get things resolved. After all, the Cardinal loves to brag about how many victims he has personally apologized to - good, he can add me to his list.

If you don't want to hear from me any longer - just email a contact list and I'll be happy to oblige - again, I am sorry but you are my only contact. In the meantime, you can forward this email to whomever you need to to see that the following matters are resolved immediately, or that a meeting is arranged with all parties, forthwith.

1. Reimbursement of [redacted] tuition paid for [redacted] and reimbursement to [redacted] for her past therapy;
2. Therapy - unconditional, except for obvious (proper licensing, background checks, insurance, etc) but without limitation as to "content" or unreasonable limitations or provider requirements.
3. Copy of investigation report, interviews, etc.
4. Apology by Archdiocese and Chris to [redacted] and her parents.

We are awaiting your response.

Thank you
[redacted]

Declaration of REDACTED accuser,
January 8, 2003

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DECLARATION OF REDACTED

I, REDACTED declare:

1. The following facts are known by me personally, except to those matters that are specifically stated to be based on information and belief. If called as a witness, I would and could competently testify thereto.

2. My full name is REDACTED I was born in San Diego, California, on March 10, 1957. Other names I have used in the past are REDACTED and REDACTED

3. My present address is REDACTED
REDACTED My current phone number is REDACTED

4. I attended Holy Family Grade School in Glendale, California, from 1964 through 1971. I attended Holy Family High School in Glendale, California, from 1971 through 1975.

5. I presently work at REDACTED
REREDACTED
REDACTED

6. From in or about October 1971 through April 1977, I resided with my parents at their residence located at REDACTED
REDACTED
REDACTED

7. I met Fr. Christian Van Liefde (hereinafter "Fr. Chris") in June 1973. Fr. Chris was a new associate Pastor at Holy Family Church and visited the high school often, acting in the capacity of

Declaration of REDACTED

24

1 religious counselor, School Chaplain, and instructor. Fr. Chris led
2 the prayer group, church choir and various other groups as well.

3 8. The first time I met Fr. Chris, he told me he had a sister who was
4 much younger and who had died in a tragic auto accident many years
5 prior. Her name was also REDACTED and he told me my eyes
6 reminded him of her eyes. He asked if he could call me REDACTED which
7 was his nickname for her. I was involved in the prayer group and
8 church choir that Fr. Chris led so we had an opportunity to see each
9 other at Mass, during rehearsals, prayer meetings, etc. which were
10 held at various days and times at either Holy Family Church or Holy
11 Family High School.

12 9. Fr. Chris would always make it a point to talk to me privately at
13 these functions, typically after the function ended. We would take
14 a walk or sit and talk about ourselves, our families, and I confided
15 in him about my feelings and things going on in school. Fr. Chris
16 was always very nice to me and paid attention to me. On many
17 occasions, Fr. Chris would secretly pass me a note or leave a note
18 on my car windshield for me to find at the end of my school day.

19 10. In or about July 1973, I volunteered to have a home Mass and
20 luncheon at my parent's home for one of my church groups. Fr. Chris
21 was the Celebrant of the Mass. This was the first time my parents
22 met Fr. Chris.

23 11. Fr. Chris thereafter became good friends with my family. He
24 would come over to my parents' house two or three times per week and
25 have dinner or come over after dinner and evening Mass, to relax and
watch television or talk. Fr. Chris said his family reminded him of

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1 his own family and he felt towards my parents like his own mom and
 2 dad and he thought of me like a sister. Fr. Chris spoke a lot about
 3 his family and how he missed them as they were living in Mission
 4 Viejo and he did not get to see them too often. Fr. Chris enjoyed
 5 coming over to our house because he could 'take off his collar'
 6 figuratively and literally. Fr. Chris would tell us how stressful
 7 life was for a parish priest and that he enjoyed the opportunity to
 8 escape away from the Parish house.

9 12. On or about August 26, 1973, I handmade a Vestment for Fr. Chris
 10 for his birthday. Fr. Chris was a newly ordained priest and did not
 11 have a variety of Vestments to wear while saying Mass throughout the
 12 year.

13 13. On or about August 30, 1973, Fr. Chris, my mother, my father and
 14 I went to dinner for Fr. Chris 26th birthday to the 1520 A.D.
 15 Restaurant in Los Angeles. Chris brought me a bouquet of daisies
 16 when he arrived at my parents' house. He said it was to thank me
 17 for the Vestment. Fr. Chris did not dress as a priest; instead he
 18 wore street clothes, which he typically did when we were together or
 19 when he would visit my parents.

20 14. After the dinner, we came back to my parents' house. Later that
 21 night, after my parents went to bed, the first physical contact
 22 occurred between Fr. Chris and me. We were sitting on the sofa
 23 together in the living room; my parents were in their bedroom on the
 24 opposite side of the house. Fr. Chris hugged me and told me how
 25 special I was to him and how special his birthday was because of the
 dinner and my gift. He kissed me on the cheek and then kissed me on

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1 the lips. He told me it was okay and that we had a very special
 2 friendship. He continued to hug me and kiss me a few more times.
 3 Fr. Chris left that night and I remember feeling very special that
 4 he thought so much of me. This was the first physical/sexual
 5 encounter in my life as I was not allowed to date prior to my 16th
 6 birthday and I had no boyfriends or dates prior to this time.

7 15. Fr. Chris continued to visit us at my parents' home,
 8 approximately two or three times per week. The physical contact
 9 occurred almost on every occasion, depending on if my parents went
 10 to sleep early or not. Once in a while we would go out for a drive
 11 in Fr. Chris' car or for an ice cream. We would sometimes end up
 12 down at the beach, one of Fr. Chris' favorite places. On these
 13 occasions, we would have physical contact either in his car or on
 14 the beach.

15 16. The primary contact between Fr. Chris and I occurred at my
 16 parents' home after they went to sleep. Fr. Chris would come over
 17 for dinner or just to visit after evening Mass and we would talk in
 18 the living room with my parents or watch television. My parents
 19 usually went to bed between 9:30 and 10:00. After usually 30 or 40
 20 minutes, Fr. Chris would ask me to rub his back because he was very
 21 stressed and it helped him to relax. He would usually take his
 22 shirt off. After a while, Fr. Chris would sit closer to me and
 23 would start kissing and fondling me. We either kept our clothes on
 24 completely or he would remove his shirt and partially undress me.

25 17. Over the next five or six months, the physical contact continued
 to occur and became more sexual and intimate in nature. The kissing

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1 advanced to French kissing, which occurred on every occasion I saw
 2 him alone. Fr. Chris first started fondling me over my clothes but
 3 gradually the fondling would take place under my clothes, and then
 4 ultimately, when I was partially or scantily clothed. The sexual
 5 contact would excel almost in stages; when he would do something new
 6 or different, he would explain the actions as being a new and
 7 special way of showing our friendship, or telling me it was okay
 8 because he would never hurt me and he would always take care of me.
 9 Fr. Chris said he had experience and told me he would teach me what
 10 to do and not to worry and just relax.

11 18. Fr. Chris was very different with me when we were alone than when
 12 we were at school or church. Fr. Chris would be distant to me when
 13 other people were around and this would hurt me greatly. When we
 14 were alone together, he would explain that we must keep things
 15 private because people would not understand. He told me that it was
 16 as much for me as for him because he did not want anyone to ever say
 17 that I was promiscuous. He said people would not understand our
 18 relationship. When Fr. Chris said Mass and I was in attendance, he
 19 would only consume half of the priest's host and give me the other
 20 half when I would take Holy Communion. He told me that this was his
 21 special way of letting me know I was important to him even though he
 22 couldn't show it publicly.

23 19. After the sexual contact, Fr. Chris would always tell me to go to
 24 confession and that he was going to also go to confession and that
 25 would absolve us from what we were doing. Fr. Chris said that we
 had a special friendship and a special love that the Church and

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1 other people did not understand so confession would absolve us from
2 what happened and from having to lie.

3 20. On or about Valentines Day, February 14, 1974, Fr. Chris brought
4 me a tulip plant. A month later, on or about March 10, 1974, Fr.
5 Chris bought me a watch and brought me out to dinner and to a drive-
6 in movie for my 17th birthday. While we were parked at the drive-in
7 movie, Fr. Chris started kissing me and fondling me. This was the
8 first time Fr. Chris placed my hand on his groin and he had an
9 erection. He guided my hand with his own to masturbate himself.
10 This was also the first time that Fr. Chris touched my genitals. We
11 did not remove our undergarments.

12 21. The sexual contact as described above, to wit, mutual
13 masturbation, fondling, kissing, and other sexual activity continued
14 on a two to three times per week basis. The intimacy of the sexual
15 activity increased however, there was no intercourse or penetration
16 at any time.

17 22. In or about May 1974, Fr. Chris was visiting with an old friend,
18 REDACTED after Mass one Sunday. I walked by and waved to Fr.
19 Chris. Fr. Chris called me over and introduced me to REDACTED. Fr.
20 Chris told me that he and REDACTED were very good friends, having
21 attended St. John's Seminary in Camarillo together. REDACTED was at St.
22 John's Seminary for 7 years before leaving the Seminary to become a
23 Chiropractor. REDACTED was attending Los Angeles College of
24 Chiropractic in Glendale, California, at the time. It was a very
25 short introduction and I did not see REDACTED again for approximately 9
or 10 months.

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1 23. In or about March, 1974, I mentioned to Fr. Chris that I wanted
 2 to go to my Junior Prom. Fr. Chris said that he did not want me to
 3 go with anyone other than him and since he couldn't bring me, he
 4 would send me with the next best thing - his brother, REDACTED Fr.
 5 Chris paid for REDACTED, tuxedo. I met REDACTED for the first
 6 time when he came to pick me up at my parents' house the night of
 7 the prom. REDACTED was a gentleman and was very nice to me. After we
 8 left the prom, REDACTED dropped me home. Fr. Chris and my mom were
 9 waiting for us. Fr. Chris was very complimentary on my looks and
 10 took pictures of me in my prom dress after my mom went to sleep.
 11 Fr. Chris and I had sexual contact similar to that described
 12 hereinabove.

13 24. One night during this time period, my mother came into the living
 14 room, it was sometime between 2:00 and 3:00 a.m. Fr. Chris was
 15 laying face down on the couch with his shirt off and I was sitting
 16 next to him rubbing his back and neck. We did not hear my mom come
 17 in and she startled both of us. Fr. Chris jumped up and apologized,
 18 told my mom he had a bad spasm in his back and I was rubbing it out
 19 for him. He left immediately and my mother was very upset. She
 20 questioned me rather vigorously about our relationship and
 21 threatened to talk to Fr. Chris about what was going on. She
 22 disapproved strongly that he was spending such late nights at the
 23 house. I begged her to please stay out of it because he was a good
 24 friend and I did not want him to get upset.

25 25. In or about July 5, 1974, Fr. Chris went on a vacation to
 Northern California to visit his sister, REDACTED He sent me a

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1 postcard. On the postcard he stated that he "missed the back
 2 scratches". I hid the postcard from my parents because I was sure
 3 that they were unaware of the activity. My mother later found the
 4 postcard and questioned me about it and I told her it was because
 5 Fr. Chris had a lot of stress and it helped him to relax. My mother
 6 was very upset when she found the postcard.

7 26. On or about August 26, 1974, I made Fr. Chris another Vestment
 8 for Mass for his 27th birthday. We celebrated his birthday at my
 9 parents' house for dinner. In or about that same week, Fr. Chris
 10 and I spent the afternoon swimming at my grandmother's house in Los
 11 Angeles, California. There was no one at home during the day and
 12 Fr. Chris and I were swimming and sunbathing. Fr. Chris and I were
 13 in the swimming pool, wrestling and playing around. Fr. Chris
 14 started to kiss and fondle me. Fr. Chris slid my bathing suit
 15 bottoms down and fondled my genitals. Fr. Chris brought me to the
 16 swimming pool ledge and started to engage in oral sex when I stopped
 17 him because I got frightened and asked him to stop, which he did
 18 immediately.

19 27. In October 1974, I was diagnosed with mononucleosis and Fr. Chris
 20 came to visit me often at home. However, Fr. Chris did not kiss me
 21 during the one to two weeks I was home because he was worried he
 22 would contract it and not be able to explain it.

23 28. On one night in or about November 1974, Fr. Chris and I were in
 24 my parents' living room on the couch. At approximately 2:00 or 3:00
 25 a.m., my mother came into the living room with her robe on, she was
 upset, she asked Fr. Chris to leave and that she would call him the

Declaration of REDACTED

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1 next day. Fr. Chris left immediately. My mother said that my dad
 2 looked into the living room and saw us. My mom asked me if Fr.
 3 Chris was kissing me and I said yes. She asked me if he kissed me
 4 like "daddy kisses me" and I said no. I told her to leave us alone
 5 and that Fr. Chris was in love with me.

6 29. On or about the following day, my mother told me she spoke with
 7 Fr. Chris. I was very upset and angry but my mother assured me he
 8 was still our friend and he understood that he made a mistake and it
 9 wouldn't happen again. My mother asked that we not see each other
 10 alone any more and she told me that it wasn't my fault.

11 30. Fr. Chris continued to come over to my parents' house but not as
 12 often. I saw Fr. Chris at school, at church or at the rectory. Fr.
 13 Chris and I had physical contact in the storage room off the
 14 Sacristy in the Church or we would go for a drive in his car. We
 15 would talk about the fact that what we were doing was wrong but he
 16 would always make us say a prayer at the end and ask God to forgive
 17 us.

18 31. In or about late December 1974, my brother ^{REDACTED} was hospitalized
 19 for a serious medical problem. In or about January 1975, my mother
 20 told me that she had spoken with Sr. REDACTED the Girls' Dean
 21 of Discipline at Holy Family High School and also REDACTED
 22 about Fr. Chris and me and that she asked that he be transferred
 23 immediately. I was very upset and angry with my mother because I
 24 knew Fr. Chris would get in trouble and probably be transferred.

25 32. Fr. Chris would make it a point to avoid me at school after this,
 but would usually get a note to me secretly or a glance that meant I

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1 should wait until everyone left. Fr. Chris said that REDACTED
 2 told him about my mother's conversation and Fr. Chris told me he did
 3 not blame my mother for what she did. Fr. Chris said what we did
 4 was wrong but that he loved me and would always love me. Fr. Chris
 5 said it went too far. Fr. Chris and I continued to engage in French
 6 kissing and light petting but nothing more intense. Fr. Chris tried
 7 to avoid me and ignore me anytime anyone was around, especially
 8 other teachers, priests or students.

9 33. On or about February 19, 1975, a picture and article appeared in
 10 the Glendale NewsPress newspaper about REDACTED upcoming
 11 Investiture Mass on March 9, 1975.

12 34. The last physical contact between Fr. Chris and I was in or about
 13 the week following February 20. I saw Fr. Chris at school and told
 14 him I needed to speak with him. He told me to come over to the
 15 Rectory after school. When I arrived, Fr. Chris took me into the
 16 first office off the hallway and closed the door. I was upset and
 17 angry because he was growing more distant and I wanted to confront
 18 him about our relationship. I asked him if he was in love with me
 19 or not. He said he loved me like a sister; he said he was sorry
 20 that things got out of control. He said that we were only human and
 21 that I was very beautiful and he could not help but have feelings
 22 for me. I told him I loved him and we started to embrace. Fr.
 23 Chris kissed me on the cheek at first and hugged me but before I
 24 knew it, we were embraced in a passionate kiss and fondling. It
 25 lasted only a few minutes and then Fr. Chris stopped, he said he

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1 was scared someone would see me there, he was sorry but I had to
2 leave. I left and told him I understood.

3 35. In or about March 1975, I became reacquainted with REDACTED
4 (hereinafter REDACTED), who had been introduced to me by REDACTED
5 approximately 10 months earlier in or about May 1974. I saw Marc
6 after Mass one day and we recognized each other immediately.

7 36. From approximately March through May 1975, REDACTED and I started
8 seeing each other on a platonic, friendly basis. We would
9 occasionally have breakfast together or to see a movie. REDACTED was a
10 student living in Glendale and I was finishing up my senior year at
11 Holy Family High School. It was during this time period that REDACTED
12 introduced me to one of his best friends, REDACTED was also
13 at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo at the same time as Fr. Chris
14 and REDACTED. It was also during this time period that REDACTED and REDACTED
15 introduced me to REDACTED, another priest and classmate from St.
16 John's Seminary. I told REDACTED about Fr. Chris and our relationship.
17 REDACTED told me it was wrong and that I was not to blame, it was Fr.
18 Chris who was responsible because he should have known better.

19 37. In or about the late Spring or Summer of 1975, REDACTED kissed me.
20 He told me he had feelings for me and thought we should consider
21 dating. I was very infatuated with REDACTED who was eleven years older
22 than me and very intelligent and very nice to me. Marc never tried
23 to take sexual advantage of me; he was very cautious and considerate
24 because of my age. REDACTED and I continued to date. We often had
25 dinner and socialized with REDACTED. We did not socialize or ever
see Fr. Chris. On April 23, 1977, REDACTED and I were married;

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1 [REDACTED] was the main Celebrant. Fr. Chris was not invited to the
 2 wedding as [REDACTED] had no longer stayed friends with him and I did not
 3 want him invited.

4 38. [REDACTED] and I were married until in or about September 1984. During
 5 that time, [REDACTED] and I remained good friends with [REDACTED]. My
 6 marriage to [REDACTED] was dysfunctional in many ways, sexually, socially
 7 and otherwise. [REDACTED] was controlling of my demeanor and my actions
 8 in the same manner as Fr. Chris was to me. My marriage to [REDACTED]
 9 ended in civil divorce and a Catholic annulment in or about
 10 September 1985. [REDACTED] (hereinafter [REDACTED]) and I remained very
 11 good friends after the divorce and [REDACTED] acted as my sponsor
 12 during the annulment proceedings, which were granted.

13 39. In or about 1975 or 1976, I confided in Fr. [REDACTED]
 14 [REDACTED] at Holy Family Church about Fr. Chris and me. Fr. [REDACTED]
 15 told me to pray about it and make sure it did not happen again. The
 16 conversation happened just prior to his being ordained a priest. I
 17 attended Fr. [REDACTED] ordination although I have no recollection of the
 18 date.

19 40. In or about 1980, I told [REDACTED] about Fr. Chris and me. [REDACTED] told me
 20 that there was no use going to the Archdiocese because what was done
 21 was done and it had been handled by the Archdiocese appropriately.
 22 He said it was not because Fr. Chris was a friend, it was because it
 23 would create too much scandal for both Fr. Chris and me. Over the
 24 years, [REDACTED] and I spoke about the matter a few more times, his
 25 opinion never changed.

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1 Llanos was the main Celebrant. Fr. Chris was not invited to the
 2 wedding as Marc had no longer stayed friends with him and I did not
 3 want him invited.

4 38. Marc and I were married until in or about September 1984. During
 5 that time, Marc and I remained good friends with Ted Llanos. My
 6 marriage to Marc was dysfunctional in many ways, sexually, socially
 7 and otherwise. Marc was controlling of my demeanor and my actions
 8 in the same manner as Fr. Chris was to me. My marriage to Marc
 9 ended in civil divorce and a Catholic annulment in or about
 10 September 1985. Ted Llanos (hereinafter "Ted") and I remained very
 11 good friends after the divorce and Ted Llanos acted as my sponsor
 12 during the annulment proceedings, which were granted.

13 39. In or about 1975 or 1976, I confided in Fr. Joe Nettekoven (then
 14 a Deacon) at Holy Family Church about Fr. Chris and me. Fr. Joe
 15 told me to pray about it and make sure it did not happen again. The
 16 conversation happened just prior to his being ordained a priest. I
 17 attended Fr. Joe's ordination although I have no recollection of the
 18 date.

19 40. In or about 1980, I told Ted about Fr. Chris and me. Ted told me
 20 that there was no use going to the Archdiocese because what was done
 21 was done and it had been handled by the Archdiocese appropriately.
 22 He said it was not because Fr. Chris was a friend, it was because it
 23 would create too much scandal for both Fr. Chris and me. Over the
 24 years, Ted and I spoke about the matter a few more times, his
 25 opinion never changed.

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41. From October 13, 1991 to the present, I have been married to REDACTED
REDACTED

42. In or about November 1994, I found out about the allegations of child molestation against [REDACTED] via the television and newspaper. I tried to contact Ted but could not locate him. At that time, I did not believe the allegations were true. I was one of [REDACTED] closest friends and knew him very well. I felt the police and others were on a 'witch-hunt' for [REDACTED]. I contacted Fr. REDACTED (hereinafter "Fr. REDACTED") who was at the time, the Media Relations Director for the Los Angeles Archdiocese. My parents and I knew Fr. REDACTED personally because he operated the Bingo game at St. Francis High School in La Canada, California for a long time and my parents played weekly. I called Fr. REDACTED, reintroduced myself and he stated clearly that he knew who I was. Fr. REDACTED was very nice and asked what he could do for me. I started to cry and told him I was frantic to reach [REDACTED] because of the allegations against him. I explained we were close friends and asked Fr. [REDACTED] to either give me his address or call [REDACTED] and have him contact me. I was concerned that [REDACTED] could not find me because my husband and I had recently moved back to California from a sabbatical in Lake Tahoe. Fr. REDACTED told me he could not tell me where [REDACTED] was and would relay a message to try and have [REDACTED] call me. Fr. REDACTED asked me on three occasions during this telephone call if [REDACTED] and I were or had been engaged in any inappropriate relationship whatsoever. I told him absolutely not - [REDACTED] was my best friend and nothing more. I explained that [REDACTED] and I truly had a brother/sister relationship in every way. Fr.

Declaration of REDACTED

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1 REDACTED did not say if Ted was guilty or not. Fr. REDACTED asked that I
 2 not speak to the Long Beach Police Department or any other officials
 3 regarding this matter. Fr. REDACTED said he was sorry he couldn't help
 4 me and hung up.

5 43. A few days passed and I heard nothing so I decided to call Fr.
 6 Chris. This was the first time I had any substantive contact with
 7 Fr. Chris. I thought Fr. Chris would be able to find [REDACTED]
 8 whereabouts and I felt like he owed me something for what he had
 9 taken from me. I contacted the Archdiocese and found out which
 10 parish Fr. Chris was and called him. He sounded shocked to hear my
 11 voice and he sounded very distant and fake. His voice sounded
 12 nervous on the phone. I believe he was in Whittier, California.

13 44. I told Fr. Chris about my friendship with [REDACTED] and that I needed
 14 him to help me find him by calling the Archdiocese or getting a
 15 message to [REDACTED] himself to contact me. Basically, Fr. Chris said it
 16 was a shock to everyone. He implied that [REDACTED] was guilty. He
 17 promised to call the Archdiocese and call me back. In a few
 18 minutes, Fr. Chris called me back to tell me there was nothing he
 19 could do for me - that he could not get any information. I told Fr.
 20 Chris I was disappointed considering what we had been through and
 21 that I thought he at least owed me this favor. Fr. Chris said that
 22 what happened was as much my fault as his and the conversation
 23 ended.

24 45. I heard nothing from the Archdiocese so I contacted Fr. REDACTED
 25 again. This time he was angry and did not want to speak to me and
 asked me to not call back. I told Fr. REDACTED that the Catholic Church

Declaration of REDACTED

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1 had destroyed my life one too many times and I would not allow it
 2 again. I told him the entire story about Fr. Chris and that I too
 3 had been a victim. I told Fr. ^{REDACTED} that I knew there were probably
 4 other people like me out there and he told me that if young girls
 5 did not throw themselves on priests, there wouldn't be a problem.
 6 He said if I had a problem with Fr. Chris he was sorry but it was
 7 just as much my fault and I should confess my sins and forget about
 8 the past. He said he had never heard of any other complaints from
 9 anyone, about Fr. Chris or any other priest and he refused to speak
 10 to me any longer.

11 46. Through an attorney service, I found the name of [REDACTED] attorney
 12 and contacted him. I received a response from [REDACTED] almost
 13 immediately and we spoke and corresponded until his death in
 14 December 1996.

15 47. When I learned of [REDACTED] suicide, through the news media, I again
 16 was very upset. I tried to contact Fr. ^{REDACTED} who refused my calls.
 17 I left a message for him that I wanted funeral arrangement
 18 information. I called Fr. Chris and told him I wanted to know about
 19 the funeral arrangements for [REDACTED] Fr. Chris again told me he would
 20 call me back with the information. Fr. Chris never called me back
 21 and when I finally reached him, he told me that the funeral services
 22 were private and he had no information.

23 48. As a result of Fr. Chris' entirely inappropriate conduct, I have
 24 suffered from depression and anxiety for the majority of my adult
 25 life. My adolescence, innocence and trusting behavior were taken
 away from me not only because of the physical/sexual conduct, but

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1 also because of the associated deception and lies. I lost my
2 religion and my faith in the only church I knew and loved.

3 49. I suffered with guilt for many years about what happened with Fr.
4 Chris, having been told that I was also to blame. I have always
5 harbored guilt that my parents were lied to and deceived as to Fr.
6 Chris and his behavior.

7 50. I have chosen to never have children because of the insecurity
8 that they could not be protected, under any circumstances. I
9 watched my parents struggle and sacrifice to send me to Catholic
10 School to be in a safe and secure environment and that is where I
11 was the most vulnerable ultimately. I do not trust individuals who
12 are supposed to be in positions of authority, and have difficulty
13 trusting friends and other people because I feel I have been so
14 easily deceived in the past.

15 51. I have gone to various therapists through my adulthood for these
16 feelings, for depression and for anxiety. These include ^{REDACTED}
17 REDACTED in Los Alamitos, California and REDACTED in Tustin,
18 California.

19 52. My physician is Dr. REDACTED in Glendale, California since
20 1961. [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 53. On April 29, 2002, I delivered a letter to Sr. REDACTED at
24 the Los Angeles Catholic Archdiocese notifying them of the prior
25 events pertaining to Fr. Chris. Thereafter, on May 2, 2002, my
husband and I met with Sr. REDACTED and REDACTED at the

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1 Archdiocese offices in Los Angeles to discuss the matter. We
2 advised Sr. [redacted] and Msgr. Loomis that we were making the
3 complaint under strict confidentiality and that we did not want
4 anything done without our prior notification. Msgr. Loomis agreed
5 and advised us that he had the authority to agree to such
6 confidentiality. Sr. [redacted] also advised that no actions are taken
7 unless the victim is first notified. I told them that I wanted to
8 know if there were any other complaints against Fr. Chris and that I
9 wanted them to investigate my complaint. I also told them that I
10 wanted Fr. Chris removed from a parish with a girl's high school
11 because that was what had been promised to my mother many years ago.
12 We discussed the events at length and both Msgr. Loomis and Sr.
13 [redacted] took copious notes of our conversation. I brought the
14 photographs of Fr. Chris and me, the memorabilia items and other
15 postcards for them to look at, which they both did and took notes.

16 54. My husband asked how long the investigation would take and we
17 were told two to three weeks. I was offered counseling immediately
18 and was told to work with Sr. [redacted] to accommodate this. We were
19 told they would start an investigation and would speak to Fr. Chris
20 (Fr. Chris became a Monsignor sometime earlier), as well as Fr.
21 [redacted] Fr. [redacted], and [redacted]. They explained that [redacted]
22 was in poor health after a couple of strokes and may not be helpful
23 due to his physical and mental condition. They advised when their
24 investigation was complete, they would notify us of the outcome.
25 They advised me there were no other claims against Fr. Chris and
that if any claims did arise, they would advise me promptly.

Declaration of [redacted] - 17

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1 55. In the meantime, I contacted Sr. REDACTED regarding the counseling.
 2 Sr. REDACTED gave me the names of counselors who work for the
 3 Archdiocese. I wanted to go to a private psychologist and although
 4 Sr. REDACTED told me that was acceptable, I have never been able to
 5 find a psychologist willing to sign the Archdiocese agreement for
 6 treatment.

7 56. I have requested a copy of the therapist's agreement from Sr.
 8 REDACTED as well as from their attorney, REDACTED Esq., but I have
 9 not received the document. I have been informed and believe and
 10 thereon allege that the document requires, inter alia, that the
 11 therapist divulge the contents of the treatment with the Archdiocese
 12 which none of the private psychologists are willing to do. In
 13 addition, it is my information and believe that the document also
 14 requires to psychologist to separate all treatment billing between
 15 the Archdiocese and the patient, however, I am not privy to the
 16 exact nature of this requirement. The psychologists I have contacted
 17 are also unwilling to agree to that provision. I specifically
 18 wished to treat with REDACTED Ph.D. however, he could not come
 19 to a mutual agreement with the Archdiocese for my treatment.

20 57. On or about May 20, 2002, I contacted Sr. REDACTED, because I had
 21 heard nothing about the investigation. Sr. REDACTED advised that she
 22 did know the allegations were made to Fr. Chris and steps were being
 23 taken to interview the other witnesses. She said she would talk to
 24 REDACTED and give me a call in 2 or 3 days with an update.

25 58. On or about May 28, 2002, I contacted Sr. REDACTED again because I
 had not heard back from her. She told me that REDACTED spoke to

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1 the witnesses who "did not recall speaking to me". I asked her to
2 elaborate as to who said what and she refused, saying she knew
3 nothing else. Sr. REDACTED told me that there was nothing else they
4 could do without corroboration of my story. I asked for a meeting
5 with Fr. Chris and the witnesses to confront them. Sr. REDACTED
6 refused. Sr. REDACTED said the only way to corroborate my story was
7 to talk to my mother and she told me she knew I didn't want that to
8 happen. I reiterated that there had to be some other way to
9 corroborate my story, especially given the photographs, postcard and
10 other evidence I had, and she said there was not enough physical
11 evidence to prove inappropriate behavior. She would have to speak
12 to my mother.

13 59. That night, I told my parents that I went to the Archdiocese
14 about Fr. Chris. I explained what Sr. REDACTED had told me and that
15 they needed to speak to my mother to corroborate my claim. My mother
16 asked me if there was more physical activity than she thought, which
17 was just the one kiss. I told her yes. I have not gone into detail
18 with my parents because I do not want to hurt them even more. My
19 parents were very devastated that night and my mother cried for
20 three days afterwards.

21 60. My mother told me that she called and spoke to Sr. REDACTED that
22 same night after I left.

23 61. I called Sr. REDACTED the next day and she confirmed that she spoke
24 to my mother. She was sorry for upsetting them again. She told me
25 the investigation would now continue but that nothing would happen
until I was notified. She was to call me the next day.

Declaration of REDACTED

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1 62. I did not hear from Sr. [REDACTED]. The next thing I knew, I read
 2 the newspaper that Fr. Chris had been removed from his parish. Both
 3 my husband and I contacted Sr. [REDACTED], Msgr. Loomis and Msgr. Cox to
 4 find out what happened, why we were not notified earlier and why I
 5 had to see the information in the newspaper and on the television
 6 news when they had promised me complete confidentiality. We never
 7 received responses other than it was their normal course of action.

8 63. Within three days, two reporters from the Los Angeles Times and
 9 the Daily News contacted me - they refused to say who had given them
 10 my name but it is my information and belief that it was the
 11 Archdiocese that provided that information; there was no one else
 12 who had the information. I have never spoken to the press about
 13 this matter.

14 64. Approximately one month later, I was contacted at my home by the
 15 Los Angeles Police Department. They advised me that they received
 16 my name from the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

17 65. I have been informed by the Los Angeles Police Department and
 18 others that a prior victim of sexual abuse of Fr. Chris has come
 19 forward and made a formal claim against Fr. Chris. The Los Angeles
 20 Archdiocese continues to deny this information.

21 66. In addition to Fr. Chris' actions, the actions of the Los Angeles
 22 Archdiocese have caused not only tremendous grief and pain for me,
 23 but for my husband and family as well. I was devastated having to
 24 bring this matter to my parents again, after all they originally
 25 went through. I was devastated having to tell my husband about Fr.
 Chris and his actions. I have experienced sleeplessness and extreme

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anxiety trying to deal with the Archdiocese on the counseling and other issues. The Archdiocese staff has continually misrepresented and lied to me and my husband, simply to protect themselves without regard to our feelings. We were made promises that the Archdiocese went back on that had serious consequences to my family and me.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 8th day of January, 2003, at Los Angeles, California.

REDACTED

Declaration of REDACTED, mother of REDACTED
REDACTED January 7, 2003

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DECLARATION OF REDACTED

I, REDACTED declare:

1. The following facts are known by me personally, except to those matters which are specifically stated to be based on information and belief. If called as a witness, I would and could competently testify thereto.

2. My full name is REDACTED I am married to REDACTED We are the natural parents of REDACTED born REDACTED in San Diego, California. We presently reside at REDACTED REDACTED We have lived at this property from March 31, 1979 to the present.

3. Our prior address was REDACTED We lived in that property from in or about October 1971 through in or about March 1979.

4. In or about November 1964 we enrolled our daughter, REDACTED REDACTED (hereinafter REDACTED) in the second grade at Holy Family Grade School in Glendale, California. REDACTED attended Holy Family Grade School from 1964 through eighth grade graduation in June 1971. REDACTED then attended Holy Family Girl's High School in Glendale, California, from September 1971 through graduation in June 1975.

5. In or about July 1973, we met Fr. Christian Van Liefde (hereinafter "Fr. Chris") during a home Mass and luncheon we hosted for one of REDACTED High School groups. Fr. Chris was the Celebrant of the Mass. REDACTED had just turned 16 years old and it was the summer before her Junior year at Holy Family High School.

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1 6. Fr. Chris became a friend of the family, often eating dinner at our
2 home, spending time with our family, and enjoying other family
3 activities. Fr. Chris became a trusted family friend and confidant.
4 Fr. Chris told me that he considered our family very much like his
5 own family and often spoke of how he missed his family, who lived in
6 Mission Viejo, California. He told me that REDACTED was a very
7 special friend because she reminded him very much of his deceased
8 younger sister, also named REDACTED and that he thought of
9 REDACTED like his own sister.

10 7. On or about August 30, 1973, Fr. Chris, my husband REDACTED and
11 I went to dinner to the 1520 A.D. Restaurant in Los Angeles,
12 California to celebrate Fr. Chris' 26th birthday.

13 8. In the months following, Fr. Chris continued to visit our home
14 regularly, two to four times per week. On many occasions, Fr. Chris
15 would come over after saying the evening Mass to "unwind and relax",
16 some occasions he would come over for dinner. My husband and I gave
17 a key to our house to Fr. Chris so he could come over as he pleased
18 as he often spoke about the stressful life of a parish priest and
19 that it was nice to have a "retreat" away from the parish.

20 9. In February 1974, REDACTED attended the CCD Congress, a convention
21 for Catholic Catechism teachers to be held in Anaheim, CA. She
22 would be attending the convention with other friends from Holy
23 Family High School and Fr. Chris. I was concerned that REDACTED
24 would be at a convention alone for the first time, and Fr. Chris
25 assured me he would be there to watch over her and told us we could
trust him to take care of REDACTED

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1 10. In or about Valentines Day, 1974, Chris brought REDACTED a Tulip
2 plant and they went to a movie. In addition, Fr. Chris was staying
3 late watching television with REDACTED and talking, often staying
4 until 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. I was getting suspicious and concerned that
5 there was a relationship developing beyond friendship or that
6 REDACTED was developing a crush on Fr. Chris. I questioned REDACTED
7 and she denied any relationship other than friendship. In the next
8 day or two, I called Fr. Chris and asked him to come to our home
9 when REDACTED was at school so we could talk. I confronted Chris
10 about the relationship and asked if he had ever acted
11 inappropriately with REDACTED. Fr. Chris assured me he had never
12 acted inappropriately in any way, that he and REDACTED were just
13 friends and that she reminded him of his sister and felt towards
14 REDACTED like she was a sister. He reassured me not to worry, that
15 he would always act honorably and would always protect REDACTED I
16 told Fr. Chris that if I ever found out he was acting
17 inappropriately with REDACTED I would report him immediately to the
18 REDACTED and he assured me that would never happen. I told Fr.
19 Chris I was concerned that REDACTED especially because of her young,
20 vulnerable age, would develop a crush on him and Fr. Chris assured
21 me that he was aware this can happen and would make sure it did not
22 occur. Fr. Chris also promised me he would let me know if he felt
23 REDACTED was feeling anything more than friendship but did not feel
24 it was a problem. I told Fr. Chris I trusted him and because of his
25 age expected him to handle the situation properly as I knew the

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- 1 friendship between our family and Fr. Chris was very important to
2 him, to us and to REDACTED. He reassured me not to worry.
- 3 11. In or about late March 1974, Fr. Chris suggested to the family
4 one night that his younger brother, REDACTED bring REDACTED to her
5 junior prom in April. Fr. Chris thought REDACTED and REDACTED would have
6 fun together and thought it would be safer than REDACTED having a
7 stranger bring her to the prom. Fr. Chris offered to pay for REDACTED
8 tuxedo. My husband and I were very pleased that REDACTED would be in
9 safe hands and Fr. Chris repeatedly reassured us that his brother
10 would take good care of REDACTED.
- 11 12. In April 1974, Fr. Chris' brother, REDACTED took REDACTED
12 to her Junior prom.
- 13 13. In the following few months, through late Summer, Fr. Chris spent
14 more time at our house, as well as at my mother's house in Los
15 Angeles. REDACTED and Fr. Chris would spend many summer days in the
16 swimming pool at my mother's house. In addition, Fr. Chris was
17 spending more late nights in our living room with REDACTED talking
18 and watching television until 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning. On one
19 occasion, I awoke at 3:00 a.m. to find REDACTED and Fr. Chris in our
20 living room, REDACTED rubbing his back. They appeared to seem
21 "caught in the act" when I came in the living room. Fr. Chris did
22 not have a shirt on. They both jumped up and Fr. Chris explained
23 that he had a pulled muscle and REDACTED was trying to rub it out.
24 He apologized for waking me up and left abruptly.
- 25 14. In or about August 1974, I found a postcard Fr. Chris sent to
REDACTED while he was vacationing in the Sequoia's over the 4th of

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July. The postcard contained a comment that he missed the backrubs. I questioned REDACTED about this again and she told me that she rubbed his back at night because he told her he was very stressed from his parish priest duties and it helped him to relax. This concerned me greatly and I decided to speak to Fr. Chris again.

15. In or about late August 1974, I once again asked Fr. Chris over to the house when REDACTED was not home and I confronted Fr. Chris about their friendship, the late nights, the backrubs, etc. Fr. Chris assured me again there was no inappropriate behavior, he was "100% priest" and had no feelings for REDACTED other than a good friend and he loved her like a sister. He asked for our trust and assured me I had nothing to worry about. He assured me they were very close friends and affectionate only as a brother and sister would be.

16. In or about October 1974, REDACTED [REDACTED] and was at home for two weeks. Fr. Chris came to see REDACTED regularly during that period of time, often bringing her flowers or cards.

17. In or about late October to mid-November 1974, my husband awoke one night at 3:30 in the morning and looked in the living room from where he heard noises. My husband came back to bed and woke me up to tell me he saw Fr. Chris and REDACTED embraced and kissing. I went into the living room and found Fr. Chris and REDACTED sitting next to each other on the sofa. I asked Fr. Chris to leave immediately and that I would speak to him the next day. After Fr. Chris left, I asked REDACTED if Fr. Chris was kissing her. She

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replied "yes". I asked REDACTED if Fr. Chris kissed her like daddy kisses her and she said "no".

18. The next day I called Fr. Chris and asked him to come to my home so we could talk. Fr. Chris came over and I confronted him about the previous night, and his feelings about REDACTED. He cried and admitted what happened. Fr. Chris said he loved REDACTED and begged me not to report him to REDACTED. I told him he should ask for a transfer, or leave the priesthood altogether, but I did not want him to hurt REDACTED anymore. He assured me he would never be inappropriate towards REDACTED again and I trusted him. Fr. Chris said that it was a big mistake and would not happen ever again.

19. I told REDACTED that I confronted Fr. Chris. REDACTED was very angry with me because she wanted to continue the friendship with Fr. Chris. I told her I did not want to break up the friendship because I knew how important he was to her, and told her I did not want her to get hurt.

20. Fr. Chris occasionally still came over to visit the family and to visit REDACTED however I was suspicious of their relationship. In or about late December or early January, I called the Dean of Girl's at Holy Family High School, Sr. REDACTED. I told Sr. REDACTED about Fr. Chris, including the discovery of them kissing. Sr. REDACTED was very upset and apologetic and was very concerned about Sr. REDACTED advised me to immediately contact the Pastor of Holy Family Church, REDACTED and advise him of the situation. Sr. REDACTED explained that while she was very sorry, it

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1 was out of her jurisdiction and there was nothing she could do for
2 me but that she would pray about the situation.

3 21. On January 15, 1975, REDACTED at my request, came to my
4 home to visit with me while my son, who was quite ill, was being
5 transferred by ambulance from Glendale Memorial Hospital to St.
6 Joseph's Hospital. I told REDACTED about Fr. Chris' actions,
7 his inappropriate relationship and activity with REDACTED including
8 finding them kissing on the sofa. REDACTED told me he would
9 handle the situation personally, he would see that Fr. Chris was
10 transferred out of Holy Family immediately and assured me that Fr.
11 Chris would never bother REDACTED again. I told REDACTED that I
12 did not want Fr. Chris transferred to a Church with a girl's high
13 school and REDACTED agreed that he would not be transferred to
14 such a Parish. REDACTED told me that there was another
15 instance involving Fr. Chris but he did not elaborate on any
16 details. REDACTED assured me on multiple occasions during this
17 conversation that he would personally handle this matter.

18 22. I never saw or spoke to Fr. Chris again after this time.

19 23. In or about late May 2002, REDACTED came over to speak to her
20 father, REDACTED and me. She told us she had something to tell us that
21 she knew would be difficult for us to hear. REDACTED told us that
22 she had made a formal complaint to the Los Angeles Catholic
23 Archdiocese against Fr. Chris. REDACTED also told us that because
24 the Archdiocese did not believe her, they had requested to speak
25 with us to confirm what we knew and saw about that night they were
caught kissing. For the first time, I asked REDACTED if there was

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1 more physical activity than what we knew about and she replied,
2 "yes". I asked her to tell me everything that happened and she said
3 she did not want to hurt us anymore. REDACTED told us that they had
4 physical and sexual contact for approximately 18 to 20 months. In
5 addition, REDACTED advised us that it went on even after I spoke to
6 both Fr. Chris and REDACTED although for only a short period of
7 time. Both REDACTED and I were very upset at having our worst fears
8 come true as we had always trusted Fr. Chris and trusted that REDACTED
9 REDACTED would do as he promised. Finally, REDACTED told us that Fr.
10 Chris was, presently, at a Parish with a girl's high school.
11 REDACTED told us that she had gone to the Archdiocese before but did
12 not get any response and it was finally after finding out that Fr.
13 Chris was at a girl's high school parish, within 10 miles of where
14 she lived, that she felt compelled to go to the Archdiocese to have
15 Fr. Chris removed from his present parish. In addition, she wanted
16 to know if Fr. Chris had any other complaints of inappropriate
17 sexual conduct against him, as she came to find out was her right as
18 a victim.

19 24. REDACTED left and I immediately called Sr. REDACTED
20 REDACTED contact person at the Archdiocese. We were very upset and
21 looking for answers. Sr. REDACTED advised me that she needed to
22 confirm REDACTED allegations of inappropriate conduct by Fr. Chris.
23 Sr. REDACTED explained to me that because there were no witnesses or
24 other evidence, she had to corroborate REDACTED story by speaking
25 with us. I was appalled that they would distrust REDACTED claims
but I told Sr. REDACTED what I knew and what I had seen over 25 years

Declaration of REDACTED - 8

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1 ago to the best of my recollection. I told her about my fears and
 2 suspicions about Fr. Chris, my confrontations with Fr. Chris, and
 3 about his denials and then admittance of what had occurred. I told
 4 Sr. REDACTED about my conversation with REDACTED and with Sr.
 5 REDACTED I was quite upset and crying while speaking to Sr. REDACTED
 6 explaining it was the first I had heard that the inappropriate
 7 relationship had been going on since my daughter REDACTED was just 16
 8 years old and was shocked that we had been lied to about Fr. Chris'
 9 transfer (or lack of transfer), lack of discipline, and present
 10 whereabouts. Sr. REDACTED thanked me for my phone call, apologized
 11 for the pain and suffering our family was experiencing and offered
 12 counseling for my husband and me. I have not spoken to Sr. REDACTED
 13 or anyone else from the Archdiocese since that night.

14 25. Neither my husband nor I have been practicing Catholics since
 15 this happened to REDACTED. My husband and I placed our children in
 16 Catholic Schools because we believed they would be safer than in any
 17 other environment. My husband and I were very distraught especially
 18 since we had worked and sacrificed to send REDACTED to Catholic
 19 school and we felt we were lied to and betrayed by both Fr. Chris
 20 and the Catholic Church. We are very upset now to learn that the
 21 Church did not do as they promised us and furthermore, to see not
 22 only how this affected REDACTED when it happened, but how this is now
 23 affecting REDACTED. Our family has been devastated for a second time
 24 by these tragic and terrible events. Since speaking to Sr. REDACTED
 25 I have been consumed by thoughts of what happened so long ago, I
 have been consumed by guilt for having trusted the Church and Fr.

Declaration of REDACTED - 9

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Chris, which resulted in my daughter REDACTED being hurt, not once
but many times over.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of
California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this *7th*
day of January, 2003, at Glendale, California. *✓*
REDACTED

First report of the case to the Congregation for the
Doctrines of the Faith by Cardinal Mahony,
August 29, 2003, together with a listing of the selected
documentation accompanying the Cardinal's report



FILE

54

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
the Archbishop

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2241

August 29, 2003

His Eminence
Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
00120 Vatican City State

RE: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
Request for Dispensation in Accord with *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*

Your Eminence:

I am writing to seek a dispensation from prescription so that a canonical trial can proceed to examine allegations that Monsignor Christian Van Liefde violated his responsibility under canon 1395, §2 by engaging in sexual misconduct with minors. The allegations date back approximately thirty years. While the normal term of prescription is past, it is essential for the welfare of the Church that we conduct a full canonical trial in order to establish the facts and make a just decision in the face of these allegations. Let me provide some background with regard to Monsignor Van Liefde and the charges raised against him.

In May of 2002, we received an initial accusation that Monsignor Van Liefde had engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor. This information was brought forward by [REDACTED] the purported victim. In accord with canon 1717, my Vicar commenced a preliminary investigation and appointed Monsignor Richard Loomis as auditor.

When confronted with the accusation, Monsignor Van Liefde denied having engaged in any sort of sexual misconduct with anyone. Since that time, Monsignor Van Liefde has continued to insist that he is totally innocent. Given the furor then raging and the fact that the civil authorities had initiated a criminal investigation, Monsignor Van Liefde was asked to leave the parish and not engage in any public ministry pending the outcome of the investigation. He concurred. He remains the canonical pastor of St. Genevieve Parish, Panorama City, although the other priests assigned to that community have provided for the care of souls during Monsignor Van Liefde's absence. Monsignor Van Liefde had also been serving as Chaplain of the Los Angeles Fire Department. In accord with their own regulations, he was placed on a leave of absence from that responsibility.

Because I did not want to give occasion to a charge that the Church was in any way "interfering" with the investigation of law enforcement authorities, after its initial stages we placed our preliminary investigation in abeyance hoping that the civil authorities would either dismiss the

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Request for Dispensation from Prescription
Re: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
Page 2

case or file charges. Originally, I had envisioned that the investigation being conducted by law enforcement would be completed within a period of some three to six months, at which time we could resume the appropriate canonical process and make an ecclesiastical determination in the matter. Unfortunately, that was much too optimistic, and after its initial stages the canonical preliminary investigation has been in abeyance.

With the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court (*Marion Reynolds Stogner v. California*, 01-1757), it now appears that there will be no criminal prosecution of Monsignor van Liefde by the civil authorities. Thus, the primary obstacle that had prevented us from moving the canonical process forward has been removed.

In addition to the complaint and information she provided to the canonical auditor, the person who originally came forward eventually presented a sworn affidavit describing her contentions with a great deal of detail. This affidavit is included along with selected other materials.

Recently, a second woman has come forward claiming to have been the victim of sexual misconduct at the hands of Monsignor Van Liefde, also approximately thirty years ago. These new allegations remain vague in nature, since all we have at this point is the notice that she is joining the class action civil lawsuit that may be filed against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. We are in the process of trying to obtain additional information from her to be considered as part of a canonical trial, should the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith choose to dispense from the prescription and authorize us to conduct a judicial trial.

The evidence discovered during the preliminary investigation certainly meets the criteria of a "semblance of truth" and provides sufficient foundation to suspect that Monsignor Van Liefde may have sexually abused two minor girls in the years 1973-1976.

I am writing to seek dispensation of the prescription in order to permit a judicial trial of the allegations made against Monsignor Van Liefde. Given the publicity that the case has received, the prominence of Monsignor Van Liefde as Fire Department Chaplain, and the fact that there are two separate individuals who have lodged allegations against him, it is necessary that we undertake a full trial on the merits of the charges. Justice requires nothing less than a careful and considered determination being made in the canonical judicial forum.

Therefore, I hereby request that prescription be dispensed to enable an ecclesiastical trial on the two offenses of sexual misconduct with minors.

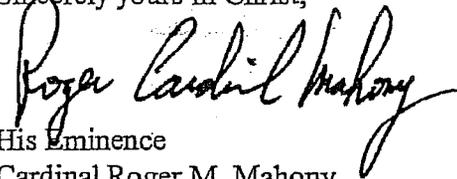
Out of fairness to both Monsignor Van Liefde and those who have accused him, I ask for a favorable and speedy reply to this request.

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*Request for Dispensation from Prescription
Re: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
Page 3*

Enclosed is selected documentation from Monsignor Van Liefde's file for your review. Thank you for your attention to this difficult and critically important matter. Please know that you are in my prayers. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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His Eminence
Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles

enclosures

**SELECTED DOCUMENTATION
Monsignor Christian Van Liefde**

- 1. Initial Letter of Complaint by REDACTED
- 2. Summary of Initial Interview with REDACTED
- 3. Summary of Meeting with Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
- 4. Notes of Auditor's Conversation with REDACTED
- 5. Summary of Assistance Minister on Contacts Regarding Mrs. REDACTED Complaint, with a summary of a telephone conversation with Mrs. REDACTED the mother of Mrs. REDACTED
- 6. Brief response of Monsignor Van Liefde to Mrs. REDACTED statement
- 7. Second Abuse Complaint, but no contact information given
- 8. Sworn Declaration of REDACTED

Interview of canonical auditor with Fr. REDACTED
December 17, 2003

CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED
INTERVIEW REPORT
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

INTERVIEW OF FR. REDACTED
REGARDING MSGR. CHRISTIAN VAN LIEFDE

Synopsis of December 17, 2003 Interview:

Fr. REDACTED does not know, and to his knowledge has had no contact with a person named REDACTED, or any members of her family. He has met Msgr. Chris Van Liefde on a few diocesan social occasions and knows he was the Los Angeles Fire Department Chaplin. He learned recently that Van Liefde had been charged by the Church for sexual misconduct. When REDACTED was Director of Media Affairs for the diocese, he dealt with the media and the Long Beach Police Department (LBPd) on issues regarding allegations and criminal charges against REDACTED. He did not know REDACTED personally. In his media capacity he had several phone calls from people upset about the charges against REDACTED and occasionally a few cried. He never asked any caller if they had an inappropriate relationship with REDACTED and never told anyone not to contact the LBPd. (See REDACTED Declaration (Decl). 1/7/03 – Page. 13. Para. 42, line 22-25 and P. 14. Para. 42, line- 1-4. He absolutely denied ever receiving a call from someone who related their sexual relationship with Fr. Chris Van Liefde. Decl. P.15 Par. 45- line 1-10. He adamantly denied telling a caller “if young girls would not throw themselves on priests there wouldn’t be a problem”, and”... that it was as much her fault as Chris and that she should confess her sins and forget about the past...”
He stated he would testify under oath and/or submit a signed statement or deposition regarding his denials of statements regarding him in REDACTED declaration.

On December 17 2003, Canonical Investigator, REDACTED interviewed Fr. REDACTED REDACTED at his current assignment, St Francis High School, 200 Foothill Blvd., La Canada, CA (phone- REDACTED) and he supplied the following information:

He first met Msgr. Christian “Chris” Van Liefde sometime between 1987 and 89, knew he was the Los Angeles Fire Department Chaplin and only met him at a few diocesan social functions. He read a fairly recent newspaper article stating that Van Liefde had been charged by the Church for sexual misconduct.

When REDACTED was Director of Media Affairs for the diocese, he dealt with the media and the Long Beach Police Department (LBPd) on issues regarding allegations and criminal charges against REDACTED. He did not know REDACTED; and dealt directly with REDACTED attorney. In his media capacity he had several phone calls from people upset about the charges against REDACTED and occasionally a few cried.

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He was advised that REDACTED also known as, REDACTED and REDACTED REDACTED stated she and her family met him when he ran the Bingo games at St. Francis High School in La Canada. He was informed that she signed a declaration under the penalty of perjury on January 7, 2003. This declaration states that she had an ongoing sexual relationship with then Father Van Liefe in the 1970's when she was 16 to 17 1/2 years of age and that she telephonically advised him (REDACTED) of the relationship in approximately 1994; that he (REDACTED) told her that "if young girls would not throw themselves on priests there wouldn't be a problem"; that "... it was as much her fault as Chris's and that she should confess her sins and forget about the past....".

REDACTED was also informed that REDACTED said that when she inquired about the whereabouts of REDACTED REDACTED asked her three times if she had an inappropriate relationship with REDACTED; and told her not contact the LBPD.

REDACTED REDACTED ran the St Francis High School bingo games weekly for approximately 13 years, with approximately 200 persons in attendance each week. He does not know, and to his knowledge has had no contact with a person named REDACTED or REDACTED, or any members of her family. They may have attended the games, but he does not know them personally.

REDACTED adamantly denied having the above conversations with REDACTED He has always prided himself on his pastoral outreach and would never treat anyone as harshly as REDACTED alleges in the disposition. If someone had informed him of a sexual relationship with a priest he would have obtained as much information as possible and immediately related it to the REDACTED Also, he would never informed anyone to withhold information from the police, and he would have immediately notified REDACTED attorney of the call.

REDACTED stated he would testify under oath and/or submit a signed statement or deposition regarding his denials of statements regarding him in REDACTED declaration.

Interview of canonical auditor with Detective ^{REDACTED}
^{REDACTED} LAPD, exploited children's unit,
December 18, 2003

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CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED
INTERVIEW REPORT
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

INTERVIEW OF DETECTIVE REDACTED
Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Exploited Children's Unit

On 12/18/03, Canonical Investigator, REDACTED telephonically contacted Detective REDACTED LAPD, Exploited Children's Unit, phone REDACTED

He was informed that when the Diocese was notified that the criminal investigation was closed, an internal (canonical) investigation was instituted with the ultimate goal of determining if Msgr. Van Lifde's actions warranted his removal from the priesthood.

REDACTED stated that had the statute of limitations not passed, the facts of the case against Msgr. Christian Van Lifde were sufficient to have sustained a criminal child molestation charges against him.

He advised there were two separate victims in the same general time frame. He confirmed that the first and most egregious case involved REDACTED REDACTED He would not provide the name of the second victim. He would neither confirm nor deny that the second victim was REDACTED

Interview of canonical auditor with Fr. ^{REDACTED}
REDACTED December 18, 2003

CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED
 INTERVIEW REPORT
 ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

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INTERVIEW OF FATHER REDACTED
 REGARDING MSGR. CHRISTIAN VAN LIEFDE

Synopsis of December 18, 2003 interview:

Fr. REDACTED does not know a person named REDACTED. He adamantly denied that a person named REDACTED or any other person has ever confided in him that she was having a sexual relationship with Fr. Van Liefde. Fr. REDACTED is willing to testify under oath that the statements made by REDACTED in her formal declaration regarding him are completely false.

On December 18, 2003, Canonical Investigator, REDACTED interviewed Father REDACTED at St. Justin Martyr Church 2050 Ball Rd., Anaheim, CA, REDACTED. His telephone number is REDACTED.

He supplied the following information:

He first met Christian Van Liefde in January 1975 at Holy Family Parish where Van Liefde was assigned as an assistant pastor and Fr. REDACTED REDACTED was a deacon at the time, serving at the parish and living in the rectory only on the weekends from January to May of 1975. He had very limited contact with Van Liefde and never had the opportunity to develop a friendship with him. He had no suspicion that Van Liefde was violating his vows in any way. He believed he has seen him only once or twice since 1975. He stated that one of Van Liefde's close friends during that time period was Fr. REDACTED (unsure of spelling) who was assigned to another parish in the diocese, name unrecalled.

He does not know any person named REDACTED also known as REDACTED or REDACTED REDACTED. He stated the name REDACTED "rings a very very distant bell", but he cannot associate the name with any parish assignment, and specifically cannot associate it with a Holy Family high school student, and in no way connects the name to REDACTED.

He was informed that in a formal Declaration signed under the penalty of perjury on January 7, 2003, REDACTED stated "In or about 1975 or 1976 I confided in Fr. REDACTED REDACTED at Holy Family Church about Fr. Chris and me. Fr. REDACTED told me to pray about it and make sure it did not happen again. The conversation happened just prior to his being ordained a priest. I attended Fr. REDACTED ordination although I have no recollection of the date".

He said her statement is completely untrue. This statement was never made to him by any person, using the name REDACTED or any other name. He stated he has never had anyone confide in him that they have had a sexual relationship with Fr. Van Liefde, or any other priest, and that if it was done as described above he would immediately notified someone in authority, probably the pastor. He is willing to testify under oath that the statements made by REDACTED REDACTED regarding him are completely false.

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He had very little contact with any Holy Family parishioners due to his short weekend type assignment. He does recall two young girls, possibly high school students gave him a bible (which he no longer has) for his priestly ordination, but has no recollection that REDACTED was one of the girls. He was ordained at St Alfonse's Parish in East Los Angeles and does not recall any Holy Family parishioners attending.

Interview canonical auditor with Fr. REDACTED
December 31, 2003

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CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED
INTERVIEW REPORT
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

INTERVIEW OF FATHER REDACTED)ACTED
REGARDING MSGR. CHRISTIAN VAN LIEFDE

On 12/31/03 Canonical Auditor REDACTED interviewed Father REDACTED at
REDACTED residence, REDACTED phone- REDACTED.
REDACTED and he supplied the following information:

He and Msgr. Christian Van Liefde met at St. John's Seminary and were later ordained in 1973. Van Liefde was the youngest member of the class. They maintained contact, especially when he was assigned at Holy Trinity and Van Liefde was assigned at Holy Family.

He had heard that Van Liefde was "under some type of scrutiny by the archdiocese", but is unaware of the details. He has not talked to Van Liefde since Van Liefde has been temporarily removed from ministry. At no time during their friendship has he ever had any reason to suspect that Van Liefde had violated his promise of chastity in any manner.

Interview canonical auditor with REDACTED
December 31, 2003

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**CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED
INTERVIEW REPORT
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT**

**INTERVIEW OF REDACTED
REGARDING MSGR. CHRISTIAN VAN LIEFDE**

Synopsis of interview:

REDACTED had no dealing with REDACTED or her mother REDACTED. He was never advised by Sister REDACTED or REDACTED that Fr. Van Liefde and REDACTED were engaged in an inappropriate relationship. He has never confronted Fr. Van Liefde on the abuse allegations by REDACTED or any other person.

On December 31, 2003, Canonical Investigator, REDACTED interviewed REDACTED at his residence located at Holy Family Parish, 209 Lomita Ave., Glendale, CA, phone - REDACTED

He supplied the following information:

He is REDACTED of Holy Family church. He became REDACTED at Holy Family Parish in 1974 and believes, but is not certain that Father Christian Van Liefde was assigned there when he arrived. He also believes Father REDACTED was assigned at the same time.

He has heard the name REDACTED does not know her personally and to his knowledge has had no personal dealings with her or any of her family members. He recalled a conversation he had with a former Holy Family High School student, REDACTED in early 2003, just prior to her death when they were discussing some of the Holy Family students and teachers. When the name REDACTED came up, REDACTED said "... REDACTED was a flake in school..". When asked what REDACTED meant by the word "flake", he believed REDACTED meant REDACTED was "weird and had a strange personality". From her statement he had the feeling that REDACTED did not like REDACTED but he does not know the reason. REDACTED sister, REDACTED was a Holy Family student at about the same time and may remember REDACTED REDACTED now lives in South Pasadena and her phone number is REDACTED

He was informed that in a formal Declaration signed under the penalty of perjury on January 7, 2003, REDACTED stated that in or about January 1975 her mother REDACTED informed him (REDACTED) that Father Van Liefde and REDACTED had a relationship that concerned her. REDACTED also stated that Van Liefde told her that REDACTED confronted him regarding the situation.

REDACTED was further advised that REDACTED in a similar formal declaration dated January 7, 2003 stated that in late December 1974 or early January 1975 she informed Sister REDACTED Dean Of Discipline, Holy Family High School that REDACTED, and Van

05

Liefde were having an inappropriate relationship and she discovered them kissing. Sister REDACTED told her it was out of her jurisdiction and suggested she inform REDACTED. On January 15, 1975 he, REDACTED came to her home to visit her ill son. At that time she told him that Van Liefde and REDACTED were having an inappropriate relationship and that she observed them kissing on the sofa in her home. She said that REDACTED informed her there was another similar incident involving Van Liefde, and he assured her that Van Liefde would not bother REDACTED again and that he would be transferred out of Holy Family to a parish with no girl's high school.

REDACTED said that the above statements in the declarations are untrue. He was never informed by REDACTED Sister REDACTED or anyone else that Van Liefde and REDACTED were engaged in a sexual relationship. He has absolutely no recall of this situation. At no time did he confront Fr. Van Liefde regarding the allegations by REDACTED or any other person.

He stated that sister REDACTED is deceased and suggested that Sister REDACTED REDACTED who was a teacher at Holy Family High School and is currently residing in the Holy Family convent be contacted at REDACTED

Interview of canonical auditor with Sister REDACTED
REDACTED and Sister REDACTED Holy
Family Parish, December 31, 2003

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CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED
INTERVIEW REPORT
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

INTERVIEW OF SISTER REDACTED, AND SISTER REDACTED
REDACTED HOLY FAMILY PARISH, REGARDING REDACTED

On 12/31/03 Canonical Auditor REDACTED while in the rectory of Holy Family parish, Glendale, CA, telephonically contacted REDACTED to arrange an interview. She agreed to be interviewed, but requested the interview be conducted telephonically. Sister resides at REDACTED Glendale and her phone number is REDACTED. She is assigned to Holy Family High School. She supplied the following information:

She was assigned to Holy Family High School as a teacher during the entire 1970's.

She was informed that REDACTED has submitted to the Archdiocese, a signed declaration under the penalty of perjury stating that in or about late December 1974 her mother REDACTED told Sr. REDACTED the Girl's Dean of Discipline that she was concerned about the close relationship between Father Chris Van Liefde and Sr. REDACTED stated that Sr. REDACTED is deceased and that Sr. REDACTED did not inform her of Mrs. REDACTED concern. She believes Sr. REDACTED would have informed the principal of this information. The principal at the time was Sr. REDACTED who is now retired and resides in the Mother House in Dubuque, Iowa, phone REDACTED

She knew and remembers REDACTED as an average student who seemed to get along well in school and was not a discipline problem. She does not recall any rumors regarding REDACTED having a relationship with a priest. She said that would have been not only scandalous, but against the law and would have been reported to law enforcement authorities. She did not know any other members of REDACTED family. She knows Fr. Van Liefde and had no reason to believe that he carried on a relationship with REDACTED or any other Holy Family student.

ADDENDUM:

On 12/31/03 Sister REDACTED was telephonically contacted by the Auditor at her residence in Dubuque, Iowa and after being informed of the above information, supplied the following:

In 1974 she was the principal at Holy Family High School and Sr. REDACTED who has since deceased, was a counselor who worked mainly with scholarship students. Sr. REDACTED did not inform her that REDACTED mother was concerned about REDACTED relationship with Father Van Liefde. Sr. said that had she been so informed she would have immediately notified REDACTED, pastor of Holy Family parish and would have met with Mrs. REDACTED and REDACTED to obtain all the details of the allegation. She had absolutely no reason to believe Father Van Liefde had a relationship with REDACTED or any other student at Holy Family High School.

Claimant Questionnaire of REDACTED
February 17, 2004

07

REDACTED

Claimant Questionnaire

REDACTED

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REDACTED

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Deposition of REDACTED father of REDACTED
November 16, 2006

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CERTIFIED COPY

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Coordinated Proceeding Special)
Title (Rule 1550(b)))
THE CLERGY CASES 1,)

JANE GM DOE,
Plaintiff,

vs.

DOE 1, et al.,
Defendants.

No. BC296808

DEPOSITION OF REDACTED

Thursday, November 16, 2006

Jonnell Agnew & Associates

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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Coordinated Proceeding Special)
Title (Rule 1550(b)))
THE CLERGY CASES 1,)

JANE GM DOE,)
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
DOE 1, et al.,)
Defendants.)

No. BC296808

DEPOSITION OF REDACTED , taken on behalf of
the Plaintiff, at 55 South Lake Avenue, Suite 550,
Pasadena, California, commencing at 11:19 a.m., on
Thursday, November 16, 2006, pursuant to Notice,
before REDACTED a Certified
Shorthand Reporter in and for the County of
Los Angeles, State of California.

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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APPEARANCES:

REDACTED

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I N D E X

<u>WITNESS</u>	<u>EXAMINATION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
REDACTED	By Mr. REDACTED	6
	By Mr.	34
	By Mr.	41

E X H I B I T S

None.

QUESTIONS INSTRUCTED NOT TO ANSWER

None.

INFORMATION REQUESTED

None.

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

1 PASADENA, CALIFORNIA; THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2006

2 11:19 A.M.

3

4 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: My name is REDACTED

5 REDACTED

your videographer, and I represent Jonnell

11:19:32AM

6 Agnew and Associates in Pasadena, California. I'm a
7 notary public, and I am not financially interested in

8 this action, nor am I a relative or employee of any
9 attorney or any of the parties. The date is

10 November 16th, 2006. Excuse me. The time is

11:19:45AM

11 10:19 a.m. This deposition is taking place at

12 55 South Lake Avenue, Suite 550, Pasadena, California

13 91101. The case number is BC296808, in the County of

14 Los Angeles, entitled Jane Doe versus Doe 1, et al.

15 This deposition is being taken on behalf of the

11:20:13AM

16 plaintiff. This begins Tape No. 1 of the Video

17 Deposition of REDACTED. The court reporter is

18 REDACTED

19 Will counsel, please, give their appearances

20 for the record

11:20:25AM

21 REDACTED My name is REDACTED

22 REDACTED

I'm counsel of record for

23 Plaintiff Jane GM Doe and counsel for the witness,

24 REDACTED

25 REDACTED I'm REDACTED of

11:20:35AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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REDACTED

on behalf of the

Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

REDACTED

REDACTED also for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles

and defense liaison counsel.

11:20:46AM

THE VIDEOGRAPHER: Would the court reporter,
please, administer the oath.

REDACTED
REDACTED

called as a witness by and on behalf of
the Plaintiff, being first duly sworn,
was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. [REDACTED]:

Q. Okay. Would you state your full name for
the record, please.

A. My name?

Q. Yes.

A. REDACTED

11:21:09AM

Q. How do you spell that?

A. REDACTED Last name is REDACTED

Q. And Mr. REDACTED how old are you?

A. 81. I'll be 82 in a month.

Q. Mr. REDACTED have you ever had your deposition

11:21:26AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 taken before?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Let me tell you some of the procedures that
4 will govern today so that we don't have any confusion
5 about what's happening. This is, basically, a
6 question-and-answer session. I'll start by asking
7 questions, and when I'm done with my questions and
8 you're done with your answers to my questions, other
9 counsel will have an opportunity to ask questions as
10 well. Your role is, basically, to listen carefully
11 to the questions and give your answers to those
12 questions as best you can.

11:21:37AM

11:21:49AM

13 Do you understand that?

14 A. I understand that.

15 Q. Now, we'll have to follow certain
16 conventions today in our proceeding because we have a
17 court reporter present, and we probably have to
18 govern ourselves differently in our conversation than
19 we would if there were no court reporter present.
20 The court reporter can only take down one person
21 speaking at a time. And as a result, it will be
22 important for you to allow me to complete my question
23 before you give your answer.

11:22:00AM

11:22:17AM

24 Do you understand that?

25 A. I understand that.

11:22:28AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 Q. Also, if I ask a question and one of the
2 attorneys decides to interpose an objection, you
3 should wait until you answer because if you're
4 answering at the same time that they're objecting,
5 the court reporter can't take that down. Is that
6 clear?

11:22:44AM

7 A. I understand, yes.

8 Q. Now, one of the things that will happen is
9 that the questions that you're asked today, together
10 with your answers, will be put into a booklet form.
11 And one of the other reasons that we want everyone to
12 speak in turn is so that our booklet shows a clear
13 question followed by a clear answer followed by
14 another clear question. Is that clear?

11:22:52AM

15 A. That's clear.

11:23:08AM

16 Q. Okay. Now, again, because we have a court
17 reporter who is trying to write down what is being
18 said, it's very important that we use verbal
19 responses and not body language as we would in every
20 day conversation. So nods of the head, shrugs of the
21 shoulders, the terms "uh-huh" and "huh-uh" don't
22 translate well to a written transcript. So if you
23 use body language in your response, I or some other
24 attorney may ask you to clarify that response.

11:23:22AM

25 Do you understand?

11:23:37AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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A. I understand.
Q. Okay. Now, you also have some hearing loss, and I'm trying to speak up so that you can hear what I'm saying. At this point can you clearly understand my questions?

11:23:48AM

A. I can hear you fine.

Q. Okay. Now, you've been given an oath. And what that oath means is that your testimony today has the same solemn force and effect as if you were testifying in a court of law.

11:24:02AM

Do you understand that?

A. I understand that.

Q. Now, we are not in the court house, and there is no judge here, but the same penalties of perjury apply to your testimony as would apply if you were testifying in a courtroom.

11:24:10AM

Is that understood?

A. Understood.

Q. Okay. Now, I may ask you for information about events that occurred a long time ago. Your memory of those events may not be perfect. Okay? And so because of that, I may ask you how long ago something happened, or I may ask you how many times something happened, or how many people were in the room when something happened, and you may not know

11:24:22AM

11:24:40AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 exactly the answer to those questions, but you must
2 keep in mind that we weren't there when those things
3 happened. And if we ask how long ago, we may not
4 know if it was yesterday or 35 years ago. Okay? So
5 even though you don't know exactly, if you have some
6 information you can give us what's known as an
7 estimate. Okay?

11:24:58AM

8 A. I understand.

9 Q. But we don't want you to guess. And there's
10 a difference between a guess and an estimate. If I
11 asked you about the length of this table that you're
12 sitting at, you could give me an estimate because
13 although you have not measured it, you can see it.
14 But if I asked you the length of the table in an
15 office in which you've never been, that would be a
16 guess. We don't want guesses. But you can give us
17 estimates, even if your memory isn't perfect, about
18 how long ago something was or how big something was
19 or how many times something happened.

11:25:07AM

20 Is that clear?

11:25:34AM

21 A. Uh-huh, yes.

22 Q. Yes. Okay. As I mentioned earlier, it may
23 happen that someone will object to one of my
24 questions, or maybe I'll object to one of the
25 questions posed by another attorney, and you may

11:25:46AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 wonder what you are supposed to do if there's an
2 objection. What you should do is try to remember
3 what the question was. The objection -- there's no
4 one here to rule on that objection. There's no judge
5 here. Okay? So your job is to try and remember what
6 the question was. Now, sometimes, if counsel objects
7 to my question, I may feel that the objection is well
8 taken, and I may choose to rephrase the question.
9 Wait for me to rephrase the question, and then answer
10 the next question. The only time you shouldn't
11 answer a question is if you are instructed not to
12 answer a question.

11:26:04AM

11:26:16AM

13 Do you understand that?

14 A. I understand that.

15 Q. Okay. And then if you are instructed not to
16 answer a question, it's up to you. You can choose to
17 follow that instruction or not follow that
18 instruction.

11:26:26AM

19 Do you understand that?

20 A. I understand that.

11:26:34AM

21 Q. Okay. Now, when this proceeding comes out
22 in booklet form, you're going to have the opportunity
23 to make any corrections to your answers that you deem
24 necessary. You can't change my questions, and you
25 can't change other things, but you can change your

11:26:48AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 answers. But you must know that if you make changes
2 like that people can comment on those changes.

3 A. Uh-huh.

4 Q. Now, if the court reporter wrote down that
5 you are now 82 instead of 81 going on 82, and you
6 made that change, no one would care. Okay? But if
7 you were talking about something that was very
8 meaningful in this case, and then you changed your
9 testimony in an important way, there might be a
10 comment made on that change of testimony to suggest
11 that maybe you were not being truthful at one time or
12 another time.

11:27:00AM

11:27:15AM

13 Do you understand that?

14 A. I understand that.

15 Q. Okay. So the best way for you to proceed is
16 to answer the questions as best you can today instead
17 of just throwing some answer out there with the idea
18 that I'll just change it later.

11:27:23AM

19 Do you understand that?

20 A. Uh-huh, I understand that.

11:27:36AM

21 Q. Because people could comment on that.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. And the last thing I want to ask
24 you as a preliminary is, whether there's anything in
25 your mental, physical or emotional condition today

11:27:45AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 that would make today a bad day to go forward for any
2 reason?

3 A. No. I have a lot of work ahead of me at the
4 REDACTED that I belong to.

5 Q. Okay.

11:27:58AM

6 A. But I'm putting it off right now.

7 Q. Okay. But you've been able to understand
8 what I'm saying to you, and you don't feel so upset
9 that you're -- that it would interfere --

10 A. No.

11:28:09AM

11 Q. -- with your ability to recall or narrate or
12 give answers to questions?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Everything is fine.

11:28:18AM

16 Q. Okay. Mr. REDACTED are you married?

17 A. Married.

18 Q. And who is your wife?

19 A. REDACTED

20 Q. And how long have the two of you been
21 married?

11:28:25AM

22 A. We've been married 58 years.

23 Q. Do you and REDACTED have children?

24 A. Two.

25 Q. And what are their names?

11:28:33AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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A. REDACTED

Q. Okay. Now, do you understand that REDACTED is a claimant in a series of cases brought against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles alleging certain forms of abuse by members of the clergy?

11:28:50AM

A. I learned that from her.

Q. Okay. And you know that she is a claimant?

A. I know.

Q. Okay. And do you understand that the questions you're being asked today pertain to the case that she has brought in that series of cases?

11:28:59AM

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. Now, your children they are named REDACTED Did they attend Catholic schools when they were young?

11:29:17AM

A. Both of them.

Q. Okay. Let's take REDACTED first. Where did REDACTED go to school?

A. When we lived in San Diego, we were, roughly, three blocks away from the Catholic church school, and we started them in there right from the beginning.

11:29:25AM

Q. Okay.

A. Never went to public school.

Q. At some point did you move away from

11:29:35AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 San Diego into the -- into the Southern California --
2 another area?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Where did you move?

5 A. Left San Diego, went to work REDACTED

11:29:43AM

REDACTED

9 Q. Once you moved to Los Angeles, where did you
10 make your home?

11:29:59AM

11 A. In -- REDACTED

REDACTED

14 Q. And how long did you live in the home in
15 Eagle Rock?

11:30:13AM

16 A. I would say, roughly -- has to be
17 78 years -- seven to eight years somewhere.

18 Q. Now, during that period of seven to eight
19 years when you and your family lived in Eagle Rock,
20 did REDACTED attend Catholic School?

11:30:31AM

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What school did he attend at that time?

23 A. Holy Family.

24 Q. And where is that located?

25 A. In Glendale.

11:30:38AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 Q. Did your daughter attend Catholic school
2 during that same period of time when you occupied
3 that home?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And what school did your daughter attend? 11:30:45AM

6 A. Holy Family.

7 Q. Okay. Was there a reason that you sent your
8 daughter to Catholic school?

9 A. Very good reason.

10 Q. What were those -- what reason did you have 11:30:58AM
11 for doing that?

12 A. For her education, her discipline, her
13 understanding of the religion and her safety.

14 Q. Now, for most of her time at Holy Family,
15 were you satisfied that your selection had been a 11:31:17AM
16 good one?

17 A. I was very happy with it.

18 Q. Okay. During the time that REDACTED was a
19 student at Holy Family, did your family attend
20 religious services such as Mass? 11:31:37AM

21 A. Not always, no.

22 Q. Okay. But periodically?

23 A. Periodically, yes.

24 Q. Now, between you, your wife, your son REDACTED
25 and your daughter REDACTED, who would you classify as 11:31:48AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 being the most religious of that group during that
2 time that you were living in Eagle Rock?

3 A. REDACTED

4 Q. How would you describe her sense of
5 religion?

11:32:04AM

6 A. Very dedicated and loved it, enjoyed it.
7 She met such good people that felt the same way, and
8 they got along so good, and they kind of enjoyed
9 their religion and their teaching.

10 Q. Did REDACTED ever say anything about maybe
11 some day wanting to be a nun?

11:32:29AM

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. How old was she when she mentioned something
14 like that?

15 A. Oh, maybe around 10, 12, 14, somewhere in
16 that area.

11:32:40AM

17 Q. Was she a student at Holy Family at that
18 time?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did you ever meet a priest by the name of
21 Father Van Liefde?

11:32:57AM

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What circumstances lead to that first
24 meeting between you and Father Van Liefde?

25 A. My daughter and my wife organized to have a

11:33:10AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 Mass in our backyard, which we had a huge -- quite
2 large yard, and they wanted to have a Mass there with
3 all of her girlfriends that she had in school and
4 some of the nuns.

5 Q. Now, did you understand Father Van Liefde to 11:33:28AM
6 have some association with Holy Family?

7 A. I understand he was a priest there.

8 Q. Okay. And do you recall or have any
9 recollection about what time of year this Mass was?

10 A. Well, I can just say that it was when 11:33:46AM
11 REDACTED turned, I think -- I believe, 16 years old
12 when they had the Mass. In the early spring, I
13 guess, in March.

14 Q. Now, did you have any understanding as to
15 whether Father Van Liefde had been at Holy Family for 11:34:07AM
16 a long time when this Mass occurred or whether he was
17 new to Holy Family at that time?

18 A. He was more or less new to the family. I
19 imagine REDACTED knew him in school, but I didn't know
20 him until the Mass. 11:34:27AM

21 Q. Okay. And there was a Mass conducted at
22 your home then?

23 A. In the backyard.

24 Q. Who conducted the Mass?

25 A. Father. 11:34:35AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 Q. Father Van Liefde?

2 A. Yeah, Chris.

3 Q. Okay. Had you ever had a Mass conducted at
4 your home before that?

5 A. Never.

11:34:45AM

6 Q. Has a Mass ever been conducted at your home
7 since that time?

8 A. No.

9 Q. And approximately how many people were
10 there?

11:34:52AM

11 A. I think there was -- there was about three
12 or four nuns, and I would say a good half a dozen or
13 more children, friends of REDACTED

14 Q. Now, who, to your knowledge, were the moving
15 force behind the organization of that Mass at your
16 home? I mean, was it you?

11:35:07AM

17 A. No.

18 Q. Do you know if your daughter played a role
19 in that?

20 A. I think she played a role in it, her and my
21 wife.

11:35:16AM

22 Q. Okay. And you got the opportunity to meet
23 Father Van Liefde at that time?

24 A. That day.

25 Q. Okay. Now, Father Van Liefde, approximately

11:35:24AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 how old did you judge him to be when you first met
2 him?

3 A. Well, I would say my opinion of him being
4 around 30 years old.

5 Q. That's what you thought at the time?

11:35:39AM

6 A. That's what I thought at the time.

7 Q. Okay. Now, after that Mass, did Father
8 Van Liefde ever return to your home as a visitor?

9 A. Oh, many times.

10 Q. Okay. How did that develop? In other
11 words, how did it come to pass that he became a
12 frequent visitor or periodic visitor at your home?

11:35:54AM

13 A. He came over because my wife would very --
14 enjoyed his company, and REDACTED And he felt like
15 he was part of the family, and they used to do a lot
16 of talking all the three of them. I spent most of my
17 time at work. There were days that he was there that
18 I wasn't, which I didn't -- excuse me -- worry about
19 because I felt comfortable him being at the house.

11:36:14AM

20 Q. Now, for how long a period of time was
21 Father Van Liefde a periodic or frequent visitor to
22 your home? In other words, what was the period of
23 time during which that occurred?

11:36:40AM

24 A. Three or four times a week.

25 Q. Okay. But, in other words, for a period of

11:36:59AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 six months? For a period of a year? For two years,
2 three years? Four years? Five years? How long did
3 that last, would you say?

4 A. I'm trying to think.

5 Q. This is one of those things where you can
6 estimate. You don't have to know exactly.

11:37:20AM

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. But we went there.

9 A. Oh, I would say at least a year.

10 Q. And during that period of time, how often do
11 you think he visited the home?

11:37:31AM

12 A. Three or four times a week.

13 Q. Do you ever recall the family having some
14 kind of social interaction with Father Van Liefde
15 outside of the home?

11:37:46AM

16 A. I don't understand your question.

17 Q. Okay. In other words, did you and
18 your family ever go out someplace else with
19 Father Van Liefde?

20 A. I took him to dinner for his 26th birthday,
21 my wife and REDACTED and me, and to -- kind of like a
22 celebration for him.

11:37:56AM

23 Q. Okay. And how long had you known
24 Father Van Liefde before you and your family took
25 him out to dinner for his birthday?

11:38:13AM

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

1 A. Well, I would estimate six months.

2 Q. Okay. And were there -- now, did you pay
3 for that dinner?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Was that in the nature of a present to him? 11:38:25AM

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. For his birthday?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Was any other present given to him --

10 A. Yes. 11:38:29AM

11 Q. -- for that birthday?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Who else gave him a present?

14 A. REDACTED

15 Q. What present did REDACTED give him? 11:38:36AM

16 A. She made a vest -- a vestment they call
17 it -- for him. She made it, sewed it and -- which I
18 knew she was making before she gave it to him, and
19 she presented it to him.

20 Q. Did you know your daughter to have sewing 11:38:54AM
21 skills at that point in her life?

22 A. Of sewing?

23 Q. Yeah.

24 A. Yes, because my wife does quite a bit of it,
25 and she kind of taught her, and REDACTED picked it up 11:39:04AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 real good.

2 Q. These vestments that were given to
3 Father Van Liefde, did your daughter hand sew them?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Had she ever done that for any other priest? 11:39:16AM

6 A. No.

7 Q. Had she ever given any kind of gift, to your
8 knowledge, to any other priest?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Now, in terms of Father Van Liefde coming 11:39:26AM
11 over to your home, would he come as a dinner guest?

12 A. That is --

13 Q. Would he come as a dinner guest?

14 A. Many times, yes --

15 Q. Okay. 11:39:40AM

16 A. -- he came over for dinner.

17 Q. Was there any kind of standing arrangement
18 that way? In other words, was he -- did he have any
19 kind of open invitation to come over?

20 A. More or less, he had an open invitation. He 11:39:52AM

21 could just drop in at any time. If we were having
22 dinner, he sat down and had dinner, or he was invited
23 to say -- if we had something special going next week
24 or something, Come to dinner.

25 Q. Okay. Did your wife encourage him to come 11:40:07AM

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

1 over whenever he felt like it?

2 A. She told him that he was welcome to come.

3 Q. Okay. But in terms of encouraging him to
4 visit the house, was she more active than you were?

5 A. Definitely.

11:40:22AM

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did REDACTED seem to enjoy having him over at
9 the house?

10 A. Yeah, they -- three of them got along just
11 fine. They done a lot of talking. They had an
12 enjoyable time when he was there.

11:40:32AM

13 Q. Now, during this period when he was a
14 frequent visitor at the home, were you holding a job?

15 A. I was working quite a few hours every day,
16 almost six, seven days a week.

11:40:48AM

17 Q. To your knowledge, were there times that
18 Father Van Liefde came to your home when you weren't
19 there?

20 A. Yes.

11:41:02AM

21 Q. In other words, were you aware of that being
22 a practice?

23 A. Well, there was times that he was there I
24 didn't know it.

25 Q. Okay. Was that okay with you?

11:41:08AM

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

1 A. Fine.

2 Q. Okay. How early in the morning did you
3 typically go to work during that year?

4 A. I usually woke up at 5:00. By the time I
5 left the house, 6:00. I had to be to work by at
6 least 6:30, 7:00 o'clock to the start of the new
7 shift. I wanted to know what happening, the night
8 shift did and where we were.

11:41:23AM

9 Q. Okay. And what time did you typically go to
10 bed to wake up that early?

11:41:37AM

11 A. Sometimes 8:30, 9:00.

12 Q. Now, did you sometimes go to bed when Father
13 Van Liefde was still at your home?

14 A. Oh, yes, many times.

15 Q. Did you feel comfortable with going to bed
16 and leaving him in the presence of your family?

11:41:50AM

17 A. Yes, I was comfortable.

18 Q. Okay. Did there come a time when
19 Father Van Liefde became unwelcome in your home?

20 A. Oh, yes.

11:42:14AM

21 Q. What lead to that?

22 A. I woke up one night about 2:00, 3:00 in the
23 morning, had to go to the bathroom, turned on my
24 night light and walked out of the hall, started for
25 the bathroom but I seen a light inside the living

11:42:33AM

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

1 room. I couldn't figure what the light was on.
2 There wasn't a light. It was just bright in the
3 living room.

4 Q. Did you investigate?

5 A. I walked over to it and I seen the
6 television was on, and I peeked around the corner
7 where our sofa was, and he was laying down there on
8 the sofa with his shirt open and with REDACTED on her
9 knee with her arms around him and his arm around her
10 kissing her.

11:42:45AM

11:43:06AM

11 Q. Okay. Let's go back. The night that this
12 occurred, what -- what time was it when -- when you
13 saw what you just described?

14 A. When I seen this?

15 Q. Yes.

11:43:20AM

16 A. I would say some time around 3:00 o'clock in
17 the morning.

18 Q. Now, had Father Van Liefde been a visitor at
19 your home before you went to bed that night?

20 A. He was there when I went to bed, yes.

11:43:33AM

21 Q. Okay. And then you woke up and you found,
22 after you investigated, that he was still there?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. When you went to go to the bathroom,
25 what drew you into the living room to investigate?

11:43:48AM

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A. The light, the brightness in the living room.

Q. Okay. What kind --

A. It wasn't completely black.

Q. What kind of light was it?

A. It was shining light from the television.

Q. Now, other than the television, were there any other lights on that you remember?

A. No, that I remember.

Q. Okay. When you got to a point where you can see Father Van Liefde and your daughter, was there enough light for you to see clearly?

A. Very clearly, what I seen.

Q. How long would you estimate that you stayed in position and -- and observed what you've described, Father Van Liefde kissing your daughter?

A. Maybe four or five, six seconds.

Q. Now, I notice that you're wearing glasses. Did you wear glasses at that time in your life?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you wearing your glasses at the time that you got up to go down the hall to go to the bathroom?

A. No.

Q. Can you describe the quality of your vision

11:44:00AM

11:44:12AM

11:44:30AM

11:44:45AM

11:44:54AM

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

1 at that time without your glasses?

2 A. I can see very good.

3 Q. Okay. In other words, do you have any
4 question as to whether your eyes might be playing
5 tricks on you because you weren't wearing your
6 glasses?

11:45:10AM

7 A. What I seen is what I just said. I seen him
8 laying there, very clearly, and her and him
9 smooching, making love or whatever you want to call
10 it, kissing.

11:45:25AM

11 Q. Okay. Now, the kisses that you saw --
12 again, we weren't there. A kiss can be a civil
13 greeting, or a kiss can be something more. For
14 someone who wasn't there, are you able to give a
15 description of how you interpreted the kissing that
16 you were seeing?

11:45:42AM

17 A. Yes, a very passionate kiss.

18 Q. Did you have any kind of emotional reaction
19 to what you saw?

20 A. Well, I almost went in shock, and I just
21 couldn't hardly wait to get to the wife to get him
22 out of there. And then when I did, I walked back to
23 the bedroom, and I woke her up and she says, "What's
24 the matter?"

11:45:56AM

25 And I says, "Get that son of a bitch out of

11:46:10AM

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

1 this house or I'll kill him."

2 Q. Did you tell your wife what you had seen and
3 why you were upset?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What did you tell her?

11:46:20AM

6 A. That he and REDACTED were kissing on the bed,
7 on the sofa.

8 Q. What did your wife do next that you
9 observed?

10 A. She told me to be calm and she walked out,
11 and I went into the rest room.

11:46:32AM

12 Q. Okay. Did you later emerge from the rest
13 room?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. What did you observe after you came out of
16 the rest room?

11:46:45AM

17 A. He was gone.

18 Q. Now, after you saw this episode, did you
19 form any opinions as to whether or not the church
20 should be told about what you had seen?

11:47:05AM

21 A. When me and my wife went back into the
22 bedroom, I told her -- I says, "I want you to go see
23 the head priest of that school, and I want him out of
24 this house and never to be seen again." And she
25 agreed wholeheartedly that she would handle it. And

11:47:26AM

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

1 I said, "Fine."

2 Q. At that point did you think you had an
3 agreement between you and your wife that Father Van
4 Liefde's conduct would be reported to the head priest
5 at Holy Family?

11:47:41AM

6 A. I was very happy, and I knew she would do
7 it.

8 Q. And did you know at that time who the head
9 priest was?

10 A. Yes.

11:47:50AM

11 Q. Who was that?

12 A. REDACTED

13 Q. Now, did a time later come that your wife
14 reported that she had made -- that she had talked to
15 Dr. REDACTED about that episode?

11:48:02AM

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you feel, then, that the agreement that
18 you made had been carried out?

19 A. Very happy with it.

20 Q. Okay. Now, we should put a time frame on
21 this episode. Can you tell me approximately when you
22 walked in on Father Van Liefde and your daughter?

11:48:11AM

23 A. The time frame?

24 Q. Yeah. In other words, can you remember a
25 month? Can you remember a year?

11:48:31AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 A. No. I think it was in 19- -- I'm pretty
2 sure it was in the year 1974.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. And I think, if I try to recall, it was just
5 before REDACTED

11:48:55AM

6 Q. Okay. I want to talk to you about that.
7 You mentioned your son REDACTED REDACTED

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you remember the time frame of that?

10 A. December 29th. And I believe that was 1974.

11:49:10AM

11 Q. Okay. So was it a matter of days, perhaps
12 weeks before, that you walked in on Father Chris
13 Van Liefde and your daughter?

14 A. I would say my estimate is two to three
15 weeks before.

11:49:32AM

16 Q. Okay. What happened to REDACTED
17 REDACTED

18 A. He had REDACTED

19 Q. Was he hospitalized?

20 A. REDACTED

11:49:45AM

21 Q. What condition did you understand him to be
22 in when he was at REDACTED

23 A. He had a ten percent chance of living.

24 Q. Was there any discussion of transferring him
25 to another hospital?

11:50:01AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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REDACTED

:50:24AM

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:50:37AM

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Q. Now, during the time REDACTED was in REDACTED
 REDACTED Hospital, through the time that he was
 transferred to another hospital, did your family, to
 your knowledge, ask for Father Van Liefde's
 assistance?

11:51:01AM

A. No.

Q. Why not?

A. I had no use for the man.

Q. Did you eventually come to learn that your
 family had sought assistance from someone else at
 Holy Family during that time?

11:51:14AM

A. I recollect my wife talking to Father
 REDACTED

Q. Now, before your -- before your discovery of

11:51:29AM

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

1 Father Van Liefde and your daughter, was your
2 family's closest relationship with any priest the
3 relationship with Father Van Liefde?

4 A. Was the relationship good?

5 Q. Yeah. In other words, how would you compare 11:51:45AM
6 the relationship that your family had to Father -- or
7 REDACTED REDACTED compared to the relationship you
8 had with Father Van Liefde before you discovered him
9 with your daughter?

10 A. They were much closer to Chris Liefde, 11:52:00AM
11 Father. They wanted him to come over all the time.

12 Q. Okay. To your knowledge, had Father
13 REDACTED -- during that same period that Father
14 Van Liefde was a frequent visitor, had Father REDACTED
15 even ever been to your home? 11:52:22AM

16 A. No.
17 REDACTED Okay. I don't think I have
18 anything further, gentlemen.

19 REDACTED do you mind if we take a
20 break for a minute? 11:52:31AM

21 REDACTED Absolutely. That's fine.

22 REDACTED Then we'll get our ducks in a
23 row before we start.

24 F REDACTED You bet. Let's go off the
25 record. 11:52:35AM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 10:51 a.m.

2 We are now going off the record.

3 (Recess.)

4 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 10:59 a.m.

5 We are now going back on the record.

12:00:09PM

6

7

EXAMINATION

8 BY REDACTED

9 Q. Good morning, Mr. REDACTED

10 A. Good morning.

12:00:14PM

11 Q. My name is REDACTED I represent the
12 Archdiocese of Los Angeles. I'm going to ask you a
13 few questions about the subject matter you've been
14 testifying about. If you don't understand one of my
15 questions, please tell me and I'll repeat it or I'll
16 rephrase it.

12:00:28PM

17 A. Okay.

18 Q. And if you're having trouble hearing me,
19 I'll speak up. All right?

20 A. Thank you.

12:00:39PM

21 Q. Did you ever personally tell anyone at Holy
22 Family about what you witnessed that night with
23 Father Van Liefde and REDACTED

24 A. Did I say anything to anybody at the church
25 or Holy Family myself?

12:00:54PM

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. Personally? No. My wife did.

3 Q. Okay. And did you ever personally tell
4 anyone that you believed was associated with the
5 Archdiocese of Los Angeles about what you saw?

12:01:05PM

6 A. No.

7 Q. Okay. Did you ever speak to Father
8 Van Liefde after that night?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Okay. Did you ever see Father Van Liefde
11 together in REDACTED presence after that night?

12:01:16PM

12 A. No.

13 Q. Did you ever know of Father Van Liefde
14 returning to your home after that night?

15 A. Only what my wife told me.

12:01:34PM

16 Q. What did she tell you?

17 A. He came over to apologize and -- to my wife
18 and everything, and that was about it.

19 Q. Do you know approximately when that was,
20 when he --

12:01:48PM

21 A. No.

22 Q. Okay. But your wife told you about that?

23 A. Yes.

24 REDACTED Make sure you let him finish
25 the whole question.

12:02:05PM

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

1 THE WITNESS: Pardon?

2 [REDACTED]: Make sure you let him finish
3 the whole question before you answer.

4 THE WITNESS: Yeah, okay.

5 BY [REDACTED]:

12:02:07PM

6 Q. I want to talk about what your wife may
7 have told you about her meeting with Father REDACTED
8 Did she describe in any detail about her conversation
9 with Father REDACTED

10 A. The only thing I understand that she's told
11 me that he came over. She wanted him over to say a
12 prayer for my son. And after that was done, she
13 talked to him about REDACTED

12:02:25PM

14 Q. And did she tell you where this conversation
15 took place?

12:02:42PM

16 A. In our house.

17 Q. And this would have been after your REDACTED
18 REDACTED

19 A. It was just about the time that he had it,
20 yeah.

12:02:54PM

21 Q. Do you know if anyone else was present when
22 this occurred?

23 A. I don't know.

24 Q. Okay. Do you know specifically what she
25 told him?

12:03:01PM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 A. I know part of it, what she told me.

2 Q. What -- what do you know?

3 A. That she said she never wanted him around

4 REDACTED again, and for him to get him out of the area
5 or transferred to another place.

12:03:17PM

6 Q. Okay. Did your wife tell you what REDACTED
7 REDACTED said in response?

8 A. He said he was going to handle it as soon as
9 possible, and that there was another complaint.

10 Q. Okay. What else did your wife tell you, if
11 anything?

12:03:33PM

12 A. That's it.

13 Q. Okay. Did you ever see REDACTED -- excuse
14 me. Did you ever see Farther Van Liefde again?

15 A. No.

12:03:45PM

16 Q. Never saw him again?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Was Holy Family your home parish, or did you
19 attend church somewhere else?

20 A. No, Holy Family.

12:03:55PM

21 Q. Okay. So you never saw Father Van Liefde
22 say Mass after the night on the sofa?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Did your wife tell you that she had spoke to
25 anyone else other than REDACTED

12:04:13PM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What did she tell you?

3 A. It was Sister REDACTED

4 Q. Do you know how to spell that?

5 A. No, I don't. My daughter does. 12:04:23PM

6 Q. We'll figure it out later.

7 A. Oh.

8 Q. Who is Sister REDACTED

9 A. She was a nun at Holy Family School.

10 Q. And what did your wife tell you about her 12:04:35PM

11 conversation with Sister REDACTED ,

12 A. She just told me that she talked to her and

13 the nun said, "That son of a bitch."

14 Q. Anything else about the conversation with

15 the -- 12:04:49PM

16 A. No.

17 Q. -- with the nun?

18 A. No.

19 Q. After you saw REDACTED and Father Van Liefde

20 on the couch that evening, did you ever speak to 12:05:06PM

21 REDACTED about it?

22 A. Well, we probably spoke many times about it,

23 and that's just where I might have told her I was

24 disappointed in her doing something like that. And

25 that would be it. 12:05:25PM

CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

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1 Q. Okay. At some point did you learn that
2 there may have been more than kissing going on
3 between Father Van Liefde and REDACTED ?

4 A. I didn't know.

5 Q. Okay. Did you ever learn that there may
6 have been more than kissing?

12:05:39PM

7 A. I heard about it now.

8 Q. Okay. Recently?

9 A. Recently.

10 Q. But you didn't know about --

12:05:48PM

11 A. Two weeks.

12 Q. Excuse me. You didn't know about it in the
13 '70s or the '80s?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay. So you never had a conversation with
16 REDACTED about anything other than what you had seen?

12:05:56PM

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. Had you ever given Father Van Liefde a key
19 to your home?

20 A. My wife did.

12:06:10PM

21 Q. Did you ever get the key back?

22 A. No.

23 Q. I think you said this occurred in 1974, in
24 December, to your best recollection?

25 A. That's my recollection.

12:06:33PM

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

1 Q. And how old was REDACTED at that time?

2 A. I would say about 16 or 17.

3 Q. Okay. She was in high school?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. What kind of student was she in high school? 12:06:43PM

6 A. Very good student.

7 Q. Good grades?

8 A. 4.0.

9 Q. And how would you characterize her personality? 12:06:52PM

10 A. She was just liked by a lot of people over there. She got along fine with all the girls and the nuns. She just had a very good time going to high school there. 12:07:08PM

11 Q. Okay. Was that throughout her four years there?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Was she a -- was she a happy child? Was she a quiet child? What kind of -- 12:07:16PM

14 A. She was a happy child all the time.

15 Q. Okay. And that continued through high school?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And was she respectful at home? Was she a 12:07:28PM

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CERTIFIED COURT REPORTERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS

1 good daughter? Did she give you a lot of trouble?
2 How would -- how would you describe it?

3 A. Never gave me any trouble. She was always a
4 good daughter. She done her homework. She had good
5 discipline with me.

12:07:44PM

6 Q. And she --

7 A. I could say I had a perfect daughter.

8 Q. You had a perfect daughter. And I take it
9 none of this changed? She stayed the same girl
10 throughout high school?

12:08:00PM

11 A. Yes, she was fine all through high school.

12 Q. Okay. Good grades?

13 A. Good grades.

14 Q. Happy? Respectful?

15 A. Yes.

12:08:10PM

16 Q. And there was never a time when you noticed
17 those things changing?

18 A. No.

19 REDACTED Okay. I think -- if you don't
20 mind, I think REDACTED has a question or two.

12:08:25PM

21 REDACTED Go ahead.

22

23 EXAMINATION

24 B. REDACTED

25 Q. Hello, sir, my name is REDACTED . I also

12:08:28PM

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1 represent the Diocese of Los Angeles, and I just have
2 a couple of questions for you.

3 A. You'll have to speak a little louder,
4 please.

5 Q. All right. After the incident with the
6 television, where you walked in on the -- on -- in
7 the living room, did Father Van Liefde continue to
8 come to the house?

12:08:40PM

9 A. After that?

10 Q. Yes.

12:08:57PM

11 A. No.

12 Q. You indicated that your wife told you that
13 she was -- had been advised that there had been
14 another complaint regarding Father Van Liefde?

15 A. Yes.

12:09:18PM

16 Q. Do you know anything about that complaint?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Do you know if it arose at Holy Family
19 Church?

20 A. I don't know.

12:09:25PM

21 Q. You have no details about that?

22 A. I don't -- don't know where it happened.

23 Q. How many conversations has your wife had
24 with Monsignor REDACTED to your knowledge, concerning
25 Father Van Liefde?

12:09:58PM

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1 A. I think either once or -- once or twice, if
2 I'm not mistaken. I'm not sure.

3 Q. And were those both after your son got sick?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And other than saying he would handle it as
6 soon as possible, did Father -- to your knowledge,
7 did Father REDACTED, make any other representations to
8 your wife?

12:10:13PM

9 A. I don't understand the question.

10 Q. Bad question. I think you said that
11 Father REDACTED told your wife that he would handle
12 the matter as soon as possible?

12:10:26PM

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Did he give any further details as to what
15 he would do, to your knowledge?

12:10:38PM

16 A. What he would do?

17 Q. To handle the matter.

18 A. I don't recall my wife telling me anything
19 where he says anything.

20 Q. She gave you no specifics as to what actions
21 Father REDACTED would take?

12:10:48PM

22 A. She said that she -- he would handle it as
23 soon as possible.

24 Q. Okay. Nothing else?

25 A. That I know of, no.

12:11:01PM

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1 Q. Okay. How many times did you and your wife
 2 discuss the relationship between REDACTED and Father
 3 Chris within the year after the incident when you
 4 walked in the living room?

5 A. That we discovered -- that we discussed it? 12:11:32PM

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. I think very few times.

8 Q. Do you recall having any discussion with
 9 your wife about the incident between your daughter
 10 and Father Chris other than the night in question and 12:11:47PM
 11 when she reported to you that she had discussed it
 12 with REDACTED

13 A. Now I got to think about what your question
 14 is, and I don't quite understand it.

15 Q. Okay. 12:12:03PM

16 MR. REDACTED Well, why don't we have it read
 17 back because I think it's pretty clear.

18 MR. REDACTED : Okay.

19 MR. REDACTED She'll read it back.

20 MR. REDACTED And if you still don't 12:12:39PM
 21 understand it, I'll ask it in smaller pieces. Okay?

22 MR. REDACTED Yeah.

23 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

24 MR. REDACTED She can --

25 THE WITNESS: Please do.

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1 REDACTED
MR. She can read it back.

2 THE WITNESS: Because I don't -- I don't
3 understand what he's asking me right now.

4 REDACTED
MR. Okay. Well, listen to this and
5 see if it helps.

6 (The previous question was read back
7 by the court reporter as follows:

8 "QUESTION: Do you recall having
9 any discussion with your wife about
10 the incident between your daughter
11 and Father Chris other than the night
12 in question and when she reported to
13 you that she had discussed it with
14 Father REDACTED)

12:11:45PM

15 MR REDACTED Okay. I think you better break
16 it down.

12:12:39PM

17 REDACTED
MR. Okay.

18 MR. REDACTED I'll say objection, compound.

19 REDACTED
MR. Okay.

20 MR. REDACTED Objection, confusing.

12:12:44PM

21 BY ME REDACTED

22 Q. Sir, here's what I've heard you say so far
23 about conversations with your wife regarding REDACTED
24 and Father Chris. You had a conversation with her on
25 the night you walked into the living room where you

12:12:55PM

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1 told her to get Father Chris out of there.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You had a second conversation with your wife 12:13:04PM
6 wherein she told you that she had told Father REDACTED
7 about the incident; correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you -- can you recall any other
10 conversations you had with your wife regarding Father 12:13:12PM
11 Chris and REDACTED

12 A. I'm trying to think. My mind is blank on
13 that now, and I can't -- I can't think if she really
14 did or not.

15 Q. Okay. To your knowledge, besides Sister 12:13:42PM
16 REDACTED and Father REDACTED, did any member of your
17 family mention the incident between Father Chris and
18 your daughter to any other priest or nun or employee
19 of the church?

20 A. No.. 12:14:26PM

21 Q. Okay. Thank you, sir.

22 MR. REDACTED I have nothing further. Just
23 briefly go off the record. I would like to discuss a
24 stip with you?

25 REDACTED
MR. Sure. 12:14:37PM

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1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 11:13 a.m.,
2 and we are now going off the record.

3 (A discussion was held off the record.)

4 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: The time is 11:14 a.m.
5 We are now back on the record.

12:15:41PM

6 MR. REDACTED I'm going to propose the
7 following stipulation with respect to the disposition
8 of the transcript of this proceeding. I propose that
9 the court reporter be relieved of all her statutory
10 obligations with respect to maintenance of the
11 custody of the original; that it be sent to me; that
12 within 30 days of my receipt of said transcript the
13 witness will have the opportunity to review, sign and
14 correct it under penalty of perjury without need to
15 appear before a notary public; that I will forthwith
16 advise Mr. REDACTED and Mr. REDACTED of any changes to
17 that transcript. In the event that such changes are
18 not reported within that time frame, a certified copy
19 of the transcript can be used for all purposes as if
20 it were a signed original.

12:15:55PM

12:16:12PM

12:16:32PM

21 Further propose that the parties follow all
22 court orders relating to the publication and use of
23 the transcript. And as its custodian, I agree to
24 make the transcript available for all purposes in
25 these proceedings upon reasonable notice. So

12:16:47PM

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1 stipulated?

2 MR. REDACTED Yes, so stipulated.

3 MR. REDACTED So stipulated.

4 MR. REDACTED Thank you, gentlemen.

5 MR. REDACTED Thank you.

12:16:54PM

6 Thank you, sir.

7 MR. REDACTED Thank you.

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

9 MR. REDACTED Thank you, REDACTED

10 MR. REDACTED This concludes the

12:16:58PM

11 video-recorded deposition of REDACTED consisting of

12 one tape. The time is approximately 11:16 a.m.

13 [sic], and we are now off the record.

14 (The deposition was concluded

15 at 12:16 p.m.)

16

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--o0o--

Please be advised the foregoing deposition was read,
and I state there are:

(Check one)

_____ NO CORRECTIONS

_____ CORRECTIONS ATTACHED

REDACTED _____

_____ Date Signed

--o0o--

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES)

I, REDACTED , having appeared for my deposition on November 16, 2006, do this date declare under penalty of perjury that I have read the foregoing deposition, I have made any corrections, additions or deletions that I have deemed necessary to make in order to render the within transcript true and correct.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto subscribe my name this _____ day of _____, 2006.

W I T N E S S

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION OF CERTIFIED COPY

I, [REDACTED], CSR No. 10099, a
Certified Shorthand Reporter for the County of
Los Angeles, State of California, do hereby
certify that the foregoing pages constitute a
true and correct copy of the deposition of
[REDACTED]

taken on November 16, 2006.

I further certify that I am neither counsel
for, nor related to any party to said action, nor in
any way interested in the outcome thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto subscribe
my name this 5th day of December, 2006.

[REDACTED]

Certified Shorthand Reporter in and
for the County of Los Angeles, State
of California

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DOE VS. DOE 1
DEPOSITION OF REDACTED

BSA

XMAX(1/14)

<p>Concordance Report --- Unique Words: 814 Total Occurrences: 2,488 Noise Words: 384 Total Words In File: 7,874 --- Single File Concordance --- Case Insensitive --- Noise Word List(s): NOISE.NOI --- Cover Pages = 3 --- Includes ALL Text Occurrences --- Dates ON --- Includes Pure Numbers --- Possessive Forms ON --- ** 1 ** --- 1 [3] 5:14, 16; 50:9 10 [1] 17:15 10099 [1] 53:4 10:19 [1] 5:11 10:51 [1] 34:1 10:59 [1] 34:4 11:13 [1] 47:1 11:14 [1] 47:4 11:16 [2] 48:12, 15 11:19 [1] 5:2 12 [1] 17:15 14 [1] 17:15 16 [5] 5:1; 18:11; 40:2; 50:10; 52:8 16th [1] 5:10 17 [1] 40:2 19 [1] 31:1 1974 [3] 31:2, 10; 39:23 --- ** 2 ** --- 2006 [6]</p>	<p>5:1, 10; 50:10; 52:8, 15; 53:22 26th [1] 21:20 29th [1] 31:10 2:00 [1] 25:22 --- ** 3 ** --- 30 [2] 20:4; 47:12 35 [1] 10:4 3:00 [2] 25:22; 26:16 --- ** 4 ** --- 4.0 [1] 40:9 --- ** 5 ** --- 55 [1] 5:12 550 [1] 5:12 58 [1] 13:22 5:00 [1] 25:4 --- ** 6 ** --- 6:00 [1] 25:5 6:30 [1] 25:6 --- ** 7 ** --- 70s [1] 39:13 78 [1] 15:17 7:00 [1] 25:6 --- ** 8 ** --- 80s [1] 39:13 81 [2] 6:24; 12:5 82 [3] 6:24; 12:5 8:30 [1] 25:11</p>	<p>** 9 ** --- 91101 [1] 5:13 9:00 [1] 25:11 --- ** A ** --- a.m. [8] 5:2, 11; 34:1, 4; 47:1, 4; 48:12, 15 ability [1] 13:11 able [2] 13:7; 28:14 absolutely [1] 33:21 abuse [1] 14:5 action [2] 5:8; 53:19 actions [1] 43:20 active [1] 24:4 add [4] 50:3, 5, 12; 51:1 adding [1] 50:2 additions [1] 52:11 administer [1] 6:7 advise [1] 47:16 advised [2] 42:13; 49:2 agnew [1] 5:6 agree [1] 47:23 agreed [1] 29:25 agreement [2] 30:3, 17 al [1] 5:14 alleging [1] 14:4 allow [1] 7:22 aneurysm [2] 31:18; 36:18 angeles [13] 5:14; 6:2, 4; 14:4; 15:8, 9; 34:12; 35:5; 42:1; 52:5; 53:2, 6, 24 answer [11]</p>	<p>7:23; 8:3, 13; 10:1; 11:9, 11, 12, 16; 12:16, 17; 36:3 answering [1] 8:4 answers [6] 7:8, 11; 8:10; 11:23; 12:1; 13:12 anybody [1] 34:24 apologize [1] 35:17 appear [1] 47:15 appearances [1] 5:19 appeared [1] 52:7 apply [2] 9:15 approximately [5] 19:9, 25; 30:21; 35:19; 48:12 archdiocese [5] 6:2, 4; 14:4; 34:12; 35:5 area [3] 15:2; 17:16; 37:4 arm [1] 26:9 arms [1] 26:9 arose [1] 42:18 arrangement [1] 23:17 asking [2] 7:6; 45:3 assistance [2] 32:16, 21 associated [1] 35:4 associates [1] 5:6 association [1] 18:6 atomic [1] 15:5 attached [1] 49:6 attend [7] 14:14; 15:20, 22; 16:1, 5, 19; 37:19 attorney [3] 5:9; 8:24; 10:25 attorneys [1] 8:2 available [1] 47:24 avenue [1] 5:12 aware [1]</p>	<p>24:21 --- ** B ** --- backyard [2] 18:1, 23 basically [2] 7:5, 10 bathroom [4] 25:23, 25; 26:24; 27:23 bc296808 [1] 5:13 bed [6] 25:10, 12, 15; 26:19, 20; 29:6 bedroom [2] 28:23; 29:22 begins [1] 5:16 behalf [3] 5:15; 6:1, 10 behind [1] 19:15 believe [2] 18:11; 31:10 believed [1] 35:4 belong [1] 13:4 bennett [1] 6:3 besides [1] 46:15 bet [1] 33:24 birthday [4] 21:20, 25; 22:7, 11 bit [1] 22:24 bitch [2] 28:25; 38:13 black [1] 27:4 blank [1] 46:12 blocks [1] 14:20 body [2] 8:19, 23 booklet [3] 8:10, 12; 11:22 boulevard [1] 15:13 REDACTED [1] 5:4 brain [1] 32:2 break [2] 33:20; 45:15 briefly [1]</p>
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From 1 to briefly

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From bright to emotional

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From response to twice

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DOE VS. DOE 1
DEPOSITION OF EMIL MOR

BSA

XMAX(7/20)

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From typewriting to young

Summary of Deposition of REDACTED
November 28, 2006

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REDACTED

Memorandum

TO: FILE

FROM: REDACTED

DATE: November 28, 2006

RE: SUMMARY OF DEPOSITION OF REDACTED
REDACTED FATHER)

On November 16, 2006, the deposition of REDACTED was taken. REDACTED is the father of Plaintiff REDACTED and was deposed as an aged/infirm witness by Plaintiff's counsel.

REDACTED is 81 years old and will turn 82 in December. He does not appear to be that old. Although REDACTED is somewhat hard of hearing, he did not appear to be suffering any other ill affects of aging. He was attentive and answered the questions very well. He is a well dressed, silver haired gentleman with a habit of wearing gold jewelry. Overall, Mr. REDACTED made a very good witness, he is both credible and sympathetic.

REDACTED has been married to the plaintiff's mother, REDACTED for 58 years. They raised two children, REDACTED and REDACTED, the Plaintiff. Both children attended Catholic schools throughout their lives.

During the relevant time period, the REDACTED, lived in Eagle Rock. They lived there for seven to eight years. During that time, both children attended school at Holy Family in Glendale.

Mr. REDACTED testified that the family were not strict Catholics, in that they did not attend mass every week, although he wanted REDACTED to attend Catholic school to get a good education, to learn about her religion, to learn discipline, and for her safety. Mr. REDACTED described REDACTED as the most religious person in the family and said that she was "very dedicated" to her religion. He recalled that at some point, (he estimated it to be between her tenth and fourteenth birthdays), she informed the family that she might wish to become a nun.

At about the time of REDACTED's sixteenth birthday, she and her mother organized a mass to be said in the REDACTED backyard. REDACTED wanted a mass at her home so that her girlfriends and their favorite nuns could attend. Mr. REDACTED had not met Father Van Liefde prior to the mass.

REDACTED

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Father Van Liefde said the mass held in the ^{REDACTED} backyard. Mr. ^{REDACTED} understood that Father Van Liefde was a priest at Holy Family Parish in Glendale and, at the time, he believed Father Van Liefde to be approximately 30 years old.

Apparently, after the backyard mass, Father Van Liefde became very good friends with Mrs. ^{REDACTED} and ^{REDACTED} and began visiting their home often.

Mr. ^{REDACTED} testified that his wife and daughter very much enjoyed Father Van Liefde's company and made him feel welcome at their home. He believed that Father Van Liefde felt that he was part of their family. Father Van Liefde would visit the home often, including times when Mr. ^{REDACTED} was at work. Mr. ^{REDACTED} testified that he worked many hours, six or seven days a week, during that time period and that he felt comfortable with the fact that Father Van Liefde would visit the home in his absence.

Mr. ^{REDACTED} estimated that Father Van Liefde would visit their home three to four times a week and these visits continued for approximately one year. Father Van Liefde would often come over their home for dinner. Mr. ^{REDACTED} testified that Father Van Liefde "more or less had an open invitation" to come to their home and that his wife encouraged Father Van Liefde to come. He testified that "the three of them got along just fine."

On Father Van Liefde's 26th birthday, Mr. ^{REDACTED} took him and the ^{REDACTED} family to dinner and ^{REDACTED} presented him with a birthday present, a vestment that she had hand sewn. This birthday celebration occurred after the family had known Father Van Liefde for approximately six months.

Mr. ^{REDACTED} testified that he had to be in work early in the morning and that he had a habit of going to bed by 8:30 or 9:00 p.m. Often Father Van Liefde would still be at their home when Mr. ^{REDACTED} went to bed.

One evening, in approximately December of 1974, Father Van Liefde had been visiting, Mr. ^{REDACTED} woke up at approximately 3:00 a.m. to go to the bathroom. As he walked down the hall to the bathroom he noticed that the living room was not completely dark and that there was some light coming from the living room. He walked down the hallway to investigate the source of the light and realized that the television was still on. When he got to the living room he observed Father Van Liefde laying on the sofa with his shirt open and ^{REDACTED} kneeling down with her arms around Father Van Liefde, and his arms around hers, and Father Van Liefde was kissing her.

^{REDACTED} watched for approximately four to six seconds and then returned to his bedroom. He testified that the television provided enough light for him to see clearly and he had no doubt about what he saw. He described seeing "a very passionate kiss."

REDACTED

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REDACTED admitted that he wore glasses at that time, and that he did not have them on when he witnessed this incident, but he was adamant that he could see very well without his glasses at that time.

REDACTED went into his bedroom and woke his wife up. She asked him what was wrong and he told her to "get that son of a bitch out of the house or I'll kill him." He told his wife that Father Van Liefde and REDACTED were kissing on the sofa. His wife tried to calm him down and then she went into the living room. At that point Mr. REDACTED went into the bathroom.

When Mr. REDACTED came out of the bathroom, Father Van Liefde was gone. REDACTED told his wife "I want you to go see the head priest at the school. I don't want him in the house again." His wife agreed that she would handle it.

At that time Mr. REDACTED was aware that REDACTED REDACTED was the head priest at Holy Family.

Thereafter, his wife told him that she had spoken with REDACTED, that REDACTED had advised her that there had been a prior complaint about Father Van Liefde, and that REDACTED assured her he would handle it.

Mr. REDACTED believes that this incident occurred in December of 1974, as he believes it occurred just before his son REDACTED struck on December 29, 1974 and he was initially taken to REDACTED Hospital and diagnosed with a 10% chance of living.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED Father Van Liefde, they did not seek his assistance to get REDACTED transferred to the Catholic hospital, his wife spoke to REDACTED instead. In fact, REDACTED believes that the conversation between his wife and REDACTED, during which she reported the incident with Father Van Liefde and REDACTED kissing on the sofa, occurred at the REDACTED home, when REDACTED came over to meet with Mrs. REDACTED about REDACTED condition.

REDACTED Mr. REDACTED does not know the exact details of the conversation between his wife and REDACTED, only that REDACTED told her that there had been a prior complaint and that he would handle it. Mrs. REDACTED also told Mr. REDACTED that she reported the incident to Sister REDACTED, a nun who worked at the Holy Family School. Mrs. REDACTED told her husband that when she told Sister REDACTED about the incident, Sister REDACTED exclaimed: "That son of a bitch."

Mr. REDACTED is not aware of his wife reporting the incident to anyone else. Mr. REDACTED did not report the incident to anyone.

REDACTED

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Mr. ^{REDACTED} can only recall discussing the incident with his wife on two occasions: on the night of the incident when he woke her up, and thereafter when she reported that she had told Sister ^{REDACTED} and REDACTED

Mr. ^{REDACTED} recalled that he discussed the incident with his daughter on a few occasions and that he expressed to her his disappointment that she would have engaged in such conduct. Mr. ^{REDACTED} only recently learned that ^{REDACTED} has alleged that there was other conduct of a sexual nature between herself and Father Van Liefde other than kissing. Mr. ^{REDACTED} was not aware of anything other than kissing until the recent litigation.

Mr. ^{REDACTED} described ^{REDACTED} as a terrific student ("4.0"), a happy girl, a very obedient daughter and very well liked. He testified that he had "the perfect daughter." He testified that this never changed, that she was a good student and a happy, well liked and obedient girl throughout her high school years.

After the night of the incident on the couch Mr. ^{REDACTED} never saw Father Van Liefde again although he understands that Father Van Liefde returned to the ^{REDACTED} home on one occasion to apologize to Mrs. ^{REDACTED}

REDACTED

Declaration of REDACTED ex husband of
REDACTED , January 20, 2009

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Declaration of REDACTED

I, REDACTED declare:

My business address is REDACTED Huntington Beach, CA. My business phone number is REDACTED REDACTED

I married REDACTED in 1977, we were divorced in 1985; and subsequently the marriage was annulled. At no time during our courtship or marriage did REDACTED inform me that she had a sexual relationship with, or was sexually abused as a minor by Fr. Christian Van Liefde.

In approximately 2006 or 2007, exact date unrecalled, REDACTED telephoned me and said she had brought legal charges against Fr. Van Liefde for sexually abusing her as a minor when she was in high school. This phone call was the first time I ever heard of REDACTED claim of sexual abuse by Fr. Van Liefde and I was very surprised at this statement.

Executed this 20 day of January, 2009 at Huntington Beach, CA.

I swear under the oath administered to me by Mr. REDACTED who has identified himself as a Canonical Auditor for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, that the information in this declaration is true and correct REDACTED
REDACTED

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Declaration of Canonical Auditor James T. Burns

I, [REDACTED] appointed as a Canonical Auditor for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles by Cardinal Roger M. Mahony on December 5, 2003 declare the following statements are true and correct.

On January 20, 2009 in my capacity as a canonical auditor at the request of Fr. [REDACTED] Archdiocese of Los Angeles, I interviewed [REDACTED] the former husband of [REDACTED]. The purpose of the interview was to verify Ms [REDACTED] statement in a legal deposition that while dating and when married to [REDACTED] she informed [REDACTED] that prior to their marriage in or about 1974-75, she was sexually abused when a minor while in high school by Fr. Christian Van Liefde a priest incardinated in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

[REDACTED] supplied the following signed sworn statement:

Declaration of [REDACTED]

"I, [REDACTED] declare:
My business address is [REDACTED] My business phone number is [REDACTED]

I married [REDACTED] in 1977, we were divorced in 1985, and subsequently the marriage was annulled. At no time during our courtship or marriage did [REDACTED] inform me that she had a sexual relationship with, or was sexually abused as a minor by Fr. Christian Van Liefde.

In approximately 2006 or 2007, exact date unrecalled, [REDACTED] telephoned me and said she had brought legal charges against Fr. Van Liefde for sexually abusing her as a minor when she was in high school. This phone call was the first time I ever heard of [REDACTED] claim of sexual abuse by Fr. Van Liefde and I was very surprised at this statement.

Executed this ____ day of January, 2009 at Huntington Beach, CA.

I swear under the oath administered to me by Mr. [REDACTED] who has identified himself as a Canonical Auditor for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, that the information in this declaration is true and correct."

Signed: _____

Witnessed: _____

During the interview Mr. [REDACTED] appeared to be sincere in his statements and gave me no reason to question his veracity

I swear under oath administered to me by Fr. [REDACTED] that my statements in this declaration are true and correct.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed: _____ Date: _____

Report of REDACTED to Sr. REDACTED ; that his
sister, REDACTED, was abused by Msgr. Van Liefde,
June 13, 2003

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Clergy Misconduct

Complainant: [REDACTED] reported

Date: June 13, 2003

Complaint for: [REDACTED]

Accused: Fr. Chris Van Liefde

Date: June 13, 2003

Report: *"My sister was abused by Msgr. Chris Van Liefde"*

Context:
[REDACTED] called to speak with Cardinal Mahony. The office forwarded the call. [REDACTED] was angry and ventilating in response to the media coverage of June 12 & 13, 2003.

In the course of his distraught outburst he said that his sister, [REDACTED] was abused by Msgr. Chris Van Liefde. No specific data was given.

Since he has an attorney I did not ethically believe that I could further the conversation.

Signed: [REDACTED]

Date: *June 13, 2003*

List from Plaintiff Attorneys of accusations by REDACTED
REDACTED and REDACTED October 2003.

REDACTED
 UNREDACTED

* OCT. 2003
 LIST FROM PLAINTIFF
 ATTORNEYS

		Diocese	Location	Community	Period	Frequency	Abuse	MM
344	Van Liefde, Christian	Archdiocese of Los Angeles	Plaintiff's parents' home; Drive-in San Gabriel Valley; C.C.D. Conference (Anaheim); Anaheim motel; Perpetrator's car	Holy Family	1973 - 1975	100-150 times	Vaginal manipulation; Digital penetration of vagina; Masturbation by perpetrator in front of plaintiff; Plaintiff masturbating perpetrator; Oral copulation; French kissing; Sacramental abuse; Confessional solicitation; Molestation of breasts and buttocks; Grooming (alcohol, tobacco)	MM
345	Van Liefde, Christian	Diocese of Orange	Perpetrator family home/pool	Saint Killians	1971 - 1973	Weekly over 2 years	Hugging; Physical molestation over and under clothes of genitals, buttocks; Digital penetration	MM

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Proffer Re: Msgr. Christian M. Van Liefde, submitted
by Archdiocese to civil authorities

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PROFFER RE MSGR. CHRISTIAN M. VAN LIEFDE

Date	Description
8/26/48	Born.
6/15/72- 8/15/72	Deacon, St. Genevieve, Van Nuys.
5/26/73	Ordained priest.
6/11/73	Associate, Holy Family, Glendale.
6/21/76	Teacher, Bishop Montgomery High School, Torrance. In residence, St. Philomena Church, Carson.
7/15/77	Teacher, Bishop Garcia Diego High School, Santa Barbara. In residence, San Roque Church, Santa Barbara.
7/10/79	Teacher, St. Paul High School, Santa Fe Springs. In residence, St. Bruno Church, Whittier.
6/15/80	Principal, Our Lady of Loretto High School, Los Angeles. In residence, Our Lady of Loretto Church, Los Angeles.
2/1/83	Associate, Francis de Sales Church, Sherman Oaks.
11/25/85	Part-time chaplain to Los Angeles City Fire Department.
3/8/87	Administrator, St. Hilary Parish, Pico Rivera.
5/1/90	Pastor, St. Hilary Church, Pico Rivera.
08/01/96- 11/30/96	Administrator Pro Tem, St. Francis Xavier Church, Pico Rivera. Continued as pastor of St. Hilary.
07/01/99	Pastor, St. Genevieve Church, Panorama City.
04/19/02	Victim ^{REDACTED} reports inappropriate sexual conduct by Msgr. Van Liefde in 1973 and 1974 to Victim Assistance Ministry Department of Archdiocese of Los Angeles.
5/02	Placed on administrative leave.
06/13/03	^{REDACTED} alleges that his sister, ^{REDACTED} , was "abused" by Msgr. Van Liefde. No dates or details given.

Claimant Questionnaire of REDACTED, accuser,
January 4, 2004

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Claimant Questionnaire

FOR MEDIATION PURPOSES ONLY
PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

REDACTED

Second report by Cardinal Roger Mahony to the
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith,
November 10, 2004

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Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
the Archbishop
(213) 637-7288

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

November 10, 2004

His Eminence
Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
Piazza del S. Uffizio, 11
00120 Vatican City State
Europe

Re: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
Prot. No: 342/03

Your Eminence:

On August 29, 2003, I wrote to you seeking a dispensation from prescription so that a canonical trial could proceed to examine allegations that Monsignor Christian Van Liefde, a priest incardinated in our Archdiocese, and presently domiciled here, violated his responsibility under canon 1395, §2, by engaging in sexual misconduct with minors. With that letter I enclosed selected documentation from Monsignor Van Liefde's file for your review.

In my letter I explained that in accord with canon 1717 a preliminary investigation was initiated, was placed in abeyance because of a danger of perceived interference with the investigations of civil authorities, and was then resumed once that danger passed.

At this point, we have been unable to conclude the preliminary investigation due to complications related to the civil lawsuits which have been filed. The first complainant, [REDACTED], presented a sworn affidavit describing her contentions in great detail. She presented a number of documents that did establish a close personal relationship with Monsignor Van Liefde, though these documents did not directly corroborate her claims of abusive conduct on his part. Persons mentioned in her affidavit whom she indicated could substantiate her claims have been interviewed. To this point all, except for her blood relatives, deny any knowledge of wrongdoing. Had this been the only complaint lodged against Monsignor Van Liefde, we could have concluded the preliminary investigation long ago and made a full report to you. There is, however, a second complaint.

[REDACTED] has also charged that Monsignor Van Liefde abused her, and has filed a lawsuit seeking damages. In January 2004, Ms. [REDACTED] completed a "Claimant Questionnaire," although this document was not communicated to Archdiocesan attorneys until recently. The allegations

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Letter to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger
RE: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
Prot. No. 342/03
Page 2 of 3

made in that questionnaire are extremely sketchy in nature and she offers no suggestion as to how she intends to support them. Given her statement, it appears that any misconduct may have begun while Christian Van Liefde was a seminarian, before he became a cleric. At that time in his life, such behavior would not have constituted an ecclesiastical crime, although may have constituted an irregularity for the reception of orders. According to her complaint, however, the abusive activity continued during the time he was a deacon and later a priest. Unfortunately, these matters cannot be clarified at this time since, despite several requests, her civil attorney has not permitted an interview with her by a canonical auditor.

The evidence discovered thus far certainly meets the criteria of a "semblance of truth" and provides sufficient foundation to suspect that Monsignor Van Liefde may have engaged in abusive sexual activities with girls, both minors in civil law and one of whom would have been a minor in canon law, in the years 1972-1976. But our efforts to fully develop exonerating or incriminating evidence have been deterred.

My greatest concern is that justice be done to the complainants, if they genuinely were victimized, as well as to Monsignor Van Liefde, if indeed he is innocent.

The common good would benefit greatly from a just and swift solution to this matter, and hence I want to be prepared to move a trial forward as soon as developments in dealing with the civil lawsuits permit us to complete a thorough investigation.

Please note that there is a great deal of bewilderment and impatience evident among members of our presbyterate over the uncertainty of Monsignor Van Liefde's status. He is a well known and popular priest, and his position as chaplain to the Los Angeles Fire Department gave him a great deal of visibility among some sectors of the wider community.

Because of the nature of the allegations and the person of Monsignor Van Liefde, I am convinced that only by means of a trial can the evidence be fully assessed, additional evidence sought as necessary, and a determination be made with moral certitude that will be credible to the presbyterate and people of our Archdiocese.

For these reasons I respectfully request a dispensation from prescription with respect to this action and authorization to initiate a formal penal trial. Should the trial lead to moral certitude that Monsignor Van Liefde did indeed commit these delicts, we would seek the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state.

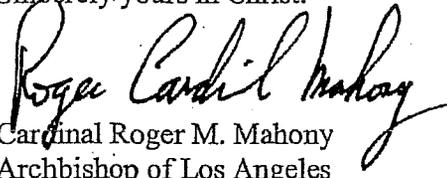
Should the Congregation not concur with my request for a trial, I would very much appreciate direction on how to proceed.

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Letter to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger
RE: Monsignor Christian Van Liedfe
Prot. No. 342/03
Page 3 of 3

Thank you for your attention to this difficult matter. Please be assured of my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ.

+ 
Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles

enclosures

1602

DIOCESE	Los Angeles in California
NAME OF ORDINARY	Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
CDF PROT. N. (if available)	342/03
NAME OF CLERIC	Monsignor Christian M. Van Liefde

PERSONAL DETAILS OF THE CLERIC	Date of Birth	26 August 1948	Age	56
	Ordination	26 May 1973	Years of ministry	29
ORIGINAL DIOCESE OF INCARDINATION		Los Angeles in California		
MINISTRY IN/TRANSFER TO OTHER DIOCESE				
CONTACT ADDRESS OF THE CLERIC		[REDACTED]		
PROCURATOR (include original signed mandate)				
CONTACT ADDRESS OF THE PROCURATOR				
ASSIGNMENTS				
Year	Parish	Location	Appointment	
1973	Holy Family	Glendale, California	Parochial Vicar	
1976	Bishop Montgomery High School	Torrance, California	Faculty	
1976	St. Philomena	Carson, California	Residence	
1977	Bishop Garcia Diego High School	Santa Barbara, California	Faculty	
1977	San Roque	Santa Barbara, California	Residence	
1977	Santa Barbara Fire Department	Santa Barbara, California	Chaplain	
1979	St. Paul High School	Santa Fe Springs, California	Faculty	
1979	St. Bruno	Whittier	Residence	
1980	Bishop Conaty – Our Lady of Loretto High School	Los Angeles, California	Faculty	
1980	Our Lady of Loretto	Los Angeles, California	Residence	
1983	St. Francis de Sales	Sherman Oaks, California	Parochial Vicar	
1985-1989	Los Angeles Fire Department	Los Angeles, California	Chaplain	
1987	St. Hilary	Pico Rivera, California	Administrator with Right of Succession	
1990	St. Hilary	Pico Rivera, California	Pastor	

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1993			Vicar Forane
1995			Prelate of His Holiness
1996	St. Francis Xavier	Pico Rivera	Administrator Pro Tem (August through November 1996, while still serving as Pastor of St. Hilary)
1999	St. Genevieve	Panorama City (Van Nuys), California	Pastor
1999	Los Angeles Fire Department	Los Angeles, California	Chaplain
2002			Administrative Leave

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE CLERIC

Year	Victim	Age	Imputable Acts	Denunciation
1973	REDACTED	16	Kissing on the lips and French kissing, fondling, partially undressing the girl, fondling under the clothing, placing the hand of the girl on his groin when he had an erection, mutual masturbation, two or three times a week over a period of more than two years.	2002
1972		14	Physical molestation of the girl's genitals, buttocks and breasts both over and under her clothing, masturbation, attempt to vaginally penetrate. This allegedly occurred approximately 6-7 times over a two-year period.	2003

CIVIL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE CLERIC

Year	Type/Case	Conviction	Sentence (include copies of civil documents)
2003	Civil lawsuit for damages (BC)	pending	
2003	Civil lawsuit for damages (BC)		

MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE DIOCESE

Year	
2002	Monsignor Van Liefde was placed on Administrative Leave

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SUSTENANCE PROVIDED BY THE DIOCESE TO THE CLERIC

Monsignor Van Liefde continues to receive his salary, is covered by medical insurance, and receives an additional allowance for living expenses. The Archdiocese has provided an automobile for his use.

RESPONSE/RECOURSE MADE BY THE CLERIC

Year	

BISHOP'S VOTUM

This case was first reported to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in a letter with accompanying materials dated 29 August 2003.

We request authorization to conduct an ecclesiastical trial into the two allegations of serious sexual abuse made against Monsignor Van Liefde. Should the trial lead to moral certitude emerge that Monsignor Van Liefde did indeed commit these offenses, and if one of them is indeed proven to have been a canonical delict, then we would seek the penalty of dismissal from the clerical stats.

At this point, we have not yet been able to conclude the preliminary investigation as a result of the lawsuits filed against the Archdiocese. The civil attorney of one of the two complainants, REDACTED has not yet permitted an interview with her. Thus, the investigation has been stymied; evidence either to exonerate or incriminate has not been able to be developed. From the information currently available in the allegation brought by Ms. REDACTED any misconduct may have begun while Christian Van Liefde was a seminarian, and thus any abusive actions in this period would not constitute an ecclesiastical crime. According to her complaint, however, the abusive activity continued during the time he was a deacon and a priest. The evidence indicates that she would still have been approximately age 14 or 15 when Christian Van Liefde became a cleric, and hence she would have been a minor at canon law.

In the case of REDACTED there is a claim of serious misconduct, but it is also clear that she was 16 years of age at the time. Thus, she was a minor at civil law and the alleged activities would have been a State crime. They would not have constituted a canonical delict under the provisions of the 1917 *Code of Canon Law*. Nonetheless, if the alleged actions did occur, there was a tremendous breach of trust and in light of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, some action for the sake of the common good would be necessary.

Given the prominence of the priest, the seriousness of the alleged actions, and the contradictory nature of the evidence assembled, only a finding reached through an ecclesiastical trial will be able to accomplish justice and have credibility among the priests and people of the Archdiocese.

Response from the Congregation for the
Doctrine of the Faith, September 13, 2005

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CONGREGAZIONE
PER LA DOTTRINA
DELLA FEDE

00120 Città del Vaticano,
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

13 September 2005

PROT. N. 342/2003 - 21555

(Si prega citare il numero nella risposta)

CONFIDENTIAL

Your Eminence,

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith received your correspondence regarding the case of the **Rev. Msgr. Christian VAN LIEFDE**, a priest incardinated in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, who has been accused of the sexual abuse of minors.

This Dicastery, after a careful and attentive study of the facts presented, decided, on 1 July 2005, to support your request for derogation from prescription and grant Your Eminence authorization to conduct a canonical trial, as you requested in your *votum*.

Your Eminence is kindly requested to inform the accused of the allegations and proofs, while affording him the opportunity, via his canonical advocate, of a proper defense. On completion of the above-mentioned process, Your Eminence is asked to forward the *Acta* of the trial at First Instance to this Congregation.

With prayerful support and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

William J. LEVADA
Archbishop Emeritus of San Francisco
Prefect

His Eminence
Roger Cardinal MAHONY
Archbishop of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2202
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Record of telephone conversation between REDACTED
archdiocesan attorney, and REDACTED
December 9, 2008

Hdp

REDACTED

December 9, 2008

Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3434 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010-2202

Re: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde

Dear Members of the Board:

At the request of the [REDACTED], I contacted the brother of [REDACTED] who has accused Monsignor Van Liefde of childhood sexual abuse. I explained that I represented the Archdiocese, that the Archdiocese was initiating a canonical proceeding to remove Monsignor Van Liefde from the clerical state and that the Archdiocese would appreciate his sister's cooperation in testifying about her abuse. Mr. [REDACTED] agreed to contact his sister who he said was living in Oregon.

As a result of my conversation with [REDACTED], I shortly thereafter received a telephone call from [REDACTED]. The conversation was very brief. She said that she did not care if Fr. Van Liefde remained as a priest, that if he wanted to remain a priest it was okay with her, that she did not want to go over it again, that she was done with the Catholic Church and did not want to ever get involved again and did not want to testify or give a statement or assist the church in any way in regards to a canonical trial of Monsignor Van Liefde. She told me not to call her brother or her ever again. The conversation lasted about two minutes.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

Record of telephone conversation between REDACTED
and REDACTED stating that she will not testify and that
she and her brother are not to be bothered further,
December 9, 2008

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REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 1:37 PM
To: REDACTED
Subject: FW:REDACTED

Looks like you can finalize the canonical process.. REDACTED

REDACTED

Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2202

REDACTED

This email may contain information that is privileged or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete the email and any attachments and notify us immediately. Thank you.

From: REDACTED
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 12:58 PM
To: REDACTED
Subject: REDACTED

REDACTED just called me and said that she did not care if Fr. Van Liefde remained as a priest, that if he wanted to remain a priest it was okay with her, that she did not want to go over it again, that she was done with the Catholic Church and did not want to ever get involved again and did not want to testify or give a statement or assist the church in any way in regards to a canonical trial of Fr. Van Liefde. She told me not to call her brother or her ever again. REDACTED

REDACTED

Record of telephone conversation between
REDACTED and REDACTED December 15, 2008

1168

REDACTED

December 15, 2008

Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3434 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010-2202

Re: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde

Dear Members of the Board:

Today I contacted REDACTED the brother of REDACTED who has accused Monsignor Van Liefde of childhood sexual abuse. I explained that I represented the Archdiocese, that the Archdiocese was initiating a canonical proceeding to remove Monsignor Van Liefde from the clerical state and that the Archdiocese would appreciate his cooperation in testifying about any abuse that he suffered from Monsignor Van Liefde. I told him that his sister had testified that Monsignor Van Liefde had abused him. In her claimant questionnaire, she testified that REDACTED

Mr. REDACTED was quite hostile. He said he has been trying to get the Church to act for over a decade and now all of a sudden it wants to do something. He said he is tired of the whole thing, hates the Catholic Church, does not care any more about what happens to the priests, blames REDACTED for everything, and does not want to be involved in any way. I said that we needed victim testimony to remove the offending priests from ministry. He then said that he was not abused by Monsignor Van Liefde. But he was abused by Fr. REDACTED. He did not want to discuss the details and told me never to call again.

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Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board
December 15, 2008
Page 2

Sincerely,

REDACTED

Clergy Misconduct

Complainant: REDACTED

Date: June 13, 2003

Complaint for: REDACTED

Accused: Fr. Chris Van Liefde

Date: June 13, 2003

Report: *"My sister was abused by Msgr. Chris Van Liefde"*

Context:
REDACTED called to speak with REDACTED. The office forwarded the call. REDACTED
was angry and ventilating in response to the media coverage of June 12 & 13, 2003.

In the course of his distraught outburst he said that his sister, REDACTED was abused by
Msgr. Chris Van Liefde. No specific data was given.

Since he has an attorney I did not ethically believe that I could further the conversation.

REDACTED

Signed

Date: June 13, 2003

Claimant Questionnaire

FOR MEDIATION PURPOSES ONLY
PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

REDACTED

**CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED
INTERVIEW REPORT
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT**

**INTERVIEW OF REDACTED
REGARDING MSGR. CHRISTIAN VAN LIEFDE**

On December 31, 2003, Canonical Investigator, REDACTED interviewed REDACTED at his residence located at Holy Family Parish.

He supplied the following information;

He became pastor at Holy Family Parish in 1974 and believes, but is not certain that Father Christian Van Liefde was assigned there when he arrived. He also believes Father REDACTED was assigned there at the same time.

He recalls the name REDACTED, does not know her personally and to his knowledge has had no personal dealings with her or any of her family member He mentioned a conversation he had with a former Holy Family High School student, REDACTED in early 2003, just prior to her death, when they were discussing some of the Holy Family students and teachers. When the name REDACTED came up, REDACTED said "... REDACTED was a flake in school..." When asked what REDACTED meant by the word "flake", he believed REDACTED meant REDACTED was "weird and had a strange personality". From her statement he had the feeling that REDACTED did not like REDACTED, but he does not know the reason. REDACTED sister, REDACTED was a Holy Family student at about the same time and may remember REDACTED now lives in South Pasadena and her phone number is REDACTED

He was informed that in a formal Declaration signed under the penalty of perjury on January 7, 2003, REDACTED stated that in or about January 1975 her mother REDACTED informed him (REDACTED) that Father Van Liefde and REDACTED had a relationship that concerned her. REDACTED also stated that Van Liefde told her that REDACTED confronted him regarding the situation. Further, Msgr. was advised that REDACTED in a similar formal declaration dated January 7, 2003 stated that in late December 1974 or early January 1975 she informed Sister REDACTED, Dean Of Discipline, Holy Family High School that REDACTED and Van Liefde were having an inappropriate relationship and she discovered them kissing. Sister REDACTED told her it was out of her jurisdiction and suggested she inform REDACTED On January 15, 1975 he, REDACTED came to her home to visit her ill son. At that time she told him that Van Liefde and REDACTED were having an inappropriate relationship and that she observed them kissing on the sofa in her home. She said that REDACTED informed her there was another similar incident involving Van Liefde, and he assured her that Van Liefde would not bother REDACTED again and that he would be transferred out of Holy Family to a parish with no girl's high school.

REDACTED said that the above statements in the declarations are untrue. He was never informed by REDACTED or anyone else that Van Leafed and REDACTED were engaged in a sexual relationship. He does not recall REDACTED and is certain he has never visited her home. He stated that Sister REDACTED is deceased and believes that if she had been informed that any student had a sexual relation with a priest, she would have informed him (REDACTED).

He stated that Sister REDACTED currently assigned to Holy Family High School was also there in the mid 1970's with Sister REDACTED and may have some information regarding this situation.

He did not know REDACTED nor does he ever recall meeting Van Liefde's brother.

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INTERVIEW REPORT
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

INTERVIEW OF SISTER REDACTED
REDACTED HOLY FAMILY PARISH, REGARDING REDACTED

On 12/31/03 Canonical Auditor REDACTED while in the rectory of Holy Family parish, Glendale, CA, telephonically contacted Sister REDACTED to arrange an interview. She agreed to be interviewed, but requested the interview be conducted telephonically. Sister resides at REDACTED, Glendale and her phone number is REDACTED. She is assigned to Holy Family High School. She supplied the following information:

She was assigned to Holy Family High School as a teacher during the entire 1970's.

She was informed that REDACTED has submitted to the Archdiocese, a signed declaration under the penalty of perjury stating that in or about late December 1974 her mother REDACTED told Sr. REDACTED the Girl's Dean of Discipline that she was concerned about the close relationship between Father Chris Van Liefde and Sr. REDACTED. Sr. REDACTED stated that Sr. REDACTED is deceased and that Sr. REDACTED did not inform her of Mrs. REDACTED concern. She believes Sr. REDACTED would have informed the principal of this information. The principal at the time was Sr. REDACTED who is now, retired and resides in the Mother House in Dubuque, Iowa, phone - REDACTED.

She knew and remembers REDACTED as an average student who seemed to get along well in school and was not a discipline problem. She does not recall any rumors regarding REDACTED having a relationship with a priest. She said that would have been not only scandalous, but against the law and would have been reported to law enforcement authorities. She did not know any other members of REDACTED family. She knows Fr. Van Liefde and had no reason to believe that he carried on a relationship with REDACTED or any other Holy Family student.

ADDENDUM:

On 12/31/03 Sister REDACTED was telephonically contacted by the Auditor at her residence in Dubuque, Iowa and after being informed of the above information, supplied the following:

In 1974 she was the principal at Holy Family High School and Sr. REDACTED who has since deceased, was a counselor who worked mainly with scholarship students. Sr. REDACTED did not inform her that REDACTED nother was concerned about REDACTED relationship with Father Van Liefde. Sr. said that had she been so informed she would have immediately notified Msgr. REDACTED REDACTED of Holy Family parish and would have met with Mrs. REDACTED and REDACTED to obtain all the details of the allegation. She had absolutely no reason to believe Father Van Liefde had a relationship with REDACTED or any other student at Holy Family High School.

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INTERVIEW REPORT
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

**INTERVIEW OF FATHER REDACTED
REGARDING MSGR. CHRISTIAN VAN LIEFDE**

On 12/31/03 Canonical Auditor REDACTED interviewed Father REDACTED at REDACTED residence, REDACTED Seal Beach, CA, phone- REDACTED REDACTED and he supplied the following information:

He and Msgr. Christian Van Liefde met at St. John's Seminary and were later ordained in 1973. Van Liefde was the youngest member of the class. They maintained contact, especially when he was assigned at Holy Trinity and Van Liefde was assigned at Holy Family.

He had heard that Van Liefde was "under some type of scrutiny by the archdiocese", but is unaware of the details. He has not talked to Van Liefde since Van Liefde has been temporarily removed from ministry. At no time during their friendship has he ever had any reason to suspect that Van Liefde had violated his promise of chastity in any manner.

**CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED
INTERVIEW REPORT
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT**

**INTERVIEW OF REDACTED
REGARDING MSGR. CHRISTIAN VAN LIEFDE**

Synopsis of interview:

REDACTED had no dealing with REDACTED or her mother REDACTED. He was never advised by Sister REDACTED or REDACTED that Fr. Van Liefde and REDACTED were engaged in an inappropriate relationship. He has never confronted Fr. Van Liefde on the abuse allegations by REDACTED or any other person.

On December 31, 2003, Canonical Investigator, REDACTED interviewed REDACTED at his residence located at Holy Family Parish, 209 Lomita Ave., Glendale, CA, phone -REDACTED

He supplied the following information:

He is REDACTED of Holy Family church. He became REDACTED at Holy Family Parish in 1974 and believes, but is not certain that Father Christian Van Liefde was assigned there when he arrived. He also believes Father REDACTED was assigned at the same time.

He has heard the name REDACTED does not know her personally and to his knowledge has had no personal dealings with her or any of her family members. He recalled a conversation he had with a former Holy Family High School student, REDACTED in early 2003, just prior to her death when they were discussing some of the Holy Family students and teachers. When the name REDACTED came up, REDACTED said "... REDACTED was a flake in school..". When asked what REDACTED meant by the word "flake", he believed REDACTED meant REDACTED was "weird and had a strange personality". From her statement he had the feeling that REDACTED did not like REDACTED but he does not know the reason. REDACTED sister, REDACTED was a Holy Family student at about the same time and may remember REDACTED now lives in South Pasadena and her phone number is REDACTED

He was informed that in a formal Declaration signed under the penalty of perjury on January 7, 2003, REDACTED stated that in or about January 1975 her mother REDACTED informed him REDACTED that Father Van Liefde and REDACTED had a relationship that concerned her. REDACTED also stated that Van Liefde told her that REDACTED; confronted him regarding the situation.

REDACTED was further advised that REDACTED in a similar formal declaration dated January 7, 2003 stated that in late December 1974 or early January 1975 she informed Sister REDACTED Jean Of Discipline, Holy Family High School that REDACTED and Van

Liefde were having an inappropriate relationship and she discovered them kissing. Sister REDACTED told her it was out of her jurisdiction and suggested she inform REDACTED. On January 15, 1975 he, REDACTED came to her home to visit her ill son. At that time she told him that Van Liefde and REDACTED were having an inappropriate relationship and that she observed them kissing on the sofa in her home. She said that Msgr. informed her there was another similar incident involving Van Liefde, and he assured her that Van Liefde would not bother REDACTED again and that he would be transferred out of Holy Family to a parish with no girl's high school.

REDACTED said that the above statements in the declarations are untrue. He was never informed by REDACTED Sister REDACTED or anyone else that Van Liefde and REDACTED were engaged in a sexual relationship. He has absolutely no recall of this situation. At no time did he confront Fr. Van Liefde regarding the allegations by REDACTED or any other person.

He stated that sister REDACTED is deceased and suggested that Sister REDACTED REDACTED who was a teacher at Holy Family High School and is currently residing in the Holy Family convent be contacted at REDACTED

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INTERVIEW REPORT
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

INTERVIEW OF DETECTIVE REDACTED
Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Exploited Children's Unit

On 12/18/03, Canonical Investigator, REDACTED telephonically contacted Detective REDACTED, LAPD, Exploited Children's Unit, phone REDACTED

He was informed that when the Diocese was notified that the criminal investigation was closed, an internal (canonical) investigation was instituted with the ultimate goal of determining if Msgr. Van Lifde's actions warranted his removal from the priesthood.

REDACTED stated that had the statute of limitations not passed, the facts of the case against Msgr. Christian Van Lifde were sufficient to have sustained a criminal child molestation charges against him.

He advised there were two separate victims in the same general time frame. He confirmed that the first and most egregious case involved REDACTED REDACTED He would not provide the name of the second victim. He would neither confirm nor deny that the second victim was REDACTED

CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED
 INTERVIEW REPORT
 ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

INTERVIEW OF FATHER REDACTED
 REGARDING MSGR. CHRISTIAN VAN LIEFDE

Synopsis of December 18, 2003 interview:

Fr. REDACTED does not know a person named REDACTED. He adamantly denied that a person named REDACTED or any other person has ever confided in him that she was having a sexual relationship with Fr. Van Liefde. Fr. REDACTED is willing to testify under oath that the statements made by REDACTED in her formal declaration regarding him are completely false.

On December 18, 2003, Canonical Investigator, REDACTED interviewed Father REDACTED at St. Justin Martyr Church 2050 Ball Rd., Anaheim, CA, where he is REDACTED. His telephone number is REDACTED.

He supplied the following information:

He first met Christian Van Liefde in January 1975 at Holy Family Parish where Van Liefde was assigned as an assistant pastor and Fr. REDACTED REDACTED was a REDACTED at the time, serving at the parish and living in the rectory only on the weekends from January to May of 1975. He had very limited contact with Van Liefde and never had the opportunity to develop a friendship with him. He had no suspicion that Van Liefde was violating his vows in any way. He believed he has seen him only once or twice since 1975. He stated that one of Van Liefde's close friends during that time period was Fr. REDACTED (unsure of spelling) who was assigned to another parish in the diocese, name unrecalled.

He does not know any person named REDACTED also known as REDACTED or REDACTED REDACTED. He stated the name REDACTED "rings a very very distant bell", but he cannot associate the name with any parish assignment, and specifically cannot associate it with a Holy Family high school student, and in no way connects the name to Van Liefde.

He was informed that in a formal Declaration signed under the penalty of perjury on January 7, 2003, REDACTED stated "In or about 1975 or 1976 I confided in Fr. REDACTED (then REDACTED) at Holy Family Church about Fr. Chris and me. Fr. REDACTED told me to pray about it and make sure it did not happen again. The conversation happened just prior to his being ordained a priest. I attended Fr. REDACTED ordination although I have no recollection of the date".

He said her statement is completely untrue. This statement was never made to him by any person, using the name REDACTED or any other name. He stated he has never had anyone confide in him that they have had a sexual relationship with Fr Van Liefde, or any other priest, and that if it was done as described above he would immediately notified someone in authority, probably the pastor. He is willing to testify under oath that the statements made by REDACTED REDACTED regarding him are completely false.

He had very little contact with any Holy Family parishioners due to his short weekend type assignment. He does recall two young girls, possibly high school students gave him a bible (which he no longer has) for his priestly ordination, but has no recollection that ^{REDACTED} was one of the girls. He was ordained at St Alfonse's Parish in East Los Angeles and does not recall any Holy Family parishioners attending.

CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED
INTERVIEW REPORT
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

INTERVIEW OF FR. REDACTED
REGARDING MSGR. CHRISTIAN VAN LIEFDE

Synopsis of December 17, 2003 Interview:

Fr. REDACTED does not know, and to his knowledge has had no contact with a person named REDACTED or any members of her family. He has met Msgr. Chris Van Liefde on a few diocesan social occasions and knows he was the Los Angeles Fire Department Chaplin. He learned recently that Van Liefde had been charged by the Church for sexual misconduct. When REDACTED was Director of Media Affairs for the diocese, he dealt with the media and the Long Beach Police Department (LBPd) on issues regarding allegations and criminal charges against REDACTED. He did not know REDACTED personally. In his media capacity he had several phone calls from people upset about the charges against REDACTED and occasionally a few cried. He never asked any caller if they had an inappropriate relationship with REDACTED, and never told anyone not to contact the LBPd. (See REDACTED Declaration (Decl). 1/7/03 – Page. 13. Para. 42, line 22-25 and P. 14. Para. 42, line- 1-4. He absolutely denied ever receiving a call from someone who related their sexual relationship with Fr. Chris Van Liefde. Decl. P.15 Par. 45- line 1-10. He adamantly denied telling a caller “if young girls would not throw themselves on priests there wouldn’t be a problem”, and”... that it was as much her fault as Chris and that she should confess her sins and forget about the past...”.

He stated he would testify under oath and/or submit a signed statement or deposition regarding his denials of statements regarding him in REDACTED declaration.

On December 17 2003, Canonical Investigator, REDACTED interviewed Fr. REDACTED REDACTED at his current assignment, St Francis High School, 200 Foothill Blvd., La Canada, CA (phone-REDACTED and he supplied the following information:

He first met Msgr. Christian “Chris” Van Liefde sometime between 1987 and 89, knew he was the Los Angeles Fire Department Chaplin and only met him at a few diocesan social functions. He read a fairly recent newspaper article stating that Van Liefde had been charged by the Church for sexual misconduct.

When REDACTED was Director of Media Affairs for the diocese, he dealt with the media and the Long Beach Police Department (LBPd) on issues regarding allegations and criminal charges against REDACTED. He did not know REDACTED and dealt directly with REDACTED attorney. In his media capacity he had several phone calls from people upset about the charges against REDACTED and occasionally a few cried.

He was advised that REDACTED also known as, REDACTED and REDACTED REDACTED, stated she and her family met him when he ran the Bingo games at St. Francis High School in La Canada. He was informed that she signed a declaration under the penalty of perjury on January 7, 2003. This declaration states that she had an ongoing sexual relationship with then Father Van Liefte in the 1970's when she was 16 to 17 ½ years of age and that she telephonically advised him (REDACTED) of the relationship in approximately 1994; that he (REDACTED) told her that "if young girls would not throw themselves on priests there wouldn't be a problem"; that "... it was as much her fault as Chris's and that she should confess her sins and forget about the past....".

REDACTED was also informed that REDACTED said that when she inquired about the whereabouts of REDACTED REDACTED asked her three times if she had an inappropriate relationship with REDACTED and told her not contact the LBPD.

REDACTED ran the St Francis High School bingo games weekly for approximately 13 years, with approximately 200 persons in attendance each week. He does not know, and to his knowledge has had no contact with a person named REDACTED REDACTED, or any members of her family. They may have attended the games, but he does not know them personally.

REDACTED adamantly denied having the above conversations with REDACTED. He has always prided himself on his pastoral outreach and would never treat anyone as harshly as REDACTED alleges in the disposition. If someone had informed him of a sexual relationship with a priest he would have obtained as much information as possible and immediately related it to REDACTED. Also, he would never informed anyone to withhold information from the police, and he would have immediately notified Llanos attorney of the call.

REDACTED stated he would testify under oath and/or submit a signed statement or deposition regarding his denials of statements regarding him in REDACTED declaration.



FILE

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
the Archbishop

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2241

August 29, 2003

His Eminence
Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
00120 Vatican City State

RE: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
Request for Dispensation in Accord with *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*

Your Eminence:

I am writing to seek a dispensation from prescription so that a canonical trial can proceed to examine allegations that Monsignor Christian Van Liefde violated his responsibility under canon 1395, §2 by engaging in sexual misconduct with minors. The allegations date back approximately thirty years. While the normal term of prescription is past, it is essential for the welfare of the Church that we conduct a full canonical trial in order to establish the facts and make a just decision in the face of these allegations. Let me provide some background with regard to Monsignor Van Liefde and the charges raised against him.

In May of 2002, we received an initial accusation that Monsignor Van Liefde had engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor. This information was brought forward by [REDACTED], the purported victim. In accord with canon 1717, my Vicar commenced a preliminary investigation and appointed Monsignor Richard Loomis as auditor.

When confronted with the accusation, Monsignor Van Liefde denied having engaged in any sort of sexual misconduct with anyone. Since that time, Monsignor Van Liefde has continued to insist that he is totally innocent. Given the furor then raging and the fact that the civil authorities had initiated a criminal investigation, Monsignor Van Liefde was asked to leave the parish and not engage in any public ministry pending the outcome of the investigation. He concurred. He remains the canonical pastor of St. Genevieve Parish, Panorama City, although the other priests assigned to that community have provided for the care of souls during Monsignor Van Liefde's absence. Monsignor Van Liefde had also been serving as Chaplain of the Los Angeles Fire Department. In accord with their own regulations, he was placed on a leave of absence from that responsibility.

Because I did not want to give occasion to a charge that the Church was in any way "interfering" with the investigation of law enforcement authorities, after its initial stages we placed our preliminary investigation in abeyance hoping that the civil authorities would either dismiss the

Request for Dispensation from Prescription
Re: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
Page 2

case or file charges. Originally, I had envisioned that the investigation being conducted by law enforcement would be completed within a period of some three to six months, at which time we could resume the appropriate canonical process and make an ecclesiastical determination in the matter. Unfortunately, that was much too optimistic, and after its initial stages the canonical preliminary investigation has been in abeyance.

With the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court (*Marion Reynolds Stogner v. California*, 01-1757), it now appears that there will be no criminal prosecution of Monsignor van Liefde by the civil authorities. Thus, the primary obstacle that had prevented us from moving the canonical process forward has been removed.

In addition to the complaint and information she provided to the canonical auditor, the person who originally came forward eventually presented a sworn affidavit describing her contentions with a great deal of detail. This affidavit is included along with selected other materials.

Recently, a second woman has come forward claiming to have been the victim of sexual misconduct at the hands of Monsignor Van Liefde, also approximately thirty years ago. These new allegations remain vague in nature, since all we have at this point is the notice that she is joining the class action civil lawsuit that may be filed against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. We are in the process of trying to obtain additional information from her to be considered as part of a canonical trial, should the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith choose to dispense from the prescription and authorize us to conduct a judicial trial.

The evidence discovered during the preliminary investigation certainly meets the criteria of a "semblance of truth" and provides sufficient foundation to suspect that Monsignor Van Liefde may have sexually abused two minor girls in the years 1973-1976.

I am writing to seek dispensation of the prescription in order to permit a judicial trial of the allegations made against Monsignor Van Liefde. Given the publicity that the case has received, the prominence of Monsignor Van Liefde as Fire Department Chaplain, and the fact that there are two separate individuals who have lodged allegations against him, it is necessary that we undertake a full trial on the merits of the charges. Justice requires nothing less than a careful and considered determination being made in the canonical judicial forum.

Therefore, I hereby request that prescription be dispensed to enable an ecclesiastical trial on the two offenses of sexual misconduct with minors.

Out of fairness to both Monsignor Van Liefde and those who have accused him, I ask for a favorable and speedy reply to this request.

Request for Dispensation from Prescription
Re: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
Page 3

Enclosed is selected documentation from Monsignor Van Liefde's file for your review. Thank you for your attention to this difficult and critically important matter. Please know that you are in my prayers. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours in Christ.

REDACTED

enclosures

TO: File

FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox

RE: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde

DATE: 25 August 2003

I finally connected with [REDACTED] of the Los Angeles Fire Department today. His number is [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] explained that Detective Brown of the Los Angeles Police Department, Sexually Exploited Children Unit, has communicated with him by telephone. In that conversation, Detective Brown had indicated that the police were closing the investigation on Monsignor Van Liefde. The reason communicated was the Supreme Court decision. There was no communication of any of the specifics that the investigation had discovered, and whether that information tended either to incriminate or exonerate Monsignor Van Liefde.

I informed [REDACTED] that we would be conducting out canonical process with regard to Monsignor Van Liefde and that I would keep him informed appropriately.

Police investigating charges against pastor

By Ryan Oliver
Staff Writer

Los Angeles police opened a criminal inquiry Friday into allegations that the pastor of St. Genevieve's Catholic Church in Panorama City engaged in "inappropriate conduct" 28 years ago.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles announced Thursday that it had placed Monsignor Chris Van Liefde, 53, on administrative leave last week, shortly after receiving the complaint.

Lt. Daniel Mulrenin of LAPD's Child Protection Section said police were unaware of the complaint until they read a Daily News story about it on Friday.

"We did speak to the archdiocese," Mulrenin said. "They're

in the process of providing us with information."

Mulrenin, whose unit is handling allegations of sexual abuse involving priests in the Los Angeles Archdiocese, said he did not know the nature of the complaint against Van Liefde.

Archdiocese spokesman Tod Tamberg refused again Friday to reveal the nature of the allegation.

"We're trying to determine its credibility," he said of the complaint. "We treat all complaints with respect, but not all complaints are treated equally."

"There is a sensitivity to those who make complaints, and at the same time you have to be real careful to be sure that those complaints warrant action of removal."

"You're dealing with someone's career and good name," he said. "There's always the

possibility someone out there could be making the complaint out of anger or revenge."

The decision to suspend Van Liefde and submit information to law enforcement is consistent with the archdiocese's new zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse within the clergy.

Tamberg said he did not know where Van Liefde was assigned when the misconduct is alleged to have occurred. He said the pastor had been at St. Genevieve's since 1999 and has no previous misconduct allegations.

Van Liefde was taken to an undisclosed location after being placed on administrative leave, he said.

Van Liefde is the second San Fernando Valley priest to be removed from his post because of misconduct allegations. The Rev. Dominic Savino, president

of Crespi High School in Encino, was removed in March after church officials found evidence

supporting allegations of sexual misconduct with 10 teen-age boys between 1966 and 1979.

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Family, police seek missing man

By Jason Kandel
Staff Writer

NORTHRIDGE — Police and family members pleaded for the public's help Friday for any information that would lead them to 21-year-old Peter Cruz, who has not been seen by family members since May 27.

Police suspect foul play in the case of the missing man, a Filipino, described as 5 feet, 7 inches

tall, weighing 160 pounds, with a shaved head. He has two thumbs on his right hand.

Friends told police they went by Cruz's Superior Street apartment May 31 when they had not heard from him for four days. They reported finding evidence of ransacking and foul play.

Los Angeles Police Department Devonshire Division detectives searched the Superior Street apartment, collected blood

evidence, and determined that property that Cruz owned had been removed.

A neighbor told police he had heard a fight and other commotion coming from inside Cruz's apartment in the early morning hours of May 29.

Police are asking that anyone with information on Cruz's disappearance call the Devonshire Division at (818) 756-8291 or (818) 756-8283.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2002

50 CENTS
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ation amid probe of lapses

... Bush's solution — announced merging an extensive collection es into a new Department of ... the most extensive reorgani- (since World War II) did not he question of how the govern- intelligence agencies, the Federal igation, the Central Intelligence nal Security Agency, dropped the

ball in advance of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The White House acknowledged on Thursday that the president and his senior advisers have been mining the veins of previous Republican administrations by soliciting advice from such stalwarts of national security planning as Brent Scowcroft, who served as national security adviser in the first Bush

See SECURITY / Page 14



► Should the Department of Homeland Security be made a Cabinet position?

See Page 2



Gene Blevins/Special to the Daily News



As fire swept through San Francisquito Canyon, it consumed this two-story home, above. At left, Mindy

2nd Valley priest put on leave

By Dana Bartholomew and Phillip W. Browne
Staff Writers



PANORAMA CITY — The pastor at St. Genevieve's Catholic Church has been placed on administrative leave over an allegation he engaged in "inappropriate conduct" 28 years ago, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles announced Thursday.

LIEFDE

The allegation against Monsignor Chris Van Liefde, 53 — the only Catholic chaplain for the Los Angeles Fire Department — surfaced the day Cardinal Roger Mahony publicized a zero-tolerance policy against clerical sexual abuse in full-page ads in the Daily News and other newspapers.

Archdiocese officials said the allegation was brought

See ACCUSED / Page 16

Tobacco ads cost RJR \$20 million

By Seth Hettens

News (1) 6-7-2-2

Accused priest defended

ACCUSED / From Page 1

to their attention last week but they declined to provide the nature of the accusation or any other details.

In a written statement to his parishioners, the priest known affectionately as Monsignor Chris acknowledged the allegation and said he would suspend his ministry while the church investigates.

"I ask your forgiveness for the anxiety and embarrassment that this announcement must cause many of you," his statement said, "and I ask that you keep me in your prayers."

Van Liefde last celebrated Mass a week ago today, then was put on administrative leave and transferred from the church rectory to an unknown location. "Respecting the Boundaries," a forum that Van Liefde was scheduled to lead Tuesday on clergy sexual misconduct, was canceled.

The accusation against Van Liefde comes as the U.S. Conference of Bishops prepares to meet next week in Dallas, where the clerics will discuss how to deal with the growing sexual abuse scandal within the Catholic Church.

"This places a great amount of stress on the parish community," said archdiocese spokesman Tod Tamberg. "We are hoping for a resolution soon."

Tamberg said he did not know whether the accusation was received on a hotline created by

Mahony to report sexual abuse or by some other means. He declined to reveal any information about the victim or the allegation.

The allegation will be reviewed by Monsignor Craig Cox, vicar for clergy for the archdiocese, but it is unclear what steps will be taken after that, Tamberg said.

Van Liefde is the second San Fernando Valley priest to be removed from his post because of allegations of abuse. The Rev. Dominic Savino, president of Crespi High School in Encino, was removed from his position in March after the Carmelite Order found evidence supporting allegations of sexual misconduct with 10 teen-age boys between 1966 and 1979.

In his signed newspaper message, Mahony reiterated there would be "no exceptions" to a "zero-tolerance policy" on sexual impropriety. He also said he would establish a Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board headed by retired Presiding Superior Court Judge Richard Byrne.

In his ad, Mahony promised that the archdiocese would immediately notify civil authorities of allegations of clergy sexual abuse, offer assistance to alleged victims and families, and remove accused priests from active ministries.

Tamberg said the archdiocese would follow Mahony's plan to the letter, but he didn't know whether the allegations against Van Liefde had been reported to

the police or District Attorney's Office.

An LAPD spokesman said the department had not yet received any report on Van Liefde.

"The Los Angeles Police Department has not been informed of this case," said department spokesman Officer Jason Lee. "We've been here all day, and no one has contacted us about it."

A spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said she could not comment specifically on Van Liefde, but did say the statute of limitations begins at the time the abuse is reported.

"Investigators will have one year to look into the case," said spokeswoman Jane Robison.

Van Liefde has been a Los Angeles Fire Department chaplain for 22 years, celebrating Masses, and officiating at weddings and funerals for firefighters, along with conducting stress management courses. He occasionally went on location with firefighters to console families who had lost loved ones.

Van Liefde, a recipient of a LAFD Service to Mankind award in 1997, also visited ground zero in New York City after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in order to comfort firefighters.

Firefighters say he is well-respected throughout the department.

Battalion Chief Bob Franco said Van Liefde had informed the department of the allegations

two weeks ago.

"All I can say is that I was surprised — we all were surprised — because of the type of individual he is," said Franco, who personally knows Van Liefde. "But we know it is only an allegation, and we will wait and see how everything turns out."

Parishioners of St. Genevieve's sprawling church-school campus defended Van Liefde's reputation as an honest and upright priest and were saddened by the allegation.

Van Liefde was described by parents and students as a dynamic church leader whose homilies never failed to inspire his parish.

"It was very shocking," said David Delazari, 40, of Panorama City, as he picked up his two daughters from school. "He's very likable, very approachable, very honest. He's very moral."

"I know people who don't want to believe — my wife doesn't want to believe — that this is happening. I am very upset."

Students were also upset about the news of their spiritual leader they regard as "cool," "a good guy" ready with a smile, a joke, or to doff his coat for a game of hoops.

"It's a rough break," said Michael, 18, a St. Genevieve graduate from Panorama City who declined to give his last name. "It's weird. (He's) not at all guilty, he's a great guy — someone you can really trust."

Reynolds slapped for ads in magazines

TOBACCO / From Page 1

and Rolling Stone.

But Superior Court Judge Ronald Prager said the company "intentionally avoided" studying whether teens were being reached and that "casts doubt on RJR's intent to abide by the terms" of the agreement.

"It was, or should have been, apparent to the skillful and bright people who managed RJR's multimillion-dollar, sophisticated print advertising campaign that youth were exposed to tobacco advertising at levels substantially similar to targeted adult smokers," the

judge said.

Reynolds, maker of the Camel, Winston, Doral and Salem brands, planned to appeal and seek a stay of Prager's ruling, company spokesman Tommy J. Payne said.

"Today's decision might be politically correct but it disregarded the facts, the law, the First Amendment and the relevant provisions" of the nationwide tobacco settlement, Payne said Thursday.

The California Attorney General's Office, which sued Winston-Salem, N.C.-based Reynolds last year, had asked the judge to fine Reynolds \$20

million and ban it from advertising in 50 magazines often read by teens.

The judge did not go so far as to ban advertising in specific magazines but ordered Reynolds to take "reasonable measures" designed to reduce youth exposure to tobacco ads to a level "substantially lower" than its reach of adults.

Stephen Sugarman, a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley and an author of books on tobacco policy, said Prager's ruling could signal the first step in the lengthy process of interpreting how the 1998 tobacco settlement affects

magazine ads.

"Over time, one of two things is going to happen," Sugarman said. "One, they're going to reach a reasonable standard around the country." Or, he said, there could be a "splintering" of opinion. "It's not beyond the realm of possibility that as a practical matter you'll have different standards in different places."

Payne argued that the ruling imposed an "illogical double standard" in California because magazines that are "too youthful" for Camel cigarettes are still acceptable forums for beer, wine, liquor and R-rated movies.



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Published: Friday, June 7, 2002

Accused pastor on leave

By Dana Bartholomew and Phillip W. Browne
Staff writers

PANORAMA CITY - The pastor at St. Genevieve's Catholic Church has been placed on administrative leave over an allegation he engaged in "inappropriate conduct" 28 years ago, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles announced Thursday.

The allegation against Monsignor Chris Van Liefde, 53 - the only Catholic chaplain for the Los Angeles Fire Department - surfaced the day Cardinal Roger Mahony publicized a zero-tolerance policy against clerical sexual abuse in full-page ads in the Daily News of Los Angeles and other newspapers.

Archdiocese officials said the allegation was brought to their attention last week but they declined to provide the nature of the accusation or any other details.

In a written statement to his parishioners, the priest known affectionately as Monsignor Chris acknowledged the allegation and said he would suspend his ministry while the church investigates.

"I ask your forgiveness for the anxiety and embarrassment that this announcement must cause many of you," his statement said, "and I ask that you keep me in your prayers."

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"This places a great amount of stress on the parish community," said archdiocese spokesman Tod Tamberg. "We are hoping for a resolution soon."

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The allegation will be reviewed by Monsignor Craig Cox, vicar for clergy for the archdiocese, but it is unclear what steps will be taken after that, Tamberg said.

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Statement for Weekend Masses at St. Genevieve, Panorama City
 May 31 – June 1, 2002
 Regarding Monsignor Christian Van Liefde

I am Monsignor Craig Cox, Vicar for Clergy of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. It is my sad duty to announce that we have received a complaint of inappropriate conduct lodged against Monsignor Chris Van Liefde. The report involves an incident more than twenty-five years ago.

Let me first ask that you keep him in your prayers. This is a very difficult time for him. Monsignor Chris has prepared a brief statement that I would like to read to you at this time:

As Monsignor Cox has just mentioned, a report of inappropriate behavior on my part has been received by the Archdiocese. This incident reportedly took place some twenty-eight years ago. Following its policy, the Archdiocese has placed me on Administrative Leave during its investigation.

I ask your forgiveness for the anxiety and embarrassment that this announcement must cause many of you, and I ask that you keep me in your prayers.

The heart of our faith is the Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that you will all trust in Him, that He will carry us all through this painful time. My prayers are with you.

Let us all pause right now for a moment of silent prayer.

Let me emphasize the importance of maintaining perspective in this time of so many sensational news reports. The simple fact that a complaint has been made does not mean that Monsignor Chris has acted in an abusive fashion. All people, priests included, must be presumed innocent until there is proof to the contrary. At the same time, the Church takes allegations of this sort seriously -- precisely because we want to uncover the full truth and then act in accord with the truth. Therefore, in accord with our policy, Monsignor Chris has gone on temporary administrative leave so that we can carefully and respectfully look into the matter. During this time, we are caring for Monsignor Chris and extending to him all the support we possibly can.

News like this is always difficult, precisely because our Church is a family and because, as members of the Body of Christ, when one member suffers we all suffer. Again, I ask that you keep Monsignor Chris in your prayers. Likewise, please keep the person who filed the report and all others involved in your prayers. I urge you not to jump to conclusions, one way or the other. That does not serve the causes of truth and justice. We never make hasty prejudgments in something as sensitive as this; I hope that you too can be guided by this wisdom.

I wish that I could give you more information, but I simply cannot do so. This is out of respect for Monsignor Chris and respect for the rights of all involved.

Finally, as you know, originally Monsignor Chris had scheduled a forum for this coming Tuesday evening to give parishioners an opportunity to discuss the current crisis regarding sexual misconduct in the Church. In light of the need for Monsignor Chris to go on Administrative Leave, that meeting for this coming week is cancelled and an opportunity for a meeting of that sort will be rescheduled at a later time. Thank you and God bless you.

Clergy Misconduct
Suspected Child Abuse

Survivor:

[REDACTED]

Birth:

[REDACTED]

Motivation for coming forward:

"I'm looking for a resolution".

Priest:
Birth:

Fr. Chris Van Liefde
8/26/48

Timeline:

April 19, 2002

[REDACTED] hand delivered a letter. This letter details the abuse (see attachment #a.).

May 2, 2002

[REDACTED] and husband [REDACTED] come for interview with Msgr. Loomis and Sr. [REDACTED] 2:30 p.m. (see attachment #b.) Msgr. Loomis writes a summary for the Vicar's office.

May 20, 2002

[REDACTED] calls for an update on the investigation. [REDACTED] said that she was aware that an intervention was made with Fr. Van Liefde and that the Archdiocesan abuse policy was in progress. [REDACTED] informed Msgr. Loomis of the call. He said that the interviews had been made and that no data had been disclosed. He said that the only person that [REDACTED] had mentioned who was not interviewed was her Mother.

May 28, 2002

[REDACTED] called for an update and requested a timeline for the completion of the investigation. [REDACTED] reported the above conversation with Msgr. Loomis. [REDACTED] responded that she wanted to talk to her Mother first. She also wanted to know the timeline.

May 28, 2002

[REDACTED] Mother of [REDACTED] called. [REDACTED] was sobbing. [REDACTED] had talked to her. She kept repeating: "I just can't believe it. I just can't believe it. I can't believe he betrayed us. I had my suspicions. I had my fears. I talked to him." "I had many talks with Chris. He had a key to our house. We considered him family. One night, my husband got up to go to the bathroom and he saw Chris and [REDACTED] on the couch. He came back to me. It was after 1:00 a.m. and my husband said to me, "Chris is still here". I got up and asked him to leave. I remember

he had on a Hawaiian shirt. That night I saw him kissing REDACTED on the couch."

"The next morning I asked REDACTED 'Does Chris kiss you the way Daddy kisses you?' REDACTED said 'No'. After she went to school I called Chris and asked him to come over. We talked at the dining room table. He put his head on the table and he said, 'I love REDACTED I love her.' I said, 'If you love her, take off that band aid (reference to the white roman collar) and marry her.' REDACTED

continued weeping. She said "I can't believe...he betrayed us".

She said that she called Sr. REDACTED and told her 'Chris kisses

REDACTED Sr. REDACTED responded 'that Son of a Bitch'.

I threatened him that I was going to call REDACTED I kept threatening.

At the same time REDACTED

REDACTED

CTED

and I called

REDACTED He was so kind and he stayed with me. During that time I also told him about REDACTED and Chris kissing. I told him everything. He said, 'You don't have to worry he can be transferred'.

REDACTED continues crying, "We have been betrayed. We sent our children to Catholic Schools we thought they would be safe. I cannot go back to Church."

"This is devastating me. REDACTED continues to cry. I talked to him. I wanted to make myself clear. She was a virgin. She was only 15 years old. Crying. He was molesting my baby. I can't believe it. I gave him the key to our home. He betrayed us. I don't know how I will tell my husband. He is at the dentist. I can't believe it. He will be so angry. This is a terrible thing in our hearts. I can't believe this happened. I'm Italian...I'm very emotional. I'm sorry..crying. I'm horrified. I tried to protect her."

I responded to REDACTED profound grief by saying, "it was so wrong. It never should have happened. I am very sorry, REDACTED,

I don't know what I will tell my husband. I said if she and her husband want to come and share how they feel or if counseling would be helpful for them since they are also victims whatever would help. She said, I don't know whatever will help REDACTED

I ended by saying you have my number. Please call me REDACTED any time that I can be helpful to you.

REDACTED

ATTACHMENT

A

Via Personal Delivery

Personal & Confidential
For Addressee's Eyes Only

Sr. REDACTED

Assistance Ministry
Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

Dear Sr. REDACTED

This letter is written in the strictest confidence. The contents of this letter, either specifically or generally shall not be discussed with or disclosed to any other person without my written authorization.

The purpose of this letter is to advise the Archdiocese of Los Angeles of sexual misconduct involving a Los Angeles Archdiocese parish priest, Msgr. Christian Van Liefde during the period of 1973 – 1975. During this period, Msgr. Van Liefde was a parish priest at Holy Family Parish in Glendale, where I attended both grade school and high school. At the time of the incident, I was 16 through 17 1/2 years old. Although the incident is legally and in other respects classified as child abuse or molestation, I will refer to the incident as serious sexual misconduct and personal indiscretion, thereby avoiding any possible inference that Msgr. Van Liefde has in the past or is presently engaged in serial child molestation or other aberrant sexual behavior.

A brief chronology of events will place this matter into the proper perspective and will provide the basis for further detailed discussion. In or about June 1973, Msgr. Van Liefde was assigned to Holy Family Catholic Church in Glendale, California as an associate pastor. In or about July 1973, Msgr. Van Liefde became friends with my family, visiting my family's home often for dinner, social events, etc. For the next year and a half, until approximately January 1975, the "relationship" between Msgr. Van Liefde and I evolved from an innocent "friendship" to one that involved sexual activity consisting of kissing, hugging, fondling and other sexual behavior, that occurred on a weekly, sometimes daily basis. I was a 16 year old student at Holy Family High School and Msgr. Van Liefde was a 25 year old associate pastor. The sexual advances were always initiated by Msgr. Van Liefde and typically occurred either in my parents' home, in his car or at the beach.

Although unaware of the extent of the "friendship" or any of the sexual activity, my mother became suspicious and concerned in late 1974 and discussed the matter with Msgr. Van Liefde who advised her that the friendship was "innocent" and "nothing to be concerned with ...", and that we were just good friends. Shortly thereafter, my mother

Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Page 2

discussed the situation with Sr. REDACTED the Dean of Girls at Holy Family High School. Sr. REDACTED told my mother to immediately advise Holy Family Church REDACTED of the situation and demand that he and the archdiocese resolve the matter. My mother spoke with REDACTED in or about January 1975, and almost immediately, Msgr. Van Liefde was transferred to another parish. REDACTED advised my mother that the situation had been "properly handled" and that Msgr. Van Liefde would not be transferred to another parish with high school girls. My information is that Msgr. Van Liefde did, in fact, serve at other parishes with high schools after the incident and, in fact, is currently at a parish with a high school.

In or about May 1975, I met and thereafter became friends with another parish priest, REDACTED. In or about December 1980, I advised REDACTED of the incident with Msgr. Van Liefde and asked him on numerous occasions over the following 3 or 4 years to assist me in filing the proper report with the Los Angeles Archdiocese. REDACTEDs, after many discussions, advised me against going to the Archdiocese about the situation, warning me that I would be viewed as a liar or that otherwise my reputation would be at issue. Fr. REDACTED told me that he felt the situation was properly handled by simply transferring Msgr. Van Liefde to a new parish, thereby stopping the misconduct and that further discussing the incident with the Archdiocese would not elicit any further response or action on their part. I was obviously unaware at the time that REDACTED was, concurrently, engaging in aberrant sexual behavior and child molestation with young boys.

In or about 1996, after the revelation of REDACTED actions and his ultimate suicide, I had at least two telephone conversations with Fr. REDACTED of the Los Angeles Archdiocese office. While the initial reason for my call to Fr. REDACTED was to discuss Fr. REDACTED's situation, I took the opportunity to discuss the incident regarding Msgr. Van Liefde as well, in part seeking advice and direction from Fr. REDACTED and in part, hoping to confirm what was appearing to be an ever-growing problem of sexual misconduct by the clergy. In short, Fr. REDACTED told me that there was nothing that could be done, beyond what had been done and that I was best off trying to forget about the past, and go forward with my life. My concerns over both matters were promptly dismissed and, in fact, Fr. REDACTED was rude and abruptly ended the last conversation.

It is not my desire nor intention at this time to involve the courts, attorneys, media or persons outside of the Los Angeles Archdiocese regarding this matter. To the contrary, it is my intention to discuss and resolve this matter solely with the Archdiocese in a discreet and highly confidential manner. Any involvement by the courts, media or outside persons would only serve to create a negative environment for discussion in an already media-frenzied atmosphere, and would undoubtedly severely, negatively impact both Msgr. Van Liefde's life and my own life as well. It is not my desire to resolve this matter in today's

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volatile court of public opinion, but rather to bring closure to a very serious situation that has been left unresolved for over 25 years. To bring this matter into the public view would, in my opinion, only victimize me again, in light of my professional career and need for privacy and anonymity regarding the situation.

I am hereby requesting a personal meeting with you to discuss this matter more fully. I reiterate that this letter is written in the strictest confidence, the contents may not be disclosed or discussed with any other person without my written authorization. You may confidentially contact me at my office private line REDACTED if I am unavailable, I will promptly return your call.

Thank you,
REDACTED

**CONFIDENTIAL**

MEMORANDUM

To: Cardinal Roger Mahony**From:** Monsignor Richard Loomis**Date:** Tuesday, May 21, 2002**Re:** Monsignor Christian van Liefde

As you may remember, [REDACTED] came forward about two weeks ago with an allegation of sexual abuse against Monsignor Christian van Liefde.

She alleges a two-year affair in which the then Father van Liefde molested her repeatedly between the ages of 16 and 18. She says that the abuse involved "a dysfunctional dating relationship" and alleges that the sexual misconduct included inappropriate touching, hugging, kissing and oral sex. She says there was no intercourse because both of them were afraid of pregnancy. She said that her mother reported the abuse to [REDACTED] in 1975, and that Father van Liefde was transferred immediately. She also claims to have reported the behavior to Father [REDACTED] (of Orange) who was a [REDACTED] at Holy Family at the time.

Monsignor van Liefde readily admitted that he knew [REDACTED] and admitted that there had been boundary violations with her, as well as hugging and embracing. He denies, however, any genital activity of any kind and specifically denied the allegation of oral sex. He also said that if there had been such a report about him, [REDACTED] would have confronted him immediately. (I was Associate at Holy Family immediately after Monsignor van Liefde and can verify from personal experience that [REDACTED] had no problem confronting people about things he thought were out of line. Also, there was no mention to me of any misconduct on the part of Father van Liefde by anyone in the parish: priests, sisters or laity. In fact, Father van Liefde was regularly welcomed back to the parish for weddings, funerals, baptisms and confirmations.)

I contacted [REDACTED] who categorically denied that anyone had ever made a report of sexual misconduct against Father van Liefde. [REDACTED] remembered the family name but commented that Father van Liefde was popular with many of the high-school girls. [REDACTED] also denied asking for Father van Liefde to be moved due to such an allegation, noting that he left Holy Family a year later than Ms. [REDACTED] reports and was assigned to high-school work. [REDACTED] specifically said that he would never have allowed someone to go into high-school work if he had known of misconduct with a teenager. The assignment record backs up this assertion.

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I contacted Father [redacted]. He had no recollection of ever speaking with Ms. [redacted] during his time at Holy Family. He believes he would have remembered a high-school girl reporting sexual misconduct with a parish priest.

In the course of her story, Ms. [redacted] also noted that she was good friends with Father [redacted] and knew his brother [redacted]. I contacted Father [redacted] and asked him about Ms. [redacted], using all her possible last names [redacted] and he said he did not know her, though he also said that his brother had many friends that were unknown to him.

Monsignor Cox also gained access to the annulment file for Ms. [redacted] first marriage. In recounting her story to us, she spent considerable time telling us about the annulment and we thought there might be some reference to abusive behavior in the file. There was no note of any mention of abuse in the annulment proceedings.

The only other two people who have been cited as being able to corroborate her story were Sister [redacted], B.V.M., (now deceased) and Ms. [redacted] mother. I do not see the point in contacting Ms. [redacted] mother since she is quite elderly and her testimony could merely contradict or support [redacted]. Either response will leave the matter exactly where it is.

There appear to be some substantial holes in Ms. [redacted] story. All the people she named for us as corroboration do not back up her claims. This is somewhat balanced, however, by Monsignor van Liefde's admission of boundary violations. We seem to have a he-said-she-said situation with some definite inappropriate behavior.

Also, in her report, Ms. [redacted] stated that she did not want Monsignor van Liefde taken out of ministry. I am not sure what she wants. She did not immediately accept the offer of therapy, saying that she had worked through the matter already.

Monsignor van Liefde indicated that he would be most willing to render an apology if that is what Ms. [redacted] wanted.

I do not have the ability in this case to say that it has been "determined" that sexual abuse actually occurred. I would suggest that SAAB review the matter. I do not believe, however, that the admitted inappropriate behavior rises to a level requiring removal from ministry.

- 1) bring fully to the SAAB board for full review -
- 2) check with [redacted]
- 3) need to double-check with law enforcement? See no stone unturned -

+ RMM 5-22-02

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
45y/oDOB: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

See attached chronology and letter from [REDACTED] for more information. Sister [REDACTED] and Monsignor Loomis were present, as well as [REDACTED] husband.

Ms. [REDACTED] told her story using the attached chronology. She said that she had pieced it together from high school memories kept in boxes. The dates are approximate but are within months of the actual date.

8/26/73 - She had cloth from a vestment she made for Father Chris for his 25th birthday, saying she was a seamstress. She claimed this birthday was their first sexual contact. She was 16. They continued this relationship until her 18th birthday. The sexual contact included foreplay and oral sex. They never had intercourse because they were both afraid of pregnancy.

It was like a dysfunctional dating relationship. She never had normal dating because of what Father Chris did. He kept her from going out with boys her own age. He did not even want her to go to the Junior Prom (4/74) with someone so he set her up with his own brother, [REDACTED]. He wanted to keep her away from boys. On top of her mother not allowing her to go out.

Father Chris said that they had a "special kind of love." In reality [REDACTED] describes it as emotionally abusive but never physically abusive. She did not have a normal date until after she divorced her first husband.

5/74 - Introduced her to [REDACTED] after Mass. Eventually she married him. Divorced after seven years. He was gay.

In November or December of 1974, [REDACTED] mother caught them necking. Father Chris said they were just good friends and that it was all innocent. Our sexual contact ended December of 1974. Through Sister [REDACTED], BVM, it was reported to [REDACTED] (1/75). He told us it was handled by having Father Chris transferred. [REDACTED] chronology breaks down here. Father Chris did not move until June of 1976.

[REDACTED] said that she told Father (then [REDACTED]) about herself and Father Chris.

REDACTED also recounted that she knew REDACTED and REDACTED (met them in 4/75 or 5/75). She became very good friends with REDACTED saying that they became "girlfriends" (going shopping together, etc.). REDACTED said she was his champion until it was clear he had indeed done what his victims said. She said that she smoked marijuana for the first time with REDACTED. After speaking of two other priests who never did anything sexual to her but were very inappropriate (REDACTED), she asked, "Why did I have contact with so many bad people (all priests)? And my mother sent me someplace safe (Catholic high school)!" *Interesting point: how did one person meet so many priests all of whom had problems?*

REDACTED spoke with REDACTED about this situation at length and he encouraged her to let it go. She said that, somewhere around 1980, when she told him, [REDACTED] and Chris confronted each other and it ended their friendship.

"The most Chris has ever said to me is that we both made serious mistakes."

REDACTED presented photos of Father Chris in their home in Glendale, photos that appeared to be his brother in a tuxedo taking her to the Prom, and a postcard from a vacation in which Father Chris said it was nice where he was but that "he missed the back scratches."

REDACTED said that she discussed her situation with Father REDACTED in 1995 or '96. He told her not to be so naïve. She said that REDACTED gave her no resolution but told her it was her own fault.

Chronology of Events
Re: Chris Van Liefde

REDACTED 73	REDACTED 16 th birthday
5/26/73	Chris ordained a priest
6/73	Met Chris Van Liefde
REDACTED 73	Chris 25 th birthday (vestment)
8/30/73	Chris birthday – dinner - First sexual contact
2/74	Valentine’s Day – Rec’d tulips from Chris – dinner/movie
3/10/74	REDACTED 17 th birthday – dinner
4/27/74	REDACTED Junior Prom – Chris’ brother REDACTED
5/74	Introduced to REDACTED after Mass
7/5/74	Postcard from Chris from Sequoia
8/26/74	Chris’ 26 th birthday (vestment) - dinner
10 – 11/74	REDACTED mom’s discussion with Chris re: situation
10-11/74	mom’s discussion with Sr. REDACTED
11-12/74	Last sexual contact with Chris
1/75	REDACTED mom’s discussion with REDACTED
2/75	Re-met REDACTED after Mass
3/75	REDACTED 18 th birthday
4-5/75	Met REDACTED and REDACTED
6/75	REDACTED graduated High School
4/77	Married to REDACTED
12/80	Told REDACTED Chris
8-9/84	Marriage to REDACTED annulled
1995/96	Discussions with Fr. REDACTED re: REDACTED and Chris

Notes on the meeting of Monsignors Craig Cox and Richard Loomis with Monsignor Christian van Liefde, May 7, 2002, 10:30 AM, at the Archdiocesan Catholic Center.

After hearing Monsignor Loomis present the complaint brought by [REDACTED], Monsignor Van Liefde said that he remembered her clearly. She had recalled details in her story that he could neither confirm nor deny.

He said that [REDACTED] had indeed made vestments for him, acknowledging that he still had them. He believed it was a sewing project in school.

He vaguely remembers that [REDACTED] was at Mass one day and he introduced him to several parishioners. [REDACTED] may very well have been among them. She did end up marrying him. He believed that Father [REDACTED] had done the wedding either at Holy Family or in Eagle Rock.

Monsignor Van Liefde said that he did not believe that the matter was ever taken to [REDACTED], commenting that the pastor had never spoken to him about it as long as he had known him. [REDACTED] is the kind of [REDACTED] who would have confronted him about it.

Monsignor Van Liefde was not moved early because of any problem. He served at Holy Family from 1973 through 1976 and moved at the usual July time. [REDACTED] recruited him to go into Catholic schools ministry.

There were "six or so" of the high school girls who came to the weekly charismatic prayer group meeting. [REDACTED] was among them. Periodically he would give them rides home.

He recalled that his brother did take her to the Prom but said that it was more along the lines of <when it was a month before the Prom and she had no date, I asked if she would like me to arrange for my brother to take her>. There was nothing more to it than that.

Concerning the relationship, Monsignor Van Liefde acknowledged that some boundaries had been crossed. The two of them had hugged, given neck rubs and embraced – which had been inappropriate. However, he denied genital contact of any kind.

Concerning the incident in which [REDACTED] says her mother caught them necking, Monsignor Van Liefde said that there was one instance in which they were watching a movie on TV. The parents were in the house but elsewhere. [REDACTED] was leaning on his arm and when her mother came in she straightened up. Her mother may have been concerned but did not say anything to him about it.

The last time he recalls having seen ^{REDACTED} was shortly after the death of Father ^{REDACTED}
^{REDACTED} They had lunch and a two-or-three-hour conversation. She was deeply disturbed
by ^{REDACTED} situation.

When asked if Mrs. ^{REDACTED} statement that he said that they had "both made mistakes"
was true. He had no specific recollection but acknowledged that he very well might have
said something to that effect.

*Notes on the telephone conversation of Monsignor Richard Loomis with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] May 7, 2002, approximately 3:30 PM.*

I briefly reviewed with [REDACTED] allegation presented by [REDACTED]

He said that he remembered her as a student in the high school but initially thought her name was "[REDACTED]" correcting himself when I said "[REDACTED]". He also commented that he remembered the family name.

He commented that "all the high school girls liked Chris" but that he never had any thought that there was anything out of line with his conduct.

[REDACTED] stated very clearly that no one had ever brought a complaint to him regarding Father van Liefde. He said that he would remember such a thing and would have confronted him about it if it had happened. I mentioned that Sister [REDACTED] was the one that was reported to have received the initial complaint. He said that she had never mentioned anything to him concerning a complaint about Father van Liefde, commenting that she had been dead for some years. But he was very clear and said that he would indeed remember a report of misconduct with a teen.

[REDACTED] stated that he did not request to have Father van Liefde transferred. He remembered [REDACTED] calling about him going into school work. He would never have let a school assignment go forward if he had the idea that there might have been incorrect conduct with teens.

REDACTED

Obtained baptismal information from Holy Family Elementary School, Glendale

Baptized: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart – November 3, 1957

Confirmed: Holy Family, Glendale – 1970

Marriage: No notation

Annulment: Marriage to REDACTED declared null – Diocese of Orange REDACTED

**CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED
INTERVIEW REPORT
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT**

**INTERVIEW OF REDACTED
REGARDING MSGR. CHRISTIAN VAN LIEFDE**

On December 31, 2003, Canonical Investigator, REDACTED interviewed REDACTED at his residence located at Holy Family Parish.

He supplied the following information;

He became pastor at Holy Family Parish in 1974 and believes, but is not certain that Father Christian Van Liefde was assigned there when he arrived. He also believes Father REDACTED was assigned there at the same time.

He recalls the name REDACTED does not know her personally and to his knowledge has had no personal dealings with her or any of her family member He mentioned a conversation he had with a former Holy Family High School student, REDACTED in early 2003, just prior to her death, when they were discussing some of the Holy Family students and teachers. When the name REDACTED came up, REDACTED said "... REDACTED was a flake in school..." When asked what REDACTED meant by the word "flake", he believed REDACTED meant REDACTED was "weird and had a strange personality". From her statement he had the feeling that REDACTED did not like REDACTED, but he does not know the reason. REDACTED; sister, REDACTED was a Holy Family student at about the same time and may remember REDACTED REDACTED now lives in South Pasadena and her phone number is REDACTED

He was informed that in a formal Declaration signed under the penalty of perjury on January 7, 2003, REDACTED stated that in or about January 1975 her mother REDACTED informed him REDACTED that Father Van Liefde and REDACTED had a relationship that concerned her. REDACTED also stated that Van Liefde told her that REDACTED confronted him regarding the situation. Further, REDACTED was advised that REDACTED in a similar formal declaration dated January 7, 2003 stated that in late December 1974 or early January 1975 she informed Sister REDACTED, Dean Of Discipline, Holy Family High School that REDACTED and Van Liefde were having an inappropriate relationship and she discovered them kissing. Sister REDACTED told her it was out of her jurisdiction and suggested she inform REDACTED. On January 15, 1975 he, REDACTED came to her home to visit her ill son. At that time she told him that Van Liefde and REDACTED were having an inappropriate relationship and that she observed them kissing on the sofa in her home. She said that REDACTED informed her there was another similar incident involving Van Liefde, and he assured her that Van Liefde would not bother REDACTED again and that he would be transferred out of Holy Family to a parish with no girl's high school.

REDACTED said that the above statements in the declarations are untrue. He was never informed by REDACTED or anyone else that Van Leafed and REDACTED were engaged in a sexual relationship. He does not recall REDACTED r and is certain he has never visited her home. He stated that Sister REDACTED is deceased and believes that if she had been informed that any student had a sexual relation with a priest, she would have informed him REDACTED

He stated that Sister REDACTED BVM currently assigned to Holy Family High School was also there in the mid 1970's with Sister REDACTED and may have some information regarding this situation.

He did not know REDACTED ; nor does he ever recall meeting Van Liefde's brother.

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INTERVIEW OF SISTER REDACTED, BVM, AND SISTER REDACTED
REDACTED HOLY FAMILY PARISH, REGARDING REDACTED

On 12/31/03 Canonical Auditor REDACTED, while in the rectory of Holy Family parish, Glendale, CA, telephonically contacted Sister REDACTED, BVM to arrange an interview. She agreed to be interviewed, but requested the interview be conducted telephonically. Sister resides at REDACTED Glendale and her phone number is REDACTED. She is assigned to Holy Family High School. She supplied the following information:

She was assigned to Holy Family High School as a teacher during the entire 1970's.

She was informed that REDACTED was submitted to the Archdiocese, a signed declaration under the penalty of perjury stating that in or about late December 1974 her mother REDACTED told Sr. REDACTED the Girl's Dean of Discipline that she was concerned about the close relationship between Father Chris Van Liefde and REDACTED Sr. REDACTED stated that Sr. REDACTED is deceased and that Sr. REDACTED did not inform her of Mrs. REDACTED concern. She believes Sr. REDACTED would have informed the principal of this information. The principal at the time was Sr. REDACTED BVM who is now retired and resides in the Mother House in Dubuque, Iowa, phone REDACTED

She knew and remembers REDACTED as an average student who seemed to get along well in school and was not a discipline problem. She does not recall any rumors regarding REDACTED having a relationship with a priest. She said that would have been not only scandalous, but against the law and would have been reported to law enforcement authorities. She did not know any other members of REDACTED family. She knows Fr. Van Liefde and had no reason to believe that he carried on a relationship with REDACTED or any other Holy Family student.

ADDENDUM:

On 12/31/03 Sister REDACTED BVM was telephonically contacted by the Auditor at her residence in Dubuque, Iowa and after being informed of the above information, supplied the following:

In 1974 she was the principal at Holy Family High School and Sr. REDACTED who has since deceased, was a counselor who worked mainly with scholarship students. Sr. REDACTED did not inform her that REDACTED's mother was concerned about REDACTED relationship with Father Van Liefde. Sr. said that had she been so informed she would have immediately notified REDACTED pastor of Holy Family parish and would have met with Mrs. REDACTED to obtain all the details of the allegation. She had absolutely no reason to believe Father Van Liefde had a relationship with REDACTED or any other student at Holy Family High School.

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ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

**INTERVIEW OF FATHER REDACTED
REGARDING MSGR. CHRISTIAN VAN LIEFDE**

On 12/31/03 Canonical Auditor REDACTED interviewed Father REDACTED at
REDACTED residence, REDACTED Seal Beach, CA, phone- REDACTED
REDACTED and he supplied the following information:

He and Msgr. Christian Van Liefde met at St. John's Seminary and were later ordained in 1973. Van Liefde was the youngest member of the class. They maintained contact, especially when he was assigned at Holy Trinity and Van Liefde was assigned at Holy Family.

He had heard that Van Liefde was "under some type of scrutiny by the archdiocese", but is unaware of the details. He has not talked to Van Liefde since Van Liefde has been temporarily removed from ministry. At no time during their friendship has he ever had any reason to suspect that Van Liefde had violated his promise of chastity in any manner.

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ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT**

**INTERVIEW OF REDACTED
REGARDING MSGR. CHRISTIAN VAN LIEFDE**

Synopsis of interview:

REDACTED had no dealing with REDACTED or her mother REDACTED. He was never advised by Sister REDACTED or REDACTED that Fr. Van Liefde and REDACTED were engaged in an inappropriate relationship. He has never confronted Fr. Van Liefde on the abuse allegations by REDACTED or any other person.

On December 31, 2003, Canonical Investigator, REDACTED interviewed REDACTED at his residence located at Holy Family Parish, 209 Lomita Ave., Glendale, CA, phone - REDACTED

He supplied the following information:

He is REDACTED of Holy Family church. He became REDACTED at Holy Family Parish in 1974 and believes, but is not certain that Father Christian Van Liefde was assigned there when he arrived. He also believes Father REDACTED was assigned at the same time.

He has heard the name REDACTED does not know her personally and to his knowledge has had no personal dealings with her or any of her family members. He recalled a conversation he had with a former Holy Family High School student, REDACTED in early 2003, just prior to her death when they were discussing some of the Holy Family students and teachers. When the name REDACTED came up, REDACTED said "... REDACTED was a flake in school..". When asked what REDACTED meant by the word "flake", he believed REDACTED meant REDACTED was "weird and had a strange personality". From her statement he had the feeling that REDACTED did not like REDACTED, but he does not know the reason. REDACTED, sister, REDACTED was a Holy Family student at about the same time and may remember REDACTED now lives in South Pasadena and her phone number is REDACTED

He was informed that in a formal Declaration signed under the penalty of perjury on January 7, 2003, REDACTED stated that in or about January 1975 her mother REDACTED informed him REDACTED that Father Van Liefde and REDACTED had a relationship that concerned her. REDACTED also stated that Van Liefde told her that REDACTED confronted him regarding the situation.

REDACTED was further advised that REDACTED in a similar formal declaration dated January 7, 2003 stated that in late December 1974 or early January 1975 she informed Sister REDACTED Dean Of Discipline, Holy Family High School that REDACTED and Van

Liefde were having an inappropriate relationship and she discovered them kissing. Sister REDACTED told her it was out of her jurisdiction and suggested she inform REDACTED. On January 15, 1975 he, REDACTED came to her home to visit her ill son. At that time she told him that Van Liefde and REDACTED were having an inappropriate relationship and that she observed them kissing on the sofa in her home. She said that REDACTED informed her there was another similar incident involving Van Liefde, and he assured her that Van Liefde would not bother REDACTED again and that he would be transferred out of Holy Family to a parish with no girl's high school.

REDACTED said that the above statements in the declarations are untrue. He was never informed by REDACTED Sister REDACTED or anyone else that Van Liefde and REDACTED were engaged in a sexual relationship. He has absolutely no recall of this situation. At no time did he confront Fr. Van Liefde regarding the allegations by REDACTED or any other person.

He stated that sister REDACTED is deceased and suggested that Sister REDACTED REDACTED who was a teacher at Holy Family High School and is currently residing in the Holy Family convent be contacted at REDACTED

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INTERVIEW REPORT
ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

INTERVIEW OF DETECTIVE JAMES BROWN
Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Exploited Children's Unit

On 12/18/03, Canonical Investigator, REDACTED telephonically contacted Detective Brown, LAPD, Exploited Children's Unit, phon REDACTED

He was informed that when the Diocese was notified that the criminal investigation was closed, an internal (canonical) investigation was instituted with the ultimate goal of determining if Msgr. Van Lifde's actions warranted his removal from the priesthood.

Brown stated that had the statute of limitations not passed, the facts of the case against Msgr. Christian Van Lifde were sufficient to have sustained a criminal child molestation charges against him.

He advised there were two separate victims in the same general time frame. He confirmed that the first and most egregious case involved REDACTED REDACTED He would not provide the name of the second victim. He would neither confirm nor deny that the second victim was REDACTED

TO: File
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox
RE: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
DATE: 25 August 2003

I finally connected with [redacted] of the Los Angeles Fire Department today. His number is [redacted]

[redacted] explained that Detective Brown of the Los Angeles Police Department, Sexually Exploited Children Unit, has communicated with him by telephone. In that conversation, Detective Brown had indicated that the police were closing the investigation on Monsignor Van Liefde. The reason communicated was the Supreme Court decision. There was no communication of any of the specifics that the investigation had discovered, and whether that information tended either to incriminate or exonerate Monsignor Van Liefde.

I informed [redacted] that we would be conducting out canonical process with regard to Monsignor Van Liefde and that I would keep him informed appropriately.

REDACTED

January 8, 2003

RECEIVED
JAN - 8 2002**PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL**Via Personal Delivery
REDACTED

Re: Rev. Christian Van Liefde - REDACTED

Dear REDACTED

Enclosed please find the signed Declarations of my wife, REDACTED and her mother, REDACTED. These declarations are provided to you for the sole purpose of settling all claims held by REDACTED and REDACTED and REDACTED against Msgr. Christian Van Liefde and the Los Angeles Catholic Archdiocese.

As you indicated in our last meeting, settlement of this claim was only possible with signed declarations under penalty of perjury setting forth the details of the sexual abuse and subsequent discovery, etc. These declarations should satisfy that requirement.

My wife, REDACTED and her parents have requested that I discuss this matter with you on their behalf, their signatures hereinbelow confirm that request.

As discussed with REDACTED it is our desire to settle this matter without the necessity of retaining counsel and filing suit. It is my understanding that in exchange for not filing an immediate lawsuit, the Archdiocese is providing the victims with their perpetrator's file from the Archdiocese. Kindly immediately forward Msgr. Van Liefde's file to me under confidential cover and also provide me with any mediation information, as soon as it becomes available.

REDACTED

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I look forward to an opportunity to discuss the resolution of this matter with you and ask that you contact me at your earliest convenience after you have had an opportunity to review the enclosed so that we may enter into meaningful settlement discussions. Please contact me at REDACTED or at my office at REDACTED

Please keep this letter, the enclosed and all communications completely confidential.

Very truly yours

REDACTED

REDACTED

unmarked
A

Via Personal Delivery

Personal & Confidential
For Addressee's Eyes Only

Sr. REDACTED
Assistance Ministry
Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

Dear Sr. ^{REDACTED}

This letter is written in the strictest confidence. The contents of this letter, either specifically or generally shall not be discussed with or disclosed to any other person without my written authorization.

The purpose of this letter is to advise the Archdiocese of Los Angeles of sexual misconduct involving a Los Angeles Archdiocese parish priest, Msgr. Christian Van Liefde during the period of 1973 – 1975. During this period, Msgr. Van Liefde was a parish priest at Holy Family Parish in Glendale, where I attended both grade school and high school. At the time of the incident, I was 16 through 17 1/2 years old. Although the incident is legally and in other respects classified as child abuse or molestation, I will refer to the incident as serious sexual misconduct and personal indiscretion, thereby avoiding any possible inference that Msgr. Van Liefde has in the past or is presently engaged in serial child molestation or other aberrant sexual behavior.

A brief chronology of events will place this matter into the proper perspective and will provide the basis for further detailed discussion. In or about June 1973, Msgr. Van Liefde was assigned to Holy Family Catholic Church in Glendale, California as an associate pastor. In or about July 1973, Msgr. Van Liefde became friends with my family, visiting my family's home often for dinner, social events, etc. For the next year and a half, until approximately January 1975, the "relationship" between Msgr. Van Liefde and I evolved from an innocent "friendship" to one that involved sexual activity consisting of kissing, hugging, fondling and other sexual behavior, that occurred on a weekly, sometimes daily basis. I was a 16 year old student at Holy Family High School and Msgr. Van Liefde was a 25 year old associate pastor. The sexual advances were always initiated by Msgr. Van Liefde and typically occurred either in my parents' home, in his car or at the beach.

Although unaware of the extent of the "friendship" or any of the sexual activity, my mother became suspicious and concerned in late 1974 and discussed the matter with Msgr. Van Liefde who advised her that the friendship was "innocent" and "nothing to be concerned with ...", and that we were just good friends. Shortly thereafter, my mother

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discussed the situation with Sr. REDACTED, the Dean of Girls at Holy Family High School. Sr. REDACTED told my mother to immediately advise Holy Family Church REDACTED of the situation and demand that he and the archdiocese resolve the matter. My mother spoke with REDACTED in or about January 1975, and almost immediately, Msgr. Van Liefde was transferred to another parish. REDACTED advised my mother that the situation had been "properly handled" and that Msgr. Van Liefde would not be transferred to another parish with high school girls. My information is that Msgr. Van Liefde did, in fact, serve at other parishes with high schools after the incident and, in fact, is currently at a parish with a high school.

In or about May 1975, I met and thereafter became friends with another parish priest, REDACTED. In or about December 1980, I advised REDACTED of the incident with Msgr. Van Liefde and asked him on numerous occasions over the following 3 or 4 years to assist me in filing the proper report with the Los Angeles Archdiocese. REDACTED, after many discussions, advised me against going to the Archdiocese about the situation, warning me that I would be viewed as a liar or that otherwise my reputation would be at issue. Fr. REDACTED told me that he felt the situation was properly handled by simply transferring Msgr. Van Liefde to a new parish, thereby stopping the misconduct and that further discussing the incident with the Archdiocese would not elicit any further response or action on their part. I was obviously unaware at the time that Fr. [REDACTED] was, concurrently, engaging in aberrant sexual behavior and child molestation with young boys.

In or about 1996, after the revelation of REDACTED's actions and his ultimate suicide, I had at least two telephone conversations with Fr. REDACTED of the Los Angeles Archdiocese office. While the initial reason for my call to Fr. REDACTED was to discuss Fr. REDACTED's situation, I took the opportunity to discuss the incident regarding Msgr. Van Liefde as well, in part seeking advice and direction from Fr. REDACTED and in part, hoping to confirm what was appearing to be an ever-growing problem of sexual misconduct by the clergy. In short, Fr. REDACTED told me that there was nothing that could be done, beyond what had been done and that I was best off trying to forget about the past, and go forward with my life. My concerns over both matters were promptly dismissed and, in fact, Fr. REDACTED was rude and abruptly ended the last conversation.

It is not my desire nor intention at this time to involve the courts, attorneys, media or persons outside of the Los Angeles Archdiocese regarding this matter. To the contrary, it is my intention to discuss and resolve this matter solely with the Archdiocese in a discreet and highly confidential manner. Any involvement by the courts, media or outside persons would only serve to create a negative environment for discussion in an already media-frenzied atmosphere, and would undoubtedly severely, negatively impact both Msgr. Van Liefde's life and my own life as well. It is not my desire to resolve this matter in today's

Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Page 3

volatile court of public opinion, but rather to bring closure to a very serious situation that has been left unresolved for over 25 years. To bring this matter into the public view would, in my opinion, only victimize me again, in light of my professional career and need for privacy and anonymity regarding the situation.

I am hereby requesting a personal meeting with you to discuss this matter more fully. I reiterate that this letter is written in the strictest confidence, the contents may not be disclosed or discussed with any other person without my written authorization. You may confidentially contact me at my office private line REDACTED ; if I am unavailable, I will promptly return your call.

Thank you
REDACTED

**CONFIDENTIAL**

MEMORANDUM

To: Cardinal Roger Mahony**From: Monsignor Richard Loomis****Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2002****Re: Monsignor Christian van Liefde**

As you may remember, [REDACTED] came forward about two weeks ago with an allegation of sexual abuse against Monsignor Christian van Liefde.

She alleges a two-year affair in which the then Father van Liefde molested her repeatedly between the ages of 16 and 18. She says that the abuse involved "a dysfunctional dating relationship" and alleges that the sexual misconduct included inappropriate touching, hugging, kissing and oral sex. She says there was no intercourse because both of them were afraid of pregnancy. She said that her mother reported the abuse to [REDACTED] in 1975, and that Father van Liefde was transferred immediately. She also claims to have reported the behavior to Father [REDACTED] (Orange) who was a [REDACTED] at Holy Family at the time.

Monsignor van Liefde readily admitted that he knew [REDACTED] and admitted that there had been boundary violations with her, as well as hugging and embracing. He denies, however, any genital activity of any kind and specifically denied the allegation of oral sex. He also said that if there had been such a report about him, [REDACTED] would have confronted him immediately. (I was Associate at Holy Family immediately after Monsignor van Liefde and can verify from personal experience that [REDACTED] had no problem confronting people about things he thought were out of line. Also, there was no mention to me of any misconduct on the part of Father van Liefde by anyone in the parish: priests, sisters or laity. In fact, Father van Liefde was regularly welcomed back to the parish for weddings, funerals, baptisms and confirmations.)

I contacted [REDACTED] who categorically denied that anyone had ever made a report of sexual misconduct against Father van Liefde. [REDACTED] remembered the family name but commented that Father van Liefde was popular with many of the high-school girls. [REDACTED] also denied asking for Father van Liefde to be moved due to such an allegation, noting that he left Holy Family a year later than Ms. [REDACTED] reports and was assigned to high-school work. [REDACTED] specifically said that he would never have allowed someone to go into high-school work if he had known of misconduct with a teenager. The assignment record backs up this assertion.

CONFIDENTIAL

I contacted Father [REDACTED]. He had no recollection of ever speaking with Ms. [REDACTED] during his time at Holy Family. He believes he would have remembered a high-school girl reporting sexual misconduct with a parish priest.

In the course of her story, Ms. [REDACTED] also noted that she was good friends with Father [REDACTED] and knew his brother [REDACTED]. I contacted Father [REDACTED] and asked him about MS. [REDACTED] using all her possible last names ([REDACTED]) and he said he did not know her, though he also said that his brother had many friends that were unknown to him.

Monsignor Cox also gained access to the annulment file for Ms. [REDACTED] first marriage. In recounting her story to us, she spent considerable time telling us about the annulment and we thought there might be some reference to abusive behavior in the file. There was no note of any mention of abuse in the annulment proceedings.

The only other two people who have been cited as being able to corroborate her story were Sister [REDACTED] (now deceased) and Ms. [REDACTED] mother. I do not see the point in contacting Ms. [REDACTED] mother since she is quite elderly and her testimony could merely contradict or support [REDACTED]. Either response will leave the matter exactly where it is.

There appear to be some substantial holes in Ms. [REDACTED] story. All the people she named for us as corroboration do not back up her claims. This is somewhat balanced, however, by Monsignor van Liefde's admission of boundary violations. We seem to have a he-said-she-said situation with some definite inappropriate behavior.

Also, in her report, Ms. [REDACTED] stated that she did not want Monsignor van Liefde taken out of ministry. I am not sure what she wants. She did not immediately accept the offer of therapy, saying that she had worked through the matter already.

Monsignor van Liefde indicated that he would be most willing to render an apology if that is what Ms. [REDACTED] wanted.

I do not have the ability in this case to say that it has been "determined" that sexual abuse actually occurred. I would suggest that SAAB review the matter. I do not believe, however, that the admitted inappropriate behavior rises to a level requiring removal from ministry.

- 1) bring fully to the SAAB board for full review -
- 2) check with [REDACTED] -
- 3) need to double-check with law enforcement?
See no stone unturned -

+ RMM

5-22-02

REDACTED also recounted that she knew REDACTED and REDACTED (met them in 4/75 or 5/75). She became very good friends with REDACTED saying that they became "girlfriends" (going shopping together, etc.). REDACTED said she was his champion until it was clear he had indeed done what his victims said. She said that she smoked marijuana for the first time with REDACTED. After speaking of two other priests who never did anything sexual to her but were very inappropriate (REDACTED), she asked, "Why did I have contact with so many bad people (all priests)? And my mother sent me someplace safe (Catholic high school)!" *Interesting point: how did one person meet so many priests all of whom had problems?*

REDACTED spoke with REDACTED about this situation at length and he encouraged her to let it go. She said that, somewhere around 1980, when she told him REDACTED and Chris confronted each other and it ended their friendship.

"The most Chris has ever said to me is that we both made serious mistakes."

REDACTED presented photos of Father Chris in their home in Glendale, photos that appeared to be his brother in a tuxedo taking her to the Prom, and a postcard from a vacation in which Father Chris said it was nice where he was but that "he missed the back scratches."

REDACTED said that she discussed her situation with Father REDACTED in 1995 or '96. He told her not to be so naïve. She said that REDACTED gave her no resolution but told her it was her own fault.

Chronology of Events
Re: Chris Van Liefde

REDACTED '73	REDACTED 16 th birthday
5/26/73	Chris ordained a priest
6/73	Met Chris Van Liefde
8/26/73	Chris 25 th birthday (vestment)
8/30/73	Chris birthday – dinner - First sexual contact
2/74	Valentine's Day – Rec'd tulips from Chris – dinner/movie
3/10/74	REDACTED 17 th birthday – dinner
4/27/74	----- Junior Prom – Chris' brother REDACTED
5/74	Introduced to REDACTED after Mass
7/5/74	Postcard from Chris from Sequoia
REDACTED '74	Chris' 26 th birthday (vestment) - dinner
10 – 11/74	REDACTED mom's discussion with Chris re: situation
10-11/74	mom's discussion with Sr. REDACTED
11-12/74	Last sexual contact with Chris
1/75	REDACTED mom's discussion with REDACTED
2/75	Re-met REDACTED after Mass
3/75	REDACTED 18 th birthday
4-5/75	Me REDACTED and REDACTED
6/75	REDACTED graduated High School
4/77	Married to REDACTED
12/80	Told REDACTED about Chris
8-9/84	Marriage to REDACTED annulled REDACTED
1995/96	Discussions with Fr. REDACTED re REDACTED and Chris

Notes on the meeting of Monsignors Craig Cox and Richard Loomis with Monsignor Christian van Liefde, May 7, 2002, 10:30 AM, at the Archdiocesan Catholic Center.

After hearing Monsignor Loomis present the complaint brought by [REDACTED], Monsignor Van Liefde said that he remembered her clearly. She had recalled details in her story that he could neither confirm nor deny.

He said that [REDACTED] had indeed made vestments for him, acknowledging that he still had them. He believed it was a sewing project in school.

He vaguely remembers that [REDACTED] was at Mass one day and he introduced him to several parishioners. [REDACTED] may very well have been among them. She did end up marrying him. He believed that Father [REDACTED] had done the wedding either at Holy Family or in Eagle Rock.

Monsignor Van Liefde said that he did not believe that the matter was ever taken to [REDACTED] commenting that the pastor had never spoken to him about it as long as he had known him. [REDACTED] is the kind of pastor who would have confronted him about it.

Monsignor Van Liefde was not moved early because of any problem. He served at Holy Family from 1973 through 1976 and moved at the usual July time. [REDACTED] recruited him to go into Catholic schools ministry.

There were "six or so" of the high school girls who came to the weekly charismatic prayer group meeting. [REDACTED] was among them. Periodically he would give them rides home.

He recalled that his brother did take her to the Prom but said that it was more along the lines of <when it was a month before the Prom and she had no date, I asked if she would like me to arrange for my brother to take her>. There was nothing more to it than that.

Concerning the relationship, Monsignor Van Liefde acknowledged that some boundaries had been crossed. The two of them had hugged, given neck rubs and embraced – which had been inappropriate. However, he denied genital contact of any kind.

Concerning the incident in which [REDACTED] says her mother caught them necking, Monsignor Van Liefde said that there was one instance in which they were watching a movie on TV. The parents were in the house but elsewhere. [REDACTED] was leaning on his arm and when her mother came in she straightened up. Her mother may have been concerned but did not say anything to him about it.

The last time he recalls having seen ^{REDACTED} was shortly after the death c ^{REDACTED}
^{REDACTED} They had lunch and a two-or-three-hour conversation. She was deeply disturbed
by ^{REDACTED} situation.

When asked if Mrs. ^{REDACTED} statement that he said that they had "both made mistakes"
was true. He had no specific recollection but acknowledged that he very well might have
said something to that effect.

*Notes on the telephone conversation of Monsignor Richard Loomis with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] May 7, 2002, approximately 3:30 PM.*

I briefly reviewed with [REDACTED] the allegation presented by [REDACTED]

He said that he remembered her as a student in the high school but initially thought her name was [REDACTED],” correcting himself when I said [REDACTED]” He also commented that he remembered the family name.

He commented that “all the high school girls liked Chris” but that he never had any thought that there was anything out of line with his conduct.

[REDACTED] stated very clearly that no one had ever brought a complaint to him regarding Father van Liefde. He said that he would remember such a thing and would have confronted him about it if it had happened. I mentioned that Sister [REDACTED] was the one that was reported to have received the initial complaint. He said that she had never mentioned anything to him concerning a complaint about Father van Liefde, commenting that she had been dead for some years. But he was very clear and said that he would indeed remember a report of misconduct with a teen.

[REDACTED] stated that he did not request to have Father van Liefde transferred. He remembered [REDACTED] calling about him going into school work. He would never have let a school assignment go forward if he had the idea that there might have been incorrect conduct with teens.

REDACTED

Obtained baptismal information from Holy Family Elementary School, Glendale

- Baptized: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart – November 3, 1957
- Confirmed: Holy Family, Glendale – 1970
- Marriage: No notation
- Annulment: Marriage to REDACTED declared null – Diocese of Orange REDACTED



CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

To: Cardinal Roger Mahony

From: Monsignor Richard Loomis [redacted]

Date: Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Re: Monsignor Christian van Liefde

As you may remember, [redacted] came forward about two weeks ago with an allegation of sexual abuse against Monsignor Christian van Liefde.

She alleges a two-year affair in which the then Father van Liefde molested her repeatedly between the ages of 16 and 18. She says that the abuse involved "a dysfunctional dating relationship" and alleges that the sexual misconduct included inappropriate touching, hugging, kissing and oral sex. She says there was no intercourse because both of them were afraid of pregnancy. She said that her mother reported the abuse to [redacted] in 1975, and that Father van Liefde was transferred immediately. She also claims to have reported the behavior to Father [redacted] (of Orange) who was a [redacted] at Holy Family at the time.

Monsignor van Liefde readily admitted that he knew [redacted] and admitted that there had been boundary violations with her, as well as hugging and embracing. He denies, however, any genital activity of any kind and specifically denied the allegation of oral sex. He also said that if there had been such a report about him, [redacted] would have confronted him immediately. (I was Associate at Holy Family immediately after Monsignor van Liefde and can verify from personal experience that [redacted] had no problem confronting people about things he thought were out of line. Also, there was no mention to me of any misconduct on the part of Father van Liefde by anyone in the parish: priests, sisters or laity. In fact, Father van Liefde was regularly welcomed back to the parish for weddings, funerals, baptisms and confirmations.)

I contacted [redacted] who categorically denied that anyone had ever made a report of sexual misconduct against Father van Liefde. [redacted] remembered the family name but commented that Father van Liefde was popular with many of the high-school girls. [redacted] also denied asking for Father van Liefde to be moved due to such an allegation, noting that he left Holy Family a year later than Ms. [redacted] reports and was assigned to high-school work. [redacted] specifically said that he would never have allowed someone to go into high-school work if he had known of misconduct with a teenager. The assignment record backs up this assertion.

CONFIDENTIAL

I contacted Father [REDACTED]. He had no recollection of ever speaking with Ms. [REDACTED] during his time at Holy Family. He believes he would have remembered a high-school girl reporting sexual misconduct with a parish priest.

In the course of her story, Ms. [REDACTED] also noted that she was good friends with Father [REDACTED] and knew his brother [REDACTED]. I contacted Father [REDACTED] and asked him about Ms. [REDACTED], using all her possible last names ([REDACTED]) and he said he did not know her, though he also said that his brother had many friends that were unknown to him.

Monsignor Cox also gained access to the annulment file for Ms. [REDACTED]'s first marriage. In recounting her story to us, she spent considerable time telling us about the annulment and we thought there might be some reference to abusive behavior in the file. There was no note of any mention of abuse in the annulment proceedings.

The only other two people who have been cited as being able to corroborate her story were Sister [REDACTED], B.V.M., (now deceased) and Ms. [REDACTED] mother. I do not see the point in contacting Ms. [REDACTED] mother since she is quite elderly and her testimony could merely contradict or support [REDACTED]. Either response will leave the matter exactly where it is.

There appear to be some substantial holes in Ms. [REDACTED] story. All the people she named for us as corroboration do not back up her claims. This is somewhat balanced, however, by Monsignor van Liefde's admission of boundary violations. We seem to have a he-said-she-said situation with some definite inappropriate behavior.

Also, in her report, Ms. [REDACTED] stated that she did not want Monsignor van Liefde taken out of ministry. I am not sure what she wants. She did not immediately accept the offer of therapy, saying that she had worked through the matter already.

Monsignor van Liefde indicated that he would be most willing to render an apology if that is what Ms. [REDACTED] wanted.

I do not have the ability in this case to say that it has been "determined" that sexual abuse actually occurred. I would suggest that SAAB review the matter. I do not believe, however, that the admitted inappropriate behavior rises to a level requiring removal from ministry.

- 1) bring fully to the SAAB board for full review -
- 2) check with [REDACTED]
- 3) need to double-check with law enforcement?
See no stone unturned -

+ RMM

5-22-02

DOB: [REDACTED]

(818) 951-0644

See attached chronology and letter from [REDACTED] for more information. Sister [REDACTED] and Monsignor Loomis were present, as well as [REDACTED] husband.

Ms. [REDACTED] told her story using the attached chronology. She said that she had pieced it together from high school memories kept in boxes. The dates are approximate but are within months of the actual date.

8/26/73 - She had cloth from a vestment she made for Father Chris for his 25th birthday, saying she was a seamstress. She claimed this birthday was their first sexual contact. She was 16. They continued this relationship until her 18th birthday. The sexual contact included foreplay and oral sex. They never had intercourse because they were both afraid of pregnancy.

It was like a dysfunctional dating relationship. She never had normal dating because of what Father Chris did. He kept her from going/out with boys her own age. He did not even want her to go to the Junior Prom (4/74) with someone so he set her up with his own brother, [REDACTED]. He wanted to keep her away from boys. On top of her mother not allowing her to go out.

Father Chris said that they had a "special kind of love." In reality, [REDACTED] describes it as emotionally abusive but never physically abusive. She did not have a normal date until after she divorced her first husband.

5/74 - Introduced her to [REDACTED] after Mass. Eventually she married him. Divorced after seven years. He was gay.

In November or December of 1974, [REDACTED] mother caught them necking. Father Chris said they were just good friends and that it was all innocent. Our sexual contact ended December of 1974. Through Sister [REDACTED] BVM, it was reported to [REDACTED] (1/75). He told us it was handled by having Father Chris transferred. [REDACTED] chronology breaks down here. Father Chris did not move until June of 1976.

[REDACTED] said that she told Father (then [REDACTED]) about herself and Father Chris.

REDACTED also recounted that she knew REDACTED and REDACTED s (met them in 4/75 or 5/75). She became very good friends with REDACTED saying that they became "girlfriends" (going shopping together, etc.). REDACTED said she was his champion until it was clear he had indeed done what his victims said. She said that she smoked marijuana for the first time with REDACTED. After speaking of two other priests who never did anything sexual to her but were very inappropriate REDACTED she asked, "Why did I have contact with so many bad people (all priests)? And my mother sent me someplace safe (Catholic high school)!" *Interesting point: how did one person meet so many priests all of whom had problems?*

REDACTED spoke with REDACTED about this situation at length and he encouraged her to let it go. She said that, somewhere around 1980, when she told him, REDACTED and Chris confronted each other and it ended their friendship.

"The most Chris has ever said to me is that we both made serious mistakes."

REDACTED presented photos of Father Chris in their home in Glendale, photos that appeared to be his brother in a tuxedo taking her to the Prom, and a postcard from a vacation in which Father Chris said it was nice where he was but that "he missed the back scratches."

REDACTED said that she discussed her situation with Father REDACTED in 1995 or '96. He told her not to be so naïve. She said that REDACTED gave her no resolution but told her it was her own fault.

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After hearing Monsignor Loomis present the complaint brought by [REDACTED] Monsignor Van Liefde said that he remembered her clearly. She had recalled details in her story that he could neither confirm nor deny.

He said that [REDACTED] had indeed made vestments for him, acknowledging that he still had them. He believed it was a sewing project in school.

He vaguely remembers that [REDACTED] was at Mass one day and he introduced him to several parishioners. [REDACTED] may very well have been among them. She did end up marrying him. He believed that Father [REDACTED] had done the wedding either at Holy Family or in Eagle Rock.

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Monsignor Van Liefde was not moved early because of any problem. He served at Holy Family from 1973 through 1976 and moved at the usual July time. [REDACTED] recruited him to go into Catholic schools ministry.

There were "six or so" of the high school girls who came to the weekly charismatic prayer group meeting. [REDACTED] was among them. Periodically he would give them rides home.

He recalled that his brother did take her to the Prom but said that it was more along the lines of <when it was a month before the Prom and she had no date, I asked if she would like me to arrange for my brother to take her>. There was nothing more to it than that.

Concerning the relationship, Monsignor Van Liefde acknowledged that some boundaries had been crossed. The two of them had hugged, given neck rubs and embraced – which had been inappropriate. However, he denied genital contact of any kind.

Concerning the incident in which [REDACTED] says her mother caught them necking, Monsignor Van Liefde said that there was one instance in which they were watching a movie on TV. The parents were in the house but elsewhere [REDACTED] was leaning on his arm and when her mother came in she straightened up. Her mother may have been concerned but did not say anything to him about it.

The last time he recalls having seen ^{REDACTED} was shortly after the death of Father ^{REDACTED}.
^{REDACTED} They had lunch and a two-or-three-hour conversation. She was deeply disturbed
by ^{REDACTED} situation.

When asked if Mrs. ^{REDACTED} statement that he said that they had "both made mistakes" was true. He had no specific recollection but acknowledged that he very well might have said something to that effect.

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[REDACTED] May 7, 2002, approximately 3:30 PM.*

I briefly reviewed with [REDACTED] the allegation presented by [REDACTED]

He said that he remembered her as a student in the high school but initially thought her name was [REDACTED] correcting himself when I said [REDACTED]. He also commented that he remembered the family name.

He commented that "all the high school girls liked Chris" but that he never had any thought that there was anything out of line with his conduct.

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REDACTED

Obtained baptismal information from Holy Family Elementary School, Glendale

Baptized: Our Lady of the Sacred Heart – November 3, 1957
Confirmed: Holy Family, Glendale – 1970
Marriage: No notation
Annulment: Marriage to REDACTED declared null – Diocese of Orange REDACTED

Mon. Jul 23 arrive
 Tues. Jul 24 - Thurs. Jul 26
 July 27 Fri. leave

REDACTED REDACTED

- p. 32)
 REDACTED REDACTED
 testify that Soz had
 free access to private quarters, 9 may be
 rich know
 REDACTED
 follow up.

therapist seen before '02 - possible to talk to,
not for content, but confirming.


 publication/acts (REDACTED access) - transcripts/
 testimony...

REDACTED
 hearing first REDACTED

Request / petition


 w/hand 08/7
 REDACTED

REDACTED

Fr.

REDACTED

May 27 '78

St. Ignatius Loyole, LA.
78-82

St. John Vianney, Hattiesburg MS
82-89

Vocation Director / residence St. Philip
88-95 Paradise

95 - adm. Holy Family
96 - Pastor.

REDACTED

Yes. 2 yrs. admin. @
Holy Family Parish
2002-2005

REDACTED

was Pastor

Yes I remember/re call
- in common room after I moved
came up. I had some
experiences. I would bring
of another to common
area for beer (~~and talking with~~)

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

(A) no physical contact
@ restaurant in Paradise

REDACTED

met fellow ← Paty Motta when
was a brother. "I could tell
you a lot about the Bro. do you
(who I know)

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

and that he should call
and (do) to provide info
or possibly three follow
name.

REDACTED

Stunned by name on list
MFL saying
no reason at all to doubt.

superior credibility, wouldn't tell
lia, nonvash man.

REDACTED

REDACTED

let know (over next
year) that he had search list on
FBI man REDACTED too.

was able to give name of man
who had search words REDACTED
doesn't know whether this man
was interviewed.

4 yrs in Lancaster Sacred Heart
(1st assignment) then to

St. John / God (2 yrs.) Nowak

towards end of MFL's first year
@ parish - surprised @ REDACTED
name on list...

(36)

Status of *Gravius Delictum* Cases reported to Rome (27 in number)

[updated 22 Jun 07]

1. Cases completed (15 in number) NB: asterisk with italics indicates that certain procedural matters may still need to be completed

REDACTED

2. Cases for which reporting procedures have been completed and in which we are awaiting Rome's response (5 in number)

REDACTED .REDACTED

REDACTED

3. Cases for which reporting procedures will be completed very soon (1 in number)

REDACTED

4. Cases for which Rome has authorized a formal penal trial (5 in number)

REDACTED

Van Liefde, Chris: a key witness is unwilling to testify because of pending civil litigation, wherefore the start of the canonical process is being delayed until the witness in question will cooperate; Van Liefde has been apprised of the situation.

5. Cases still under investigation (1 in number)

REDACTED

Request for Confidentiality of Information

* CONTROLLED DOCUMENT *

DATE: <u>AUG 27, 2002</u>	TYPE OF CRIME: <u>CHILD ANNOYING</u>	DR NO: <u>02-99-24675</u>
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Law enforcement authorities are required by law to release certain information on crime reports upon request, as a matter of public record. If someone asks for information on this crime report, your name will be released with the information unless you request that your name be kept confidential pursuant to Section 6254 of the Government Code. Sex offenses as defined in Section 6254 of the Government Code include Penal Code Sections 220, 261, 261.5, 262, 264, 264.1, 273a, 273d, 273.5, 286, 288, 288a, 289, 422.6, 422.7, 422.75, and 646.9.

By initialing the appropriate statement below and signing this form, you are informing law enforcement agencies and the courts of your choice for confidentiality.

REDACTED
(vict. initials)

I hereby exercise my right to confidentiality and request that my name not become a matter of public record pursuant to Section 6254 of the Government Code.

(vict. initials)

I hereby decline to keep my name confidential.

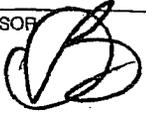
(ofcr. initials)

The victim is a minor without a parent or guardian present. The below signed authorized agent hereby exercises the right of privacy for the minor and requests that the victim's name not become a matter of public record pursuant to Section 6254 of the Government Code (*This authorization should be obtained through the Area Major Assault Crimes coordinator*).

I, JAMES N. BROWN 20193 (officer advising), advised victim (named below), that his/her name will become a matter of public record unless he/she requests that it be kept confidential.

V I C T I M	LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE REDACTED		SEX <u>F</u>	DESC. <u>W</u>	AGE <u>43</u>	DOB REDACTED
	ADDRESS <u>C/O I/O</u>		ZIP	PHONE		X
	DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.)		FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE)		OCCUPATION	
	LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE		SEX	DESC.	AGE	DOB
O T H E R	ADDRESS <u>C/O I/O</u>		ZIP	PHONE		X
	DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.)		FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE)		OCCUPATION	
	LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE		SAME AS VICT'S <input type="checkbox"/> RES. <input type="checkbox"/> BUS. <input type="checkbox"/>		R.D. <u>9999</u>	
	<u>UNK LOCATION IN MISSION VIEJO</u>					

Signature of Victim: James N. Brown (FOR) **REDACTED**

REPORTING EMPLOYEE(S)	INITIALS, LAST NAME	SERIAL NO.	DIV./DETAIL	SUPERVISOR
	<u>J.N. BROWN</u>	<u>20193</u>	<u>JUV</u>	

- "Taking Action" booklet provided.
- Rape Victim Counseling Center notified (264.2 PC) with consent of victim.
- Victim informed of right to have a victim's advocate and/or support person of his/her choosing.
Victim's Response: _____
- Victim informed of right to be interviewed by an officer of the same gender.
Victim's Response: _____
- Domestic Violence/Victim Information and Notification Everyday (DVV) Pamphlet, Form 15.42.01, provided.

Date/Time victim advised: 8-27-02 1415 Officer making notification: JTB Serial No. 20193

Los Angeles Police Department PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION of

COMBINED EVID. REPORT MULTIPLE DRG ON THIS REPORT

SHOTS FIRED USE OF FORCE NARCOTICS STOLEN - NARC. DIV. DSD (GAS) / CRASH FIREARM STOLEN / LOST - DHD & RAI CRIME / PROPERTY TT SPVR.

PRELIMINARY CASE SCREENING SUSPECT / VEHICLE NOT SEEN PRINTS OR OTHER EVIDENCE NOT PRESENT MO NOT DISTINCT PROPERTY LOSS LESS THAN \$5000 NO SERIOUS INJURY TO VICTIM ONLY ONE VICTIM INVOLVED

CHILD ANNOYING INVEST DIV. DR 02-99 24675 LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE (FIRM IF BUSINESS) CONFIDENTIAL SEX DESC AGE DOB ADDRESS ZIP PHONE

PREMISES (SPECIFIC TYPE) ATM Family residence

DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.) FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE) OCCUPATION

ENTRY 459/BFV POINT OF ENTRY POINT OF EXIT LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE SAME AS V'S RES. BUS. R.D. PRINTS BY PREL. INV. ATTEMPT OBTAINED

DATE & TIME OF OCCURRENCE DATE & TIME REPORTED TO PD TYPE PROPERTY STOLEN / LOST / DAMAGED 3.4 GIVEN STOLEN/LOST RECOVERED EST. DAMAGED ARSON / VAND.

VICT'S VEH. (IF INVOLVED) YEAR, MAKE, TYPE COLOR, LIC. NO. NOTIFICATIONS (PERSON & DIVISION) CONNECTED REPORTS (TYPE & DR)

None None

MO IF LONG FORM, LIST UNIQUE ACTIONS. IF SHORT FORM, DESCRIBE SUSPECT'S ACTIONS IN BRIEF PHRASES, INCLUDING WEAPON USED. DO NOT REPEAT ABOVE INFO. BUT CLARIFY REPORT AS NECESSARY.

Msgr van Liefde, who was a seminary student at the time and a close friend of victim's family, fondled victim's breasts over her bikini top, forcibly French kissed her, and forced his leg between her legs. The single incident occurred at the home of van Liefde's parents.

MOTIVATED BY HATRED / PREJUDICE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

REPORTING EMPLOYEE(S) INITIALS, LAST NAME SERIAL NO. DIV. / DETAIL PERSON REPORTING

SIGNATURE OR RECEIVED BY PHONE -

NOTE: IF SHORT FORM AND VICTIM / PR ARE NOT THE SAME, ENTER PR INFORMATION IN INVOLVED PERSONS SECTION.

Complete below sections if any Preliminary Case Screening boxes are not checked.

SUSP'S VEHICLE YEAR MAKE MODEL TYPE Interior Exterior Body Windows

S-1 SEX DESC HAIR EYES HEIGHT WEIGHT AGE CLOTHING NAME, ADDRESS, DOB, IF KNOWN; NAME, BKG. NO., CHARGE, IF ARRESTED.

PERSONAL ODDITIES (UNUSUAL FEATURES, SCARS, TATTOOS, ETC.) Weapon (VERBAL THREATS, BODILY FORCE, SIMULATED GUN, ETC. IF KNIFE OR GUN, DESCRIBE FULLY)

S-2

INVOLVED PERSONS W - WITNESS R - PERSON RPTG. S - PERSON SECURING (459) D - PERSON DISCOVERING (459) P - PARENT CP - CONTACT PERSON (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE)

Table with columns: NAME, SEX, DESC, DOB, ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP, PHONE. Includes fields for DR. LIC. NO. and FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN.

COMBINED EVID. RPT. USE THIS SECTION IN LIEU OF PROPERTY REPORT IF NO GUN AND NO MORE THAN THREE ITEMS OF EVIDENCE

Table with columns: ITEM, QUAN, ARTICLE, SERIAL NO./TYPE TEST OF DRUG, BRAND / DRUG WEIGHT, UNITS, MODEL NO. / DRUG TEST RESULT, MISC.

NARRATIVE 1) LIST ADD'L SUSPS. & INVOLVED PERSONS. 2) RECONSTRUCT OCCURRENCES, INCL. ALL ELEMENTS OF CORPUS DELECTI. 3) IF NOT USING EVID. CONTINUATION FORM, DESCRIBE EVIDENCE INCLUDE PRINTS, STATE LOCATION FOUND AND BY WHOM. GIVE DISPOSITION. 4) SUMMARIZE OTHER DETAILS, INCL. WHEN AND WHERE PERSONS WITH NO PHONE CAN BE LOCATED. 5) INDICATE TYPE OF TRANSLATOR NEEDED FOR ANY INVOLVED PERSON. 6) LIST ITEMS MISSING.

VICTIM INDEMNIFICATION INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE) IS ANY OF THE VICTIM'S PROPERTY MARKED WITH AN OWNER APPLIED IDENTIFICATION NUMBER? IF "YES" EXPLAIN IN NARRATIVE. YES NO

APPROVAL AND REVIEW SUPERVISOR APPROVING DATE & TIME REPRODUCED DETECTIVE SUPERVISOR REVIEWING SERIAL NO. Category

PAGE NO. 2 OF 2		TYPE OF REPORT CHILD ANNOYING			BOOKING NO.	DR NO. 02-99-24675	
ITEM NO.	QUAN.	ARTICLE	SERIAL NO.	BRAND	MODEL NO.	MISC. DESCRIPTION (EG. COLOR, SIZE, INSCRIPTIONS, CALIBER, REVOLVER, ETC.)	DOLLAR VALUE

On August 27, 2002, 1415 hours, I conducted a telephone interview with the victim, ^{REDACTED}, who lives out-of-state. ^{REDACTED} family was friends with the suspect's (van Liefde) family, and they lived in the same neighborhood in Misión Viejo. It was not uncommon for ^{REDACTED} to spend time at the van Liefde home.

In the summer of either 1973 or 1974, when ^{REDACTED} was 14 or 15 years old, she was swimming with van Liefde in their pool. ^{REDACTED} was wearing a bikini. van Liefde came over to her, grabbed her, fondled her breasts over her bikini top, forcibly Fenched her, and forced his leg between her legs. All of van Liefde's actions were unsolicited and unwanted by ^{REDACTED} broke free and said to van Liefde, "You should not be doing this. You're a priest." Van Liefde replied, "I'm not one yet." This type of conduct never happened again.

At the time of the incident, van Liefde was a seminary student and approximately 25 years old. ^{REDACTED} did not disclose the incident at that time. However, one year later she told her parents. They told ^{REDACTED} "Not to get Chirs in trouble." ^{REDACTED} never brought the matter up again until recently.

^{REDACTED} described van Liefde as a "womanizer."

On August 29, 2002, 0945, I telephoned ^{REDACTED} and reviewed this report with her. She concurred with its contents.



**Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board**

October __, 2010

CONFIDENTIAL--
Personnel Matter
D R A F T

TO: Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles

FROM: [REDACTED]
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board

SUBJECT: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde (CMOB #012)

Monsignor Van Liefde was born on August 26, 1948. He was ordained a deacon in June 1972 and a priest in May 1973. For the next thirty years Van Liefde served in a number of parishes as well as several high-profile administrative positions within the Archdiocese.

In April 2002 the Archdiocese received a complaint from [REDACTED] alleging that Van Liefde, a family friend, had sexually abused her when she was 16 years old. In May 2002 the Vicar for Clergy interviewed Van Liefde and he admitted to engaging in boundary violations with [REDACTED]. In June 2002 the Archdiocese placed him on administrative leave and restricted him from public ministry. In June 2003, a second complaint was received. This complainant, [REDACTED] alleged that Van Liefde, who was her spiritual director and confessor, had sexually abused her when she was 15 years old. Those two complaints ultimately resulted in civil suits and became part of the Clergy I cases.

13 September 2005, Rome authorized a canonical trial for the two complaints and a court was appointed. However, the trial was placed on hold due to the civil litigation. Though the litigation has been settled, the postponement of the canonical trial has been extended due to the receipt of a third allegation in September 2009. This most recent complaint was made by [REDACTED] who alleged that Van Liefde sexually abused him when he was 9 or 10 years

Monsignor Van Liefde (CMOB #012)
Page 2

CONFIDENTIAL--
Personnel Matter
D R A F T

old. REDACTED [REDACTED] suddenly recalled this abuse and used it in his argument for a reduced prison sentence.

In the first complaint, REDACTED alleged that Van Liefde abused her two to four times a week from August 1973 to February 1975. Van Liefde had become friends with REDACTED family and, in fact, Van Liefde's ex-roommate at the seminary later became REDACTED husband. (They have since divorced.) REDACTED alleged that the abuse consisted of fondling, hugging, massages, attempted oral sex, digital penetration and attempted intercourse. REDACTED, (born March 10, 1957) was 16 years 5 months old when the alleged abuse began and Van Liefde was 25 years old, having been ordained a priest 3 months earlier. At the time, 16 years was the age of majority under canon law, so this complaint, if true, would not constitute a delict under canon law. (Canon law now sets the age of majority at 18 years of age for the universal church.) The complainant's parents became suspicious that Van Liefde's relationship with their daughter had become inappropriate. The mother confronted him and he assured her that there was nothing to worry about. In about December 1974, REDACTED, father went down stairs at about 3 AM and found Van Liefde laying on the sofa with his shirt open. REDACTED was kneeling down while they embraced and they were engaged in what the father described as "a very passionate kiss." The father went back up stairs and told his wife to, "Get that son of a bitch out of this house or I'll kill him." When she went down stairs she saw her daughter rubbing Van Liefde's bare back and told him to get out of the house. The next day she confronted Van Liefde and he admitted what had happened. This complainant was part of the Clergy I settlement from which REDACTED received a median amount of money. Once the civil suits were settled, Van Liefde was interviewed by a canonical auditor. He acknowledged that he had crossed some boundaries with REDACTED and that the two of them had hugged, given neck rubs, kissed and embraced. But, he denied genital contact of any kind or that either of them was ever partially unclothed. He also stated that the late-night kissing on the couch incident never occurred. He stated he was never in the REDACTED home past 11 PM and was never asked to leave the house.

A second complaint was received in June 2003 from REDACTED REDACTED alleged that Van Liefde abused her about 6 times between 1972 and 1976, when she was in the 9th & 10th grades. These allegations, if true, they would constitute a canonical delict as the complaint was under 16 years of age at the time. (REDACTED was born on REDACTED) Van Liefde would have been about 25 years old and an ordained priest. REDACTED alleged that Van Liefde touched her genitals, buttocks & breasts over and under the clothes, masturbated and attempted vaginal penetration.

On August 27, 2002, REDACTED, was interviewed by Officer James Brown of the Los Angeles Police Department. She stated that her family was friends with the Van Liefde family and that they lived in the same neighborhood in Mission Viejo. She told Officer Brown that it was not uncommon for her to spend time at the Van Liefde home. When she was 14 or 15 years old, and Van Liefde was not yet ordained to the priesthood, she was swimming with Van Liefde in their pool. Van Liefde grabbed her, fondled her breasts over her bikini top, forcefully French kissed her and forced his leg between her legs. This type of conduct never happened again.

She also alleged that Van Liefde abused her brother; however, her brother later stated that another priest had abused him, not Van Liefde. This complainant was also part of the Clergy I settlement from which [REDACTED] received a median amount of money. Her brother also

received a median settlement, but due to abuse from the other priest. The canonical auditor attempted to interview [REDACTED], after the case had been settled, but she refused to cooperate with the investigation and demanded that the auditor refrain from contacting her family. Van Liefde was interviewed regarding this complaint. He recalled knowing the family, but did not recall the children. He categorically denied every abusing [REDACTED] or her brother

As the Board was preparing to deliberate these two complaints, a third complaint was received in September 2009. In that complaint, [REDACTED], who was awaiting sentencing for [REDACTED] suddenly recalled having been abused by Van Liefde in 1984 and 1985 when he was 9 or 10 years old. [REDACTED] used that recollection to argue for a reduction in his prison sentence. With this new allegation pending, the Board suspended its deliberations pending a canonical investigation. However, neither Van Liefde nor the complainant will agree to be interviewed due to the threat of civil litigation. As that could take years to resolve, the Board decided to proceed on the first two allegations and, should it be necessary, address the third allegation when additional information becomes available. We also considered waiting for the Canonical court to make its determination, but that process is unlikely to make factual determinations given that the first complaint did not constitute a delict and the second complainant refused to be interviewed. In fact, for these same reasons, the parties to the trial at an earlier date mutually agreed to abandon the formal process.

The Board has reviewed this case several times over the years. Recently, we have spent many hours over several sessions reviewing the investigation in great detail. The Board's diversity including members with experience as mental health care professionals, law enforcement, the judiciary, abuse victims and their parents, religious and clergy all helped to ensure that every aspect of this case was fully explored. By Charter, the Board is responsible for ensuring that all allegations of sexual misconduct by a priest or deacon are investigated thoroughly. Consequently, the Board's first duty is to determine if all reasonable investigative avenues have been pursued and exhausted. We have considered that aspect of this case and unanimously **find that the first two allegations have been investigated thoroughly**. We noted that both allegations were referred to local law enforcement officials in a timely manner and that they closed their investigations as the statute of limitations had expired.

With the adequacy of the investigation established, it now becomes the Board's responsibility to recommend an appropriate disposition. Regarding the [REDACTED] case, we unanimously concluded there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove her allegation. Monsignor Van Liefde was interviewed and categorically denies the allegation. But [REDACTED] has not been interviewed by any authority regarding the details of her allegation. After the civil suit was settled, the canonical investigator requested an interview, but [REDACTED] refused and asked that her family not be contacted. Without interviewing her and the people she states could corroborate her complaint there is no way we can come to a conclusion with any degree of confidence. Consequently we had no choice but to give this complaint little or no weight in our deliberations.

On the other hand, the Gilmore case has been investigated thoroughly and contains extensive interviews and/or sworn depositions. We unanimously find that the evidence in this case supports a conclusion that Monsignor Van Liefde sexually abused [REDACTED] on numerous occasions when she was 16 and 17 years of age. While that apparently did not constitute a canonical delict at that time because she was 16, it did violate civil law which places the age of majority at 18 years old. Consequently, the Board concluded that Monsignor Van Liefde's actions with regard to [REDACTED] constituted the sexual abuse of a minor. We also noted that this matter received extensive publicity in both the print and broadcast media.

The majority of the Board concluded that Monsignor Van Liefde should be removed from public ministry permanently. That conclusion is consistent with the Los Angeles Archdiocesan Policy on Sexual Abuse by Clergy which states, in pertinent part:

"A. Sexual Abuse of a Minor

"The Archdiocese of Los Angeles will not knowingly assign to any ministry a priest or deacon who has sexually abused a minor. As emphasized by Pope John Paul II, 'There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young....' The Archdiocese will fully implement the provision of the *Essential Norms* that:

"When even a single act of sexual abuse [of a minor] by a priest or deacon is admitted or established after an appropriate process in accord with canon law, the offending priest or deacon will be removed permanently from ecclesiastical ministry, not excluding dismissal from the clerical state, if the case so warrants. (norm 8)."¹

A minority of the Board felt that (insert David/Inez material)

Recommendation No. 1: A majority of the Board recommends that Monsignor Van Liefde be removed from public ministry permanently. A minority recommends that (insert David/Inez material)

Recommendation No. 2: We recommend that the two Complainants be notified of the Archbishop's final decision on this matter.

With these findings and recommendations, the Board concludes this case and closes this file.

Respectfully submitted,

¹ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles Priest Policies and Guidelines, updated September 2003, page VIII-10

Monsignor Van Liefde (CMOB #012)
Page 5

CONFIDENTIAL--
Personnel Matter
D R A F T

[REDACTED]

Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board

c: Msgr. Michael Meyers, Vicar for Clergy

[REDACTED]



**Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board**

October __, 2010

CONFIDENTIAL--
Personnel Matter
D R A F T

TO: Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles

FROM: [REDACTED]
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board

SUBJECT: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde (CMOB #012)

Monsignor Van Liefde was born on August 26, 1948. He was ordained a deacon in June 1972 and a priest in May 1973. For the next thirty years Van Liefde served in a number of parishes as well as several high-profile administrative positions within the Archdiocese.

In April 2002 the Archdiocese received a complaint from [REDACTED] alleging that Van Liefde, a family friend, had sexually abused her when she was 16 years old. In May 2002 the Vicar for Clergy interviewed Van Liefde and he admitted to engaging in boundary violations with [REDACTED]. In June 2002 the Archdiocese placed him on administrative leave and restricted him from public ministry. In June 2003, a second complaint was received. This complainant, [REDACTED], alleged that Van Liefde, who was her spiritual director and confessor, had sexually abused her when she was 15 years old. Those two complaints ultimately resulted in civil suits and became part of the Clergy I cases.

13 September 2005

~~In March 2006~~, Rome authorized a canonical trial for the two complaints and a court was appointed. However, the trial was placed on hold due to the civil litigation. Though the litigation has been settled, the postponement of the canonical trial has been extended due to the receipt of a third allegation in September 2009. This most recent complaint was made by [REDACTED] who alleged that Van Liefde sexually abused him when he was 9 or 10 years

Upon the settlement of the civil litigation, in consultation with his canonical advocate, Msgr. Van Liefde forfeited his right to a trial in that his process was unlikely to produce any factual

old. REDACTED, who is awaiting sentencing [REDACTED], suddenly recalled this abuse and used it in his argument for a reduced prison sentence.

In the first complaint, REDACTED alleged that Van Liefde abused her two to four times a week from August 1973 to February 1975. Van Liefde had become friends with REDACTED; family and, in fact, Van Liefde's ex-roommate at the seminary later became REDACTED husband. (They have since divorced.) REDACTED alleged that the abuse consisted of fondling, hugging, massages, attempted oral sex, digital penetration and attempted intercourse. REDACTED (born March 10, 1957) was 16 years 5 months old when the alleged abuse began and Van Liefde was 25 years old, having been ordained a priest 3 months earlier. At the time, 16 years was the age of majority under canon law, so this complaint, if true, would not constitute a delict under canon law. (Canon law now sets the age of majority in the United States at 18 years of age.) The complainant's parents became suspicious that Van Liefde's relationship with their daughter had become inappropriate. The mother confronted him and he assured her that there was nothing to worry about. In about December 1974, REDACTED father went down stairs at about 3 AM and found Van Liefde laying on the sofa with his shirt open. REDACTED was kneeling down while they embraced and they were engaged in what the father described as "a very passionate kiss." The father went back up stairs and told his wife to, "Get that son of a bitch out of this house or I'll kill him." When she went down stairs she saw her daughter rubbing Van Liefde's bare back and told him to get out of the house. The next day she confronted Van Liefde and he admitted what had happened. This complainant was part of the Clergy I settlement from which REDACTED received a median amount of money. Once the civil suits were settled, Van Liefde was interviewed by a canonical auditor. He acknowledged that he had crossed some boundaries with REDACTED and that the two of them had hugged, given neck rubs, kissed and embraced. But, he denied genital contact of any kind or that either of them was ever partially unclothed. He also stated that the late-night kissing on the couch incident never occurred. He stated he was never in the REDACTED home past 11 PM and was never asked to leave the house.

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interviewed by Officer James A. Brown on August 27, 2002. She stated that her family was friends with the Van Liefde family & they lived in the same neighborhood in Mission Viejo. It was not uncommon for REDACTED to spend time at the Van Liefde home. When she was 14 or 15 years old & Van Liefde

As the Board was preparing to deliberate these two complaints, a third complaint was received in September 2009. In that complaint, REDACTED who was awaiting sentencing for [REDACTED] suddenly recalled having been abused by Van Liefde in 1984 and 1985 when he was 9 or 10 years old. REDACTED used that recollection to argue for a reduction in his prison sentence. With this new allegation pending, the Board suspended its deliberations pending a canonical investigation. However, neither Van Liefde nor the complainant will agree to be interviewed due to the threat of civil litigation. As that could take years to resolve, the Board decided to proceed on the first two allegations and, should it be necessary, address the third allegation when additional information becomes available. We also considered waiting for the Canonical court to make its determination, but that process is unlikely to make factual determinations given that the first complaint did not constitute a delict and the second complainant refused to be interviewed.

The Board has reviewed this case several times over the years. Recently, we have spent many hours over several sessions reviewing the investigation in great detail. The Board's diversity including members with experience as mental health care professionals, law enforcement, the judiciary, abuse victims and their parents, religious and clergy all helped to ensure that every aspect of this case was fully explored. By Charter, the Board is responsible for ensuring that all allegations of sexual misconduct by a priest or deacon are investigated thoroughly. Consequently, the Board's first duty is to determine if all reasonable investigative avenues have been pursued and exhausted. We have considered that aspect of this case and unanimously **find that the first two allegations have been investigated thoroughly**. We noted that both allegations were referred to local law enforcement officials in a timely manner and that they closed their investigations as the statute of limitations had expired.

With the adequacy of the investigation established, it now becomes the Board's responsibility to recommend an appropriate disposition. Regarding the REDACTED case, we unanimously concluded there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove her allegation. Monsignor Van Liefde was interviewed and categorically denies the allegation. But REDACTED has not been interviewed by any authority regarding the details of her allegation. After the civil suit was settled, the canonical investigator requested an interview, but REDACTED refused and asked that her family not be contacted. Without interviewing her and the people she states could corroborate her complaint there is no way we can come to a conclusion with any degree of confidence. Consequently we had no choice but to give this complaint little or no weight in our deliberations.

On the other hand, the REDACTED case has been investigated thoroughly and contains extensive interviews and/or sworn depositions. We unanimously find that the evidence in this case supports a conclusion that Monsignor Van Liefde sexually abused REDACTED on numerous occasions when she was 16 and 17 years of age. While that apparently did not constitute a canonical delict at that time because she was 16, it did violate civil law which places the age of majority at 18 years old. Consequently, the Board concluded that Monsignor Van Liefde's actions with regard to REDACTED constituted the sexual abuse of a minor. We also noted that this matter received extensive publicity in both the print and broadcast media.

The majority of the Board concluded that Monsignor Van Liefde should be removed from public ministry permanently. That conclusion is consistent with the Los Angeles Archdiocesan Policy on Sexual Abuse by Clergy which states, in pertinent part:

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A minority of the Board felt that (insert [redacted] material)

Recommendation No. 1: A majority of the Board recommends that Monsignor Van Liefde be removed from public ministry permanently. A minority recommends that (insert [redacted] material)

Recommendation No. 2: We recommend that the two Complainants be notified of the Archbishop’s final decision on this matter.

With these findings and recommendations, the Board concludes this case and closes this file.

Respectfully submitted,

[redacted signature]

Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board

c: Msgr. Michael Meyers, Vicar for Clergy

¹ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles Priest Policies and Guidelines, updated September 2003, page VIII-10

Monsignor Van Liefde (CMOB #012)
Page 5

CONFIDENTIAL--
Personnel Matter
D R A F T

REDACTED
CMOB Administrator



**Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board**

October __, 2010

CONFIDENTIAL--
Personnel Matter
D R A F T

TO: Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles

FROM: [REDACTED]
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board

SUBJECT: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde (CMOB #012)

Monsignor Van Liefde was born on August 26, 1948. He was ordained a deacon in June 1972 and a priest in May 1973. For the next thirty years Van Liefde served in a number of parishes as well as several high-profile administrative positions within the Archdiocese.

In April 2002 the Archdiocese received a complaint from [REDACTED] alleging that Van Liefde, a family friend, had sexually abused her when she was 16 years old. In May 2002 the Vicar for Clergy interviewed Van Liefde and he admitted to engaging in boundary violations with [REDACTED]. In June 2002 the Archdiocese placed him on administrative leave and restricted him from public ministry. In June 2003, a second complaint was received. This complainant, [REDACTED] alleged that Van Liefde, who was her spiritual director and confessor, had sexually abused her when she was 15 years old. Those two complaints ultimately resulted in civil suits and became part of the Clergy I cases.

In March 2006, Rome authorized a canonical trial for the two complaints and a court was appointed. However, the trial was placed on hold due to the civil litigation. Though the litigation has been settled, the postponement of the canonical trial has been extended due to the receipt of a third allegation in September 2009. This most recent complaint was made by [REDACTED] who alleged that Van Liefde sexually abused him when he was 9 or 10 years

old. REDACTED who is awaiting sentencing for [REDACTED] suddenly recalled this abuse and used it in his argument for a reduced prison sentence.

In the first complaint, REDACTED alleged that Van Liefde abused her two to four times a week from August 1973 to February 1975. Van Liefde had become friends with REDACTED family and, in fact, Van Liefde's ex-roommate at the seminary later became REDACTED husband. (They have since divorced.) REDACTED alleged that the abuse consisted of fondling, hugging, massages, attempted oral sex, digital penetration and attempted intercourse. REDACTED (born March 10, 1957) was 16 years 5 months old when the alleged abuse began and Van Liefde was 25 years old, having been ordained a priest 3 months earlier. At the time, 16 years was the age of majority under canon law, so this complaint, if true, would not constitute a delict under canon law. (Canon law now sets the age of majority in the United States at 18 years of age.) The complainant's parents became suspicious that Van Liefde's relationship with their daughter had become inappropriate. The mother confronted him and he assured her that there was nothing to worry about. In about December 1974, REDACTED father went down stairs at about 3 AM and found Van Liefde laying on the sofa with his shirt open. REDACTED was kneeling down while they embraced and they were engaged in what the father described as "a very passionate kiss." The father went back up stairs and told his wife to, "Get that son of a bitch out of this house or I'll kill him." When she went down stairs she saw her daughter rubbing Van Liefde's bare back and told him to get out of the house. The next day she confronted Van Liefde and he admitted what had happened. This complainant was part of the Clergy I settlement from which REDACTED received a median amount of money. Once the civil suits were settled, Van Liefde was interviewed by a canonical auditor. He acknowledged that he had crossed some boundaries with REDACTED and that the two of them had hugged, given neck rubs, kissed and embraced. But, he denied genital contact of any kind or that either of them was ever partially unclothed. He also stated that the late-night kissing on the couch incident never occurred. He stated he was never in the REDACTED home past 11 PM and was never asked to leave the house.

A second complaint was received in June 2003 from REDACTED alleged that Van Liefde abused her about 6 times between 1972 and 1976, when she was in the 9th & 10th grades. These allegations, if true, they would constitute a canonical delict as the complaint was under 16 years of age at the time. (REDACTED was born on REDACTED) Van Liefde would have been about 25 years old and an ordained priest. REDACTED alleged that Van Liefde touched her genitals, buttocks & breasts over and under the clothes, masturbated and attempted vaginal penetration. She also alleged that Van Liefde abused her brother; however, her brother later stated that another priest had abused him, not Van Liefde. This complainant was also part of the Clergy I settlement from which REDACTED received a median amount of money. Her brother also received a median settlement, but due to abuse from the other priest. The canonical auditor attempted to interview REDACTED after the case had been settled, but she refused to cooperate with the investigation and demanded that the auditor refrain from contacting her family. Van Liefde was interviewed regarding this complaint. He recalled knowing the family, but did not recall the children. He categorically denied every abusing REDACTED or her brother.

As the Board was preparing to deliberate these two complaints, a third complaint was received in September 2009. In that complaint, REDACTED, who was awaiting sentencing for [REDACTED], suddenly recalled having been abused by Van Liefde in 1984 and 1985 when he was 9 or 10 years old. REDACTED used that recollection to argue for a reduction in his prison sentence. With this new allegation pending, the Board suspended its deliberations pending a canonical investigation. However, neither Van Liefde nor the complainant will agree to be interviewed due to the threat of civil litigation. As that could take years to resolve, the Board decided to proceed on the first two allegations and, should it be necessary, address the third allegation when additional information becomes available. We also considered waiting for the Canonical court to make its determination, but that process is unlikely to make factual determinations given that the first complaint did not constitute a delict and the second complainant refused to be interviewed.

The Board has reviewed this case several times over the years. Recently, we have spent many hours over several sessions reviewing the investigation in great detail. The Board's diversity including members with experience as mental health care professionals, law enforcement, the judiciary, abuse victims and their parents, religious and clergy all helped to ensure that every aspect of this case was fully explored. By Charter, the Board is responsible for ensuring that all allegations of sexual misconduct by a priest or deacon are investigated thoroughly. Consequently, the Board's first duty is to determine if all reasonable investigative avenues have been pursued and exhausted. We have considered that aspect of this case and unanimously **find that the first two allegations have been investigated thoroughly**. We noted that both allegations were referred to local law enforcement officials in a timely manner and that they closed their investigations as the statute of limitations had expired.

With the adequacy of the investigation established, it now becomes the Board's responsibility to recommend an appropriate disposition. Regarding the REDACTED case, we unanimously concluded there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove her allegation. Monsignor Van Liefde was interviewed and categorically denies the allegation. But REDACTED has not been interviewed by any authority regarding the details of her allegation. After the civil suit was settled, the canonical investigator requested an interview, but REDACTED refused and asked that her family not be contacted. Without interviewing her and the people she states could corroborate her complaint there is no way we can come to a conclusion with any degree of confidence. Consequently we had no choice but to give this complaint little or no weight in our deliberations.

On the other hand, the REDACTED case has been investigated thoroughly and contains extensive interviews and/or sworn depositions. We unanimously find that the evidence in this case supports a conclusion that Monsignor Van Liefde sexually abused REDACTED on numerous occasions when she was 16 and 17 years of age. While that apparently did not constitute a canonical delict at that time because she was 16, it did violate civil law which places the age of majority at 18 years old. Consequently, the Board concluded that Monsignor Van Liefde's actions with regard to REDACTED constituted the sexual abuse of a minor. We also noted that this matter received extensive publicity in both the print and broadcast media.

The majority of the Board concluded that Monsignor Van Liefde should be removed from public ministry permanently. That conclusion is consistent with the Los Angeles Archdiocesan Policy on Sexual Abuse by Clergy which states, in pertinent part:

"A. Sexual Abuse of a Minor

"The Archdiocese of Los Angeles will not knowingly assign to any ministry a priest or deacon who has sexually abused a minor. As emphasized by Pope John Paul II, 'There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young....' The Archdiocese will fully implement the provision of the *Essential Norms* that:

"When even a single act of sexual abuse [of a minor] by a priest or deacon is admitted or established after an appropriate process in accord with canon law, the offending priest or deacon will be removed permanently from ecclesiastical ministry, not excluding dismissal from the clerical state, if the case so warrants. (norm 8)."¹

A minority of the Board felt that (insert [redacted] material)

Recommendation No. 1: A majority of the Board recommends that Monsignor Van Liefde be removed from public ministry permanently. A minority recommends that (insert [redacted] material)

Recommendation No. 2: We recommend that the two Complainants be notified of the Archbishop's final decision on this matter.

With these findings and recommendations, the Board concludes this case and closes this file.

Respectfully submitted,

[redacted]
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board

c: Msgr. Michael Meyers, Vicar for Clergy

¹ Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles Priest Policies and Guidelines, updated September 2003, page VIII-10

Monsignor Van Liefde (CMOB #012)
Page 5

CONFIDENTIAL--
Personnel Matter
D R A F T

REDACTED

Confidential
Attorney Client Privilege
Attorney Work Product

Record of Investigation/Interview

On November 18, 2009, Detective Juan Perez, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Juvenile Division made available LAPD files for case number S0206023001 related to the investigation of Reverend Christian Van Liefde. Detective Perez advised that the files were available for review in their entirety; however, he was only authorized to provide copies of the initial reports made by the victims. Review of the files revealed the following:

The investigative files for LAPD case number S0206023001 consist of two separate file folders; one for REDACTED and the second for REDACTED

The folder for REDACTED only contains a confidentiality request form and a preliminary investigation report, both dated August 27, 2002. Copies of both documents were obtained from Detective Perez and they are attached hereto.

The folder for REDACTED also contained a confidentiality request form attached to the preliminary investigation report and both documents were dated June 26, 2002. Copies of both documents were obtained and are attached hereto. The folder also contained several other documents, including, but not limited to, declarations made by REDACTED and other witnesses in connection with REDACTED lawsuit against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (ADLA) and email correspondence from REDACTED to LAPD Detective James Brown. It is noted that, with the exception of the email correspondence and a handwritten note of a telephone message from someone named REDACTED, the other documents are identical to items in possession of the ADLA in this matter.

Further, in an email dated August 5, 2002 from REDACTED to Detective Brown, REDACTED makes reference to a girl named REDACTED who Van Liefde had introduced to her as a good friend. REDACTED further stated that when Van Liefde was a deacon at his first parish, REDACTED came to visit him from Ojai and that she had a crush on Van Liefde. REDACTED did not specifically state that REDACTED was a victim and the file does not reflect that Detective Brown conducted any investigation to determine the relationship between REDACTED and Van Liefde.

In addition, in the same email, REDACTED states that when her mother told Sr. REDACTED about her concerns regarding the relationship between her and Van Liefde, Sr. referred her to the REDACTED. According to REDACTED Sr. REDACTED referred her mother to REDACTED because there had been a "problem with another girl", but her mother never told her because she did not want to hurt her feelings.

Review of Los Angeles Police Department Records
Investigation on: November 18, 2009 at 100 W. First Street, Los Angeles, California
By: Canonical Auditor REDACTED

Confidential
Attorney Client Privilege
Attorney Work Product

REDACTED claims she only found out when she fully disclosed the extent of her relationship with Van Liefde to her mother.

The last item of interest in the file is a hand written note documenting a telephone call to LAPD on July 18, 2002 from someone named REDACTED who would not provide a last name. REDACTED reported that in approximately 1981 -1982, when Van Liefde was the Principal at Our Lady of Loretto High School, there were a series of reported incidents of child molestation in the area of the church and the children were coaxed into the church by the perpetrator. She also claims that the police investigated the reports and the incidents were reported by the Los Angeles Times. She further states that the police drawing of the suspect looked like Van Liefde and parents had made a report to the ADLA.

REDACTED did provide a contact telephone number REDACTED. The file reflects that Detective Brown attempted to contact REDACTED by telephone, but never received a return call.

Review of Los Angeles Police Department Records
Investigation on: November 18, 2009 at 100 W. First Street, Los Angeles, California
By: Canonical Auditor REDACTED

Request for Confidentiality of Information

* CONTROLLED DOCUMENT *

DATE: <u>AUG 27 2002</u>	TYPE OF CRIME: <u>CHILD ANNOYING</u>	DR NO: <u>02-99-24675</u>
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Law enforcement authorities are required by law to release certain information on crime reports upon request, as a matter of public record. If someone asks for information on this crime report, your name will be released with the information unless you request that your name be kept confidential pursuant to Section 6254 of the Government Code. Sex offenses as defined in Section 6254 of the Government Code include Penal Code Sections 220, 261, 261.5, 262, 264, 264.1, 273a, 273d, 273.5, 286, 288, 288a, 289, 422.6, 422.7, 422.75, and 646.9.

By initialing the appropriate statement below and signing this form, you are informing law enforcement agencies and the courts of your choice for confidentiality.

JB For
(vict. initials)

I hereby exercise my right to confidentiality and request that my name not become a matter of public record pursuant to Section 6254 of the Government Code.

(vict. initials)

I hereby decline to keep my name confidential.

(ofcr. initials)

The victim is a minor without a parent or guardian present. The below signed authorized agent hereby exercises the right of privacy for the minor and requests that the victim's name not become a matter of public record pursuant to Section 6254 of the Government Code (*This authorization should be obtained through the Area Major Assault Crimes coordinator*).

I, JAMES N. BROWN 20193 (officer advising), advised victim (named below), that his/her name will become a matter of public record unless he/she requests that it be kept confidential.

V I C T I M	LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE <u>REDACTED</u>	SEX <u>F</u>	DESC. <u>W</u>	AGE <u>43</u>	DOB <u>REDACTED</u>
	ADDRESS <u>C/O I/O</u>	ZIP	PHONE		X
	DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.)	FOREIGN LANGUAGES SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE)	OCCUPATION		
O T H E R	LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE	SEX	DESC.	AGE	DOB
	ADDRESS	ZIP	PHONE		X
	DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.)	FOREIGN LANGUAGES SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE)	OCCUPATION		
LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE SAME AS VICT'S <input type="checkbox"/> RES. <input type="checkbox"/> BUS.					R.D. <u>9999</u>
<u>UNK LOCATION IN MISSION VIEJO</u>					

Signature of Victim: James N. Brown (For) REDACTED

REPORTING EMPLOYEE(S)	INITIALS, LAST NAME	SERIAL NO.	DIV./DETAIL	SUPERVISOR
	<u>J.N. BROWN</u>	<u>20193</u>	<u>JUV</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>

- "Taking Action" booklet provided.
- Rape Victim Counseling Center notified (264.2 PC) with consent of victim.
- Victim informed of right to have a victim's advocate and/or support person of his/her choosing.
Victim's Response: _____
- Victim informed of right to be interviewed by an officer of the same gender.
Victim's Response: _____
- Domestic Violence/Victim Information and Notification Everyday (DVV) Pamphlet, Form 15.42.01, provided.

Date/Time victim advised: 8-27-02 1415 Officer making notification: [Signature] Serial No. 20193

Los Angeles Police Department PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION of

COMBINED EVID. REPORT MULTIPLE DRS ON THIS REPORT

SHOTS FIRED

USE OF FORCE

MARCOTICS STOLEN - MARG. DIV.

DSD (GAS) / CRASH

FIREARM STOLEN / LOST - DHD & RGI CRIME / PROPERTY TT SPVR.

PRELIMINARY CASE SCREENING
SUSPECT / VEHICLE NOT SEEN
PRINTS OR OTHER EVIDENCE NOT PRESENT
MO NOT DISTINCT
PROPERTY LOSS LESS THAN \$5000
NO SERIOUS INJURY TO VICTIM
ONLY ONE VICTIM INVOLVED

CHILD ANNOYING
INVEST DIV. JUV DR 02-99 246 75
LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE (FIRM IF BUSINESS) CONFIDENTIAL
ADDRESS ZIP PHONE X
R-
B-

PREMISES (SPECIFIC TYPE) ATM
Family residence

DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.) FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE) OCCUPATION

ENTRY 459/BFV POINT OF ENTRY POINT OF EXIT
FRONT REAR SIDE ROOF FLOOR OTHER
METHOD INSTRUMENT / TOOL USED

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE SAME AS V'S RES. BUS. R.D. PRINTS BY PREL INV. ATTEMPT OBTAINED
DATE & TIME OF OCCURRENCE 06-01-73, 1400 to 08-31-74, 1800 DATE & TIME REPORTED TO PD 08-27-2002, 1415
TYPE PROPERTY STOLEN / LOST / DAMAGED 3.4 GIVEN STOLEN/LOST RECOVERED EST. DAMAGED ARSON / VAND.
N/A \$0 \$0 \$0

VICT'S VEH. (IF INVOLVED) YEAR, MAKE, TYPE COLOR, LIC. NO.

NOTIFICATIONS (PERSON & DIVISION) CONNECTED REPORTS (TYPE & DR)
None None

MO IF LONG FORM, LIST UNIQUE ACTIONS. IF SHORT FORM, DESCRIBE SUSPECT'S ACTIONS IN BRIEF PHRASES, INCLUDING WEAPON USED. DO NOT REPEAT ABOVE INFO. BUT CLARIFY REPORT AS NECESSARY. IF ANY OF THE MISSING ITEMS ARE POTENTIALLY IDENTIFIABLE, ITEMIZE AND DESCRIBE ALL ITEMS MISSING IN THIS INCIDENT IN THE NARRATIVE.

Msgr van Liefde, who was a seminary student at the time and a close friend of victim's family, fondled victim's breasts over her bikini top, forcibly French kissed her, and forced his leg between her legs. The single incident occurred at the home of van Liefde's parents.

MOTIVATED BY HATRED / PREJUDICE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

REPORTING EMPLOYEE(S) INITIALS, LAST NAME SERIAL NO. DIV. / DETAIL
JN Brown 20192 JUV/SECUR

PERSON REPORTING SIGNATURE OR RECEIVED BY PHONE -

NOTE: IF SHORT FORM AND VICTIM / PR ARE NOT THE SAME, ENTER PR INFORMATION IN INVOLVED PERSONS SECTION.

Complete below sections if any Preliminary Case Screening boxes are not checked.

SUSP'S VEHICLE YEAR MAKE MODEL TYPE Interior Exterior Body Windows
COLOR(S) VEH. LIC. NO. STATE
1 BUCKET SEATS 2 DAMAGED INSIDE
1 CUSTOM WHEELS 2 PAINTED INSCRIPT 3 LEVEL ALTERED 4 RUST / PRIMER 5 CUSTOM PAINT 6 VINYL TOP
1 DAMAGE 2 MODIFIED 3 STICKER 4 LEFT 5 RIGHT 6 FRONT 7 REAR

S-1 SEX DESC HAIR EYES HEIGHT WEIGHT AGE CLOTHING NAME, ADDRESS, DOB, IF KNOWN; NAME, BKG. NO., CHARGE, IF ARRESTED.
M WHT BRO HZL 5-10 180 53 Christian van Liefde, DOB 08-26-1948
PERSONAL ODDITIES (UNUSUAL FEATURES, SCARS, TATTOOS, ETC.) Weapon (VERBAL THREATS, BODILY FORCE, SIMULATED GUN, ETC. IF KNIFE OR GUN, DESCRIBE FULLY)

S-2

INVOLVED PERSONS W - WITNESS R - PERSON RPTG. S - PERSON SECURING (459) D - PERSON DISCOVERING (459) P - PARENT CP - CONTACT PERSON (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE)

Table with columns: NAME, SEX, DESC, DOB, ADDRESS, CITY, ZIP, PHONE. Includes rows for R- and B-.

COMBINED EVID. RPT. USE THIS SECTION IN LIEU OF PROPERTY REPORT IF NO GUN AND NO MORE THAN THREE ITEMS OF EVIDENCE

Table with columns: ITEM, QUAN., ARTICLE, SERIAL NO./TYPE TEST OF DRUG, BRAND / DRUG WEIGHT, UNITS, MODEL NO. / DRUG TEST RESULT, MISC.

NARRATIVE 1) LIST ADD'L SUSPS. & INVOLVED PERSONS. 2) RECONSTRUCT OCCURRENCES, INCL. ALL ELEMENTS OF CORPUS DELECTI. 3) IF NOT USING EVID. CONTINUATION FORM, DESCRIBE EVIDENCE INCLUDE PRINTS, STATE LOCATION FOUND AND BY WHOM. GIVE DISPOSITION. 4) SUMMARIZE OTHER DETAILS, INCL. WHEN AND WHERE PERSONS WITH NO PHONE CAN BE LOCATED. 5) INDICATE TYPE OF TRANSLATOR NEEDED FOR ANY INVOLVED PERSON. 6) LIST ITEMS MISSING.

VICTIM INDEMNIFICATION INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE) IS ANY OF THE VICTIM'S PROPERTY MARKED WITH AN OWNER APPLIED IDENTIFICATION NUMBER? YES NO

APPROVAL AND REVIEW SUPERVISOR APPROVING DATE & TIME REPRODUCED DETECTIVE SUPERVISOR REVIEWING SERIAL NO. Category

PAGE NO. 2 OF 2		TYPE OF REPORT CHILD ANNOYING				BOOKING NO.	DR NO. 02-99-24675
ITEM NO.	QUAN.	ARTICLE	SERIAL NO.	BRAND	MODEL NO.	MISC. DESCRIPTION (EG. COLOR, SIZE, INSCRIPTIONS, CALIBER, REVOLVER, ETC.)	DOLLAR VALUE
<p>On August 27, 2002, 1415 hours, I conducted a telephone interview with the victim, ^{REDACTED} who lives out-of-state. ^{REDACTED}'s family was friends with the suspect's (van Liefde) family, and they lived in the same neighborhood in Mission Viejo. It was not uncommon for ^{REDACTED} to spend time at the van Liefde home.</p> <p>In the summer of either 1973 or 1974, when ^{REDACTED} was 14 or 15 years old, she was swimming with van Liefde in their pool. ^{REDACTED} was wearing a bikini. van Liefde came over to her, grabbed her, fondled her breasts over her bikini top, forcibly Fench kissed her, and forced his leg between her legs. All of van Liefde's actions were unsolicited and unwanted by ^{REDACTED} broke free and said to van Liefde, "You should not be doing this. You're a priest." Van Liefde replied, "I'm not one yet." This type of conduct never happened again.</p> <p>At the time of the incident, van Liefde was a seminary student and approximately 25 years old. ^{REDACTED} did not disclose the incident at that time. However, one year later she told her parents. They told ^{REDACTED} "Not to get Chirs in trouble." ^{REDACTED} never brought the matter up again until recently.</p> <p>^{REDACTED} described van Liefde as a "womanizer."</p> <p>On August 29, 2002, 0945, I telephoned ^{REDACTED} and reviewed this report with her. She concurred with its contents.</p>							

request for confidentiality of information 30206023001

* CONTROLLED DOCUMENT *

DATE: 06/26/02	TYPE OF CRIME: CHILD HARASSING	DR NO: 02-11-19908
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Law enforcement authorities are required by law to release certain information on crime reports upon request, as a matter of public record. If someone asks for information on this crime report, your name will be released with the information unless you request that your name be kept confidential pursuant to Section 6254 of the Government Code. Sex offenses as defined in Section 6254 of the Government Code include Penal Code Sections 220, 261, 261.5, 262, 264, 264.1, 273a, 273d, 273.5, 286, 288, 288a, 289, 422.6, 422.7, 422.75, and 646.9.

By initialing the appropriate statement below and signing this form, you are informing law enforcement agencies and the courts of your choice for confidentiality.

REDACTED, I hereby exercise my right to confidentiality and request that my name not become a matter of public record pursuant to Section 6254 of the Government Code.

(vict. initials) I hereby decline to keep my name confidential.

(ofcr. initials) The victim is a minor without a parent or guardian present. The below signed authorized agent hereby exercises the right of privacy for the minor and requests that the victim's name not become a matter of public record pursuant to Section 6254 of the Government Code (This authorization should be obtained through the Area Major Assault Crimes coordinator).

I, DETECTIVE BROWN #20193 (officer advising), advised victim (named below), that his/her name will become a matter of public record unless he/she requests that it be kept confidential.

V I C T I M	REDACTED		SEX F	DESC. W	AGE	DOB REDACTED	
	ADDRESS	ZIP	PHONE		X		
	R- CARE OF I/O						
M	DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.)		FOREIGN LANGUAGES SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE)		OCCUPATION		
	LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE			SEX	DESC.	AGE	DOB
	ADDRESS	ZIP	PHONE		X		
O T H E R	R-						
	B-						
	DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.)		FOREIGN LANGUAGES SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE)		OCCUPATION		
LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE				SAME AS VICT'S		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RES <input type="checkbox"/> BUS.	
REDACTED				REDACTED		R.D. 1113	

Signature of Vic

REPORTING EMPLOYEE(S)	INITIALS, LAST NAME J. BROWN	SERIAL NO. 20193	DIV./DETAIL JUV/ SEC	SUPERVISOR
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- "Taking Action" booklet provided.
- Rape Victim Counseling Center notified (264.2 PC) with consent of victim.
- Victim informed of right to have a victim's advocate and/or support person of his/her choosing.
Victim's Response: _____
- Victim informed of right to be interviewed by an officer of the same gender.
Victim's Response: _____
- Domestic Violence/Victim Information and Notification Everyday (DVI) Pamphlet, Form 15.42.01, provided.

Date/Time victim advised: _____ Officer making notification: _____ Serial No. _____

50206025001

Los Angeles Police Department PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION of

COMBINED EVID. REPORT MULTIPLE DRGS ON THIS REPORT

SHOTS FIRED

USE OF FORCE

NARCOTICS STOLEN - NARC. DIV.

DSD (GAS) / CRASH

FIREARM STOLEN / LOST - DHD & RAI CRIME / PROPERTY TT SPVR.

PRELIMINARY CASE SCREENING
[X] SUSPECT / VEHICLE NOT SEEN
[X] PRINTS OR OTHER EVIDENCE NOT PRESENT
[] MO NOT DISTINCT
[X] PROPERTY LOSS LESS THAN \$5000
[X] NO SERIOUS INJURY TO VICTIM
[X] ONLY ONE VICTIM INVOLVED

Child Annoying
INVEST DIV. JUV DR 02-11-1998

VICTIM
LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE (FIRM IF BUSINESS) CONFIDENTIAL
ADDRESS ZIP PHONE X
R-
B-

PREMISES (SPECIFIC TYPE) ATM
Residence

ENTRY 459/BFV POINT OF ENTRY POINT OF EXIT
[] FRONT
[] REAR
[] SIDE
[] ROOF
[] FLOOR
[] OTHER
METHOD
INSTRUMENT / TOOL USED

DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.) FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE) OCCUPATION

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE SAME AS V/S [] RES. [] BUS. R.D. PRINTS BY PREL. INV. ATTEMPT OBTAINED [] Y [] N [] Y [] N

DATE & TIME OF OCCURRENCE 1973-1974 DATE & TIME REPORTED TO PD 06-26-2002, 1000 hrs

TYPE PROPERTY STOLEN / LOST / DAMAGED [] 3.4 GIVEN STOLEN/LOST \$ RECOVERED \$ EST. DAMAGED ARSON / VAND. \$

VICTIM'S VEH. (IF INVOLVED) YEAR, MAKE, TYPE COLOR, LIC. NO. NOTIFICATIONS (PERSON & DIVISION) CONNECTED REPORTS (TYPE & DR)

MO IF LONG FORM, LIST UNIQUE ACTIONS, IF SHORT FORM, DESCRIBE SUSPECT'S ACTIONS IN BRIEF PHRASES, INCLUDING WEAPON USED. DO NOT REPEAT ABOVE INFO. BUT CLARIFY REPORT AS NECESSARY. IF ANY OF THE MISSING ITEMS ARE POTENTIALLY IDENTIFIABLE, ITEMIZE AND DESCRIBE ALL ITEMS MISSING IN THIS INCIDENT IN THE NARRATIVE.

Suspect, a Catholic priest, befriends victim and engages her in intimate physical conduct including kissing, fondling, and masturbation. Victim was 16-17 years old at the time of the child annoying.

MOTIVATED BY HATRED / PREJUDICE [] DOMESTIC VIOLENCE []

REPORTING EMPLOYEE(S) INITIALS, LAST NAME SERIAL NO. DIV. / DETAIL PERSON REPORTING SIGNATURE OR RECEIVED BY PHONE - []
J.N. BROWN 20193 JUV/SECU CONFIDENTIAL
NOTE: IF SHORT FORM AND VICTIM / PR ARE NOT THE SAME, ENTER PR INFORMATION IN INVOLVED PERSONS SECTION.

Complete below sections if any Preliminary Case Screening boxes are not checked.

SUSP'S VEHICLE
YEAR MAKE MODEL TYPE Interior Exterior Body Windows
COLOR(S) VEH. LIC. NO. STATE
[] 1 BUCKET SEATS [] 1 CUSTOM WHEELS [] 1 DAMAGE [] 1 DAMAGE
[] 2 DAMAGED INSIDE [] 2 PAINTED INSCRIPT [] 2 MODIFIED [] 2 CUST.
[] 3 LEVEL ALTERED [] 3 RUST / PRIMER [] 3 STICKER [] 3 CURTAINS
[] 4 DAMAGED INSIDE [] 4 RUST / PRIMER [] 4 LEFT [] 4 LEFT
[] 5 CUSTOM PAINT [] 5 VINYL TOP [] 5 RIGHT [] 5 RIGHT
[] 6 DAMAGED INSIDE [] 6 LEVEL ALTERED [] 6 FRONT [] 6 FRONT
[] 7 DAMAGED INSIDE [] 7 RUST / PRIMER [] 7 REAR [] 7 REAR
[] 8 DAMAGED INSIDE [] 8 VINYL TOP [] 8 LEFT [] 8 LEFT

INVOLVED PERSONS W - WITNESS R - PERSON RPTG. S - PERSON SECURING (459) D - PERSON DISCOVERING (459) P - PARENT
CP - CONTACT PERSON (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE)
NAME SEX DESC DOB ADDRESS CITY ZIP PHONE
R-
B-
R-
B-
R-
B-

COMBINED EVID. RPT. USE THIS SECTION IN LIEU OF PROPERTY REPORT IF NO GUN AND NO MORE THAN THREE ITEMS OF EVIDENCE
LOC. EVID. BKD. 10.10 GIVEN? Preliminary Drug Test SUPV. INV. OF CR. TESTING SER. NO. WITNESS OF CR. SER. NO.
ITEM QUAN. ARTICLE SERIAL NO. / TYPE TEST OF DRUG BRAND / DRUG WEIGHT, UNITS MODEL NO. / DRUG TEST RESULT MISC.

NARRATIVE 1) LIST ADD'L SUSPS. & INVOLVED PERSONS. 2) RECONSTRUCT OCCURRENCES, INCL. ALL ELEMENTS OF CORPUS DELECTI. 3) IF NOT USING EVID. CONTINUATION FORM, DESCRIBE EVIDENCE INCLUDE PRINTS, STATE LOCATION FOUND AND BY WHOM. GIVE DISPOSITION. 4) SUMMARIZE OTHER DETAILS, INCL. WHEN AND WHERE PERSONS WITH NO PHONE CAN BE LOCATED. 5) INDICATE TYPE OF TRANSLATOR NEEDED FOR ANY INVOLVED PERSON. 6) LIST ITEMS MISSING.

VICTIM INDEMNIFICATION INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE) IS ANY OF THE VICTIM'S PROPERTY MARKED WITH AN OWNER APPLIED IDENTIFICATION NUMBER? IF "YES" EXPLAIN IN NARRATIVE. YES [] NO [X]
APPROVAL AND REVIEW SUPERVISOR APPROVING DATE & TIME REPRODUCED SERIAL NO. 12886 CLERK DETECTIVE SUPERVISOR REVIEWING SERIAL NO. Category

PAGE NO. 2 OF 3		TYPE OF REPORT Child Annoying			BOOKING NO.	DR NO. 02-11-19908	
ITEM NO.	QUAN.	ARTICLE	SERIAL NO.	BRAND	MODEL NO.	MISC. DESCRIPTION (EG. COLOR, SIZE, INSCRIPTIONS, CALIBER, REVOLVER, ETC.)	DOLLAR VALUE

On June 26, 2002, 1000 hours, Officer Shondie Jackson #33033 and I interviewed the victim, REDACTED at her place of business. REDACTED now 45 years old, was reporting an allegation of child annoying by the suspect, Christian van Liefde, who was a Catholic priest and 25 years old at the time. The child annoying occurred when REDACTED was in high school (approximately 1973-1974).

REDACTED first met van Liefde in June 1973. REDACTED had just completed her sophomore year of school at Holy Family Girls High School in Glendale. At the time, REDACTED was living with her parents in Los Angeles. Van Liefde was a new priest, who had been assigned to the Holy Family church. A strong attraction soon developed between REDACTED and van Liefde.

On August 30, 1973, REDACTED family celebrated van Liefde's birthday. That evening, REDACTED and van Liefde shared their first intimate kiss, which REDACTED described as French kissing. Over the next several months, their intimacy increased to include heavy petting, mutual masturbation, and van Liefde fondling REDACTED breasts. On many occasions, REDACTED masturbated van Liefde until he ejaculated. The vast majority of incidents occurred at REDACTED residence, in the living room, after her parents had gone to bed. Most of the touching and fondling occurred under the clothing because they were afraid of being caught by REDACTED parents. They were never naked in REDACTED home.

REDACTED denied there was any sexual intercourse, oral copulation, or sodomy. She did recall one incident when they were swimming at her grandparents' residence (Los Angeles). The pool had an attached spa, and REDACTED was sitting on the wall separating it from the pool. REDACTED was wearing the bottoms of her bathing suit. Van Liefde swam up to REDACTED and moved his head in a position so as to orally copulate her. REDACTED has no further memory of that incident. REDACTED admitted that there were occasions, while she and van Liefde were swimming in her grandparents' pool, that they would remove their clothing. However, there was never any intimacy beyond kissing, fondling, and masturbation.

REDACTED estimated that she and van Liefde were intimate with each other approximately once a week. In addition to her parents' home and her grandparents' home, they would engage in intimate conduct at local drive-in theaters.

One morning in October or November 1974, at approximately 0400 hours, REDACTED father came out of his bedroom and saw van Liefde and REDACTED kissing on the living room couch. He said nothing, but the next morning REDACTED mother asked REDACTED if van Liefde had kissed her. REDACTED said he had. Her mother asked REDACTED if it was a kiss like her father gives her. REDACTED said no. REDACTED told her mother that this was the first time they had shared a kiss and nothing else had happened.

REDACTED parents forbid REDACTED to see van Liefde any more, and they advised the school (Sister REDACTED) of van Liefde's conduct. They were told to advise the church, which they did with the REDACTED REDACTED. Van Liefde was transferred to another parish, allegedly one without high school girls.

REDACTED denied that there was any force or fear involved in her relationship with van Liefde. She admitted to being naive and innocent at the time and being in love with him. She recalled that when she wanted to attend her junior prom, and because it was impossible for van Liefde to take her, he arranged for his 19-year-old brother to be REDACTED escort.

PAGE NO. 3 OF 3		TYPE OF REPORT Child Annoying			BOOKING NO.	DR NO. 02-11-1998	
ITEM NO.	QUAN.	ARTICLE	SERIAL NO.	BRAND	MODEL NO.	MISC. DESCRIPTION (EG. COLOR, SIZE, INSCRIPTIONS, CALIBER, REVOLVER, ETC.)	DOLLAR VALUE
<p>In April 2002, after allegations of priest abuse and misconduct became public, REDACTED wrote and personally delivered a letter to Sister REDACTED Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles. In the letter, REDACTED reiterates her relationship with van Liefde and notes that he served and continues to serve parishes with high school girls. REDACTED asked that the matter be handled in strict confidence and be resolved discreetly. She asked for closure to a, "very serious situation that has been left unresolved for over 25 years."</p> <p>A short time later, REDACTED and her husband met with Sister REDACTED and REDACTED of the Archdiocese. REDACTED ask for an investigation to find out if van Liefde had involved himself with other girls. Near the end of May, Sister REDACTED advised REDACTED that van Liefde only admitted knowing REDACTED and her family and denied all the other allegations. Since there was no corroboration to REDACTED's allegations, there would be no further action taken by the Archdiocese.</p> <p>REDACTED then called her mother and disclosed the full extent of the relationship between her and van Liefde. REDACTED mother called the Archdiocese and told Sister REDACTED about finding REDACTED and van Liefde kissing on the living room couch.</p> <p>On June 6, van Liefde, now Monsignor, was removed as the pastor at St. Genevieve's Catholic Church in Panorama City. A June 7 Daily News article stated that van Liefde had been, "placed on administrative leave over an allegation he engaged in 'inappropriate conduct' 28 years ago...."</p> <p>On July 1, 2002, 1415 hours, I conducted a telephonic review of this report with REDACTED. She concurred with its contents.</p>							

request for confidentiality of information 50206023001

* CONTROLLED DOCUMENT *

DATE: 06/26/02	TYPE OF CRIME: CHILD ANNOYING	DR NO: 02-11-19908
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Law enforcement authorities are required by law to release certain information on crime reports upon request, as a matter of public record. If someone asks for information on this crime report, your name will be released with the information unless you request that your name be kept confidential pursuant to Section 6254 of the Government Code. Sex offenses as defined in Section 6254 of the Government Code include Penal Code Sections 220, 261, 261.5, 262, 264, 264.1, 273a, 273d, 273.5, 286, 288, 288a, 289, 422.6, 422.7, 422.75, and 646.9.

By initialing the appropriate statement below and signing this form, you are informing law enforcement agencies and the courts of your choice for confidentiality.
 REDACTED

I hereby exercise my right to confidentiality and request that my name not become a matter of public record pursuant to Section 6254 of the Government Code.

I hereby decline to keep my name confidential.

The victim is a minor without a parent or guardian present. The below signed authorized agent hereby exercises the right of privacy for the minor and requests that the victim's name not become a matter of public record pursuant to Section 6254 of the Government Code (This authorization should be obtained through the Area Major Assault Crimes coordinator).

I, DETECTIVE BROWN #20193 (officer advising), advised victim (named below), that his/her name will become a matter of public record unless he/she requests that it be kept confidential.

V I C T I M	LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE REDACTED			SEX F	DESC. W	AGE	DOB REDACTED
	ADDRESS R- CARE OF I/O		ZIP	PHONE		X	
	DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.)		FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE)	OCCUPATION			
	DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.)		FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE)	OCCUPATION			
O T H E R	LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE			SEX	DESC.	AGE	DOB
	ADDRESS R-		ZIP	PHONE		X	
	DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.)		FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE)	OCCUPATION			
	DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.)		FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE)	OCCUPATION			
LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE REDACTED							R.D. 1113

REDACTED

Signature of Vic

REPORTING EMPLOYEE(S)	INITIALS, LAST NAME J. BROWN	SERIAL NO. 20193	DIV./DETAIL JUV/ SEC	SUPERVISOR

- "Taking Action" booklet provided.
- Rape Victim Counseling Center notified (264.2 PC) with consent of victim.
- Victim informed of right to have a victim's advocate and/or support person of his/her choosing.
Victim's Response: _____
- Victim informed of right to be interviewed by an officer of the same gender.
Victim's Response: _____
- Domestic Violence/Victim Information and Notification Everyday (DVV) Pamphlet, Form 15.42.01, provided.

Date/Time victim advised: _____ Officer making notification: _____ Serial No. _____

50206025001

Los Angeles Police Department
PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION of

COMBINED EVID. REPORT
 MULTIPLE DRS ON THIS REPORT

SHOTS FIRED

USE OF FORCE

NARCOTICS STOLEN - NARC. DIV.

DSD (GAS) / CRASH

FIREARM STOLEN / LOST - DHD & RAI CRIME / PROPERTY TT BPVR.

PRELIMINARY CASE SCREENING

SUSPECT / VEHICLE NOT SEEN
 PRINTS OR OTHER EVIDENCE NOT PRESENT
 MO NOT DISTINCT
 PROPERTY LOSS LESS THAN \$5000
 NO SERIOUS INJURY TO VICTIM
 ONLY ONE VICTIM INVOLVED

PREMISES (SPECIFIC TYPE) **Residence** ATM

ENTRY 459/BFV POINT OF ENTRY POINT OF EXIT
 FRONT
 REAR
 SIDE
 ROOF
 FLOOR
 OTHER

METHOD
 INSTRUMENT / TOOL USED

Child Annoying

INVEST DIV. **JUV** DR **02-11-1998**

LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE (FIRM IF BUSINESS) **CONFIDENTIAL** SEX DESC AGE

ADDRESS ZIP PHONE X

R-
B-

DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, OTHER ID & NO.) FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE) OCCUPATION

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE SAME AS V'S RES. BUS. R.D. PRINTS BY PREL INV. ATTEMPT OBTAINED Y N

DATE & TIME OF OCCURRENCE **1973-1974** DATE & TIME REPORTED TO PD **06-26-2002, 1000 hrs**

TYPE PROPERTY STOLEN / LOST / DAMAGED 3.4 GIVEN STOLEN/LOST RECOVERED EST. DAMAGED ARSON/VAND. \$ \$ \$

VICTIM'S VEH. (IF INVOLVED) YEAR, MAKE, TYPE COLOR, LIC. NO. NOTIFICATIONS (PERSON & DIVISION) CONNECTED REPORTS (TYPE & DR)

MO IF LONG FORM, LIST UNIQUE ACTIONS. IF SHORT FORM, DESCRIBE SUSPECT'S ACTIONS IN BRIEF PHRASES, INCLUDING WEAPON USED. DO NOT REPEAT ABOVE INFO. BUT CLARIFY REPORT AS NECESSARY. IF ANY OF THE MISSING ITEMS ARE POTENTIALLY IDENTIFIABLE, ITEMIZE AND DESCRIBE ALL ITEMS MISSING IN THIS INCIDENT IN THE NARRATIVE.

Suspect, a Catholic priest, befriends victim and engages her in intimate physical conduct including kissing, fondling, and masturbation. Victim was 16-17 years old at the time of the child annoying.

MOTIVATED BY HATRED / PREJUDICE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

REPORTING EMPLOYEE(S) INITIALS, LAST NAME SERIAL NO. DIV. / DETAIL PERSON REPORTING SIGNATURE OR RECEIVED BY PHONE -

J.N. BROWN 20193 JUV/SECU CONFIDENTIAL

NOTE: IF SHORT FORM AND VICTIM / PR ARE NOT THE SAME, ENTER PR INFORMATION IN INVOLVED PERSONS SECTION.

Complete below sections if any Preliminary Case Screening boxes are not checked.

SUSP'S VEHICLE YEAR MAKE MODEL TYPE Interior Exterior Body Windows

COLOR(S) VEH. LIC. NO. STATE 1 BUCKET SEATS 2 DAMAGED INSIDE 3 LEVEL ALTERED 4 RUST / PRIMER 5 CUSTOM PAINT 6 VINYL TOP

1 DAMAGE 2 MODIFIED 3 STICKER 4 LEFT 5 RIGHT 6 FRONT 7 REAR 8 FRONT 9 CURTAINS 10 LEFT

S-1 SEX DESC HAIR EYES HEIGHT WEIGHT AGE CLOTHING NAME, ADDRESS, DOB, IF KNOWN; NAME, BKG. NO., CHARGE, IF ARRESTED.

M W BRO HZL 5-10 180 53 Christian Marie van Liefde, DOB 08-26-1948

PERSONAL ODDITIES (UNUSUAL FEATURES, SCARS, TATTOOS, ETC.) WEAPON (VERBAL THREATS, BODY FORCE, SIMULATED GUN, ETC. IF KNIFE OR GUN, DESCRIBE FULLY)

S-2

INVOLVED PERSONS W - WITNESS R - PERSON RPTG. S - PERSON SECURING (459) D - PERSON DISCOVERING (459) P - PARENT
 CP - CONTACT PERSON (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE)

NAME	SEX	DESC	DOB	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP	PHONE
DR. LIC. NO. (IF NONE, LIST OTHER ID & NO.)				R-			
FOREIGN LANGUAGE SPOKEN (IF APPLICABLE)				B-			
				R-			
				B-			
				R-			
				B-			

COMBINED EVID. RPT. USE THIS SECTION IN LIEU OF PROPERTY REPORT IF NO GUN AND NO MORE THAN THREE ITEMS OF EVIDENCE

LOC. EVID. BKD. 10.10 GIVEN? Preliminary Drug Test SUPV. INV. OFCR. TESTING SER. NO. WITNESS OFCR. SER. NO.

Y N Y N

ITEM	QUAN.	ARTICLE	SERIAL NO. / TYPE TEST OF DRUG	BRAND / DRUG WEIGHT, UNITS	MODEL NO. / DRUG TEST RESULT	MISC.

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APPROVAL AND REVIEW DATE & TIME REPRODUCED SUPERVISOR APPROVING SERIAL NO. 12886 CLERK DETECTIVE SUPERVISOR REVIEWING SERIAL NO. Category _____

PAGE NO. 2 OF 3		TYPE OF REPORT Child Annoying			BOOKING NO.	DR NO. 02-11-19908	
ITEM NO.	QUAN.	ARTICLE	SERIAL NO.	BRAND	MODEL NO.	MISC. DESCRIPTION (EG. COLOR, SIZE, INSCRIPTIONS, CALIBER, REVOLVER, ETC.)	DOLLAR VALUE

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PAGE NO.		TYPE OF REPORT			BOOKING NO.		DR NO.	
3 of 3		Child Annoying					02-11-1998	
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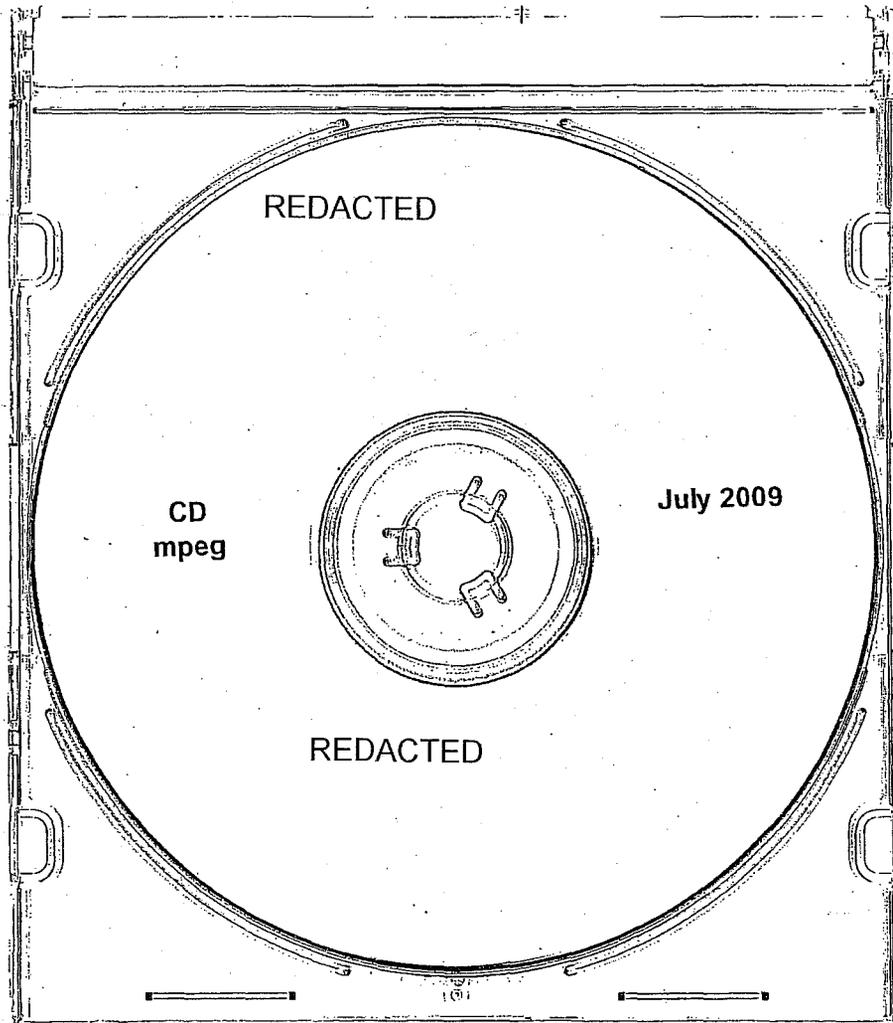
July 18, 2009

Over the last few months, I have begun remembering more things about when I was with Father Chris. I have been losing sleep dwelling on the things that he did to me. He raped me more than once. I can now remember distinct details of the times when it happened. I can remember him always asking me if I had to go to the bathroom before we would do anything. He would first have me perform oral sex on him and then I would stand and turn around so I was facing away from him. He would massage the backs of my upper legs and inside my thighs and he would squeeze and spread open my butt. I can see myself leaning back in a semi-squatting position as he pulls me toward him. His erection felt wet when he pushed against me between my butt cheeks. He would have me sit on top of him while he was in a chair. It was awkward because I felt like I was going to fall backwards. I can now see myself bracing my weight by putting my hands on the arms of the chair he was sitting in and he would hold me tightly by my waist. I can now remember the pain of him penetrating me and the pain each time he withdrew and then pushed back inside of me. I would hold myself up and he would use his hands on my waist to guide me up and down. The pain was horrible. I was so scared. I know it happened more than once because I can see him doing it to me when he was wearing a robe lifted up above his waist and also when he would have regular pants down to his thighs. I can now remember feeling him lift up the back of my robe while he was inside of me. I can remember the wet feeling of his cum against my underwear after I was dressed again. He would tell me what a good job I was doing and how I was going to be a wonderful altar boy when I was old enough. I was petrified of becoming an altar boy.

The reason why we were doing this was because it was how my parents had sex except, since I was a boy, we had to do it a little different. The premise behind everything we were doing as I understand in my memory was that his having sex with me was one of the sacred things altar boys did for priests to help priests get closer to God and to love God.

REDACTED

July 18, 2009



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REDACTED

July 18, 2009

REDACTED

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Birthda

Areas of Most Frequent Current Professional Work

Main specialty qualifications Clinical Psychology (1975) Forensic Psychology, (1983), Neuropsychology (2001)

Criminal Law Juvenile and adult criminal, including competency to stand trial, competency to waive Miranda Rights, competency to enter a plea; insanity, diminished actuality; evaluation of dangerousness; persons accused of sexual assault including adult and juvenile offenders; internet sexually related crimes; victims of sexual assault and other crimes, including children; Juvenile 707 fitness hearings; assessment of domestic violence, stalking; homicide; neuropsychological issues.

Civil Law Child custody, dependency, guardianship, adoption; 300 WI proceedings; personal injury/psychological trauma; work stress; evaluation of alleged abuse perpetrators; neuropsychological issues; evaluation of alleged victims of abuse; evaluation of victims of sexual involvement while in treatment with health care providers for plaintiff or defense; standard of care and malpractice in mental health care providers

Case Review and Consultation Provision of critiques of experts' psychiatric or psychological evaluations, including determination of reliability and validity of test data findings and conclusions; assisting in the writing of effective cross examination questions; computerized data base searches for relevant/current scientific literature regarding particular mental health issues raised in evaluations or testimony

10

Formal Education and Supervised Training

10/98 to 1/01 Post-doctoral Certificate program in Neuropsychology, Fielding Institute. Primary Irvine cluster supervisors: Arnold Purisch, Ph.D. and Robert Sbordone, Ph.D. Formal classwork, practica, supervised cases totaling approximately 1,600 clock hours (Adult + pediatric) plus required papers, case presentations, examinations [62 Semester Hours] Completed and passed all requirements for the Certificate on 1/27/01.

9/81 to 6/83 Informal postdoctoral training in forensic psychology, San Bernardino, CA. Supervised experience under Steve Lawrence, Ph.D., ABFP in criminal, civil (personal injury), family law, juvenile dependency, worker's compensation, and social security disability

9/74 to 8/75 APA-approved Clinical Psychology Internship, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, NC. Major rotations in Pediatric

EXHIBIT C

- Neurology, Pediatrics/Psychiatry Consultation Liaison, psychiatric inpatient services, adult psychiatric outpatient services, rape crisis team, emergency room psychiatric services
- 9/70 to 8/74** University of Wyoming, Laramie; MA, PhD in APA-approved clinical psychology doctoral program; substantial work in physiology, physiological psychology, pharmacology, and community psychology
- 9/60 to 5/64** University of North Carolina at Greensboro. B.A. in Biology; undergraduate studies in biology, psychology and course work for certification in secondary education

Academic Appointments

- 7/01 to 6/02** Pepperdine University, Department of Graduate School of Education and Psychology, Adjunct Faculty. I taught a course in clinical assessment for clinical psychology graduate students.
- 2/96 to 6/96** University of California at Irvine, School of Social Ecology. Co-Instructor with Alison Clarke-Stewart, Ph.D. Professor in a graduate seminar in child abuse issues
- 6/78 to 6/98** Rosemead School of Psychology, Biola University, La Mirada, CA. I was an Associate Professor from 6/78 to 6/83, teaching the clinical assessment course sequence to doctoral students in child and adult assessment; supervised doctoral students in educational, clinical outpatient and hospital practica; thereafter mentored students in a forensic psychology practicum rotation in my practice, supervised doctoral dissertation research students, presented occasional seminars, occasionally reviewed articles for publication in their Journal of Psychology and Theology
- 9/76 to 1/78** Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, CA. Adjunct clinical faculty: Supervised intern and postdoctoral trainees in clinical assessment and testing; occasional seminars for several years thereafter
- 9/75 to 5/76** St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX. Adjunct Assistant Professor. Taught clinical assessment to MA program in Clinical Psychology on part-time basis
- 6/73 to 8/73** University of Wyoming Counseling Center: Served as therapist for UW students in individual and group treatment, design and planning of special seminars
- 9/72 to 5/73** University of Wyoming, Department of Psychology, Teaching Assistant: Supervised doctoral students in the School of Education in intellectual assessment of adults and children
- 9/71 to 5/72** University of Wyoming, Department of Psychology, Teaching Assistant: Advanced undergraduate experimental psychology laboratories

Professional Societies and Leadership Roles
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8/75 to Present	American Psychological Association (APA), Divisions 5 [Measurement], 12 [Clinical Psychology], 40 [Law and Psychology], 41 [Neuropsychology]
1978 to 1999	California Psychology Association (CPA); Served on the CPA Ethics Committee, 5/91 to 11/98
1992 to Present	Orange County Psychological Association (OCPA); served on the OCPA Board from 1992-1995
1978 to Present	Society of Personality Assessment (SPA)
1990 to Present	International Society of Child Abuse and Neglect
1993 to Present	American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
1993 to Present	International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies; occasional Editorial Reviewer for <u>Journal of Traumatic Stress</u>
2001 to Present	National Academy of Neuropsychology
2001 to Present	International Neuropsychological Society

Other Professional Milestones

6/96	Invited scholar at the NATO Advanced Study Institute on trauma and memory, Port de Bourganay, France (One of 7 from CA, one of 29 from the US, with the remaining 70 scholars from around the world. Participation was competitively selected and NATO provided funding)
12/93	Chair, Research conference on trauma and memory, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts; Clark University obtained a grant to fund this closed research conference of 20 researchers and practitioners from the U.S. and Canada involved in the recovered memory issue; I was responsible for setting up the program and involved in the selection of participants
1992 to 2000	Commissioner for the Board of Psychology (Oral examiner for licensure as a psychologist in CA; I chose to cease this volunteer work.
1992 to Present	Case Reviewer and Examiner for the Board of Psychology: Review cases where complaints have been made in order to evaluate standard of care issues; also have consulted with the Medical Board to develop training materials for Medical Board Investigators
1989 to 1995	Board of Prison Terms, California Department of Corrections, Approved Independent Examiner: Evaluate prisoners in regard to future dangerousness and mental illness contributing to their crimes
8/83 to Present	Orange County Superior Court, Expert Witness Panel for adult criminal

defendants; Superior Court Juvenile Expert Panel for juvenile criminal cases and child dependency cases since inception of this panel in 1992, left panel in 2001; Family Law panel expert in family law since 1982

- 1982 to Present** Department of Public Social Services, San Bernardino County and Riverside County, consultant in evaluation of minors, parents under court supervision, prospective or current foster parents or adoptive parents and expert witness where required [occasional at present time]
- 1981 to Present** San Bernardino County Superior Courts and Riverside County Superior Courts expert witness panel from 1981-1983 since 1983, adult or juvenile criminal cases by court appointment on a "call in advance" basis
- 11/78 to Present** Licensed as Psychologist, California Board of Psychology, License # PSY-5718
- 1978** Licensed as Psychologist, Arizona Board of Psychology (License inactive)
- 1978** Licensed as School Psychologist, Arizona State Department of Education (License inactive)
- 1977 to 2000** National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology, Certificate # 19615; I allowed this registration to lapse as I saw no benefit for continuing (No disciplinary or other negative action involved).
- 1976 to 1978** Licensed as Psychologist with health services provider status, Texas State Board of Examiners (License inactive)
- 1974 to 1975** Martin S. Wallach Award for Outstanding Intern in Clinical Psychology, Department of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill
- 1974 to 1976** U. S. Air Force Health Service Providers Scholarship (Full tuition, supplies, fees and living expenses)

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Selected Past or Forthcoming Presentations, Research and Publications

Note: I have numbers of publications or presentations from 1975-1990 which are not listed here. Earlier works were eclectic in nature, ranging from assessment, family therapy, psychotherapy outcomes, substance abuse issues. My work in the past fifteen years has centered around forensic psychology, child abuse issues, autobiographical memory, cognition, neuropsychology of memory problems in abuse cases. The most important works since 1990 are listed below, from most recent to most remote.

4/25/08 Morbidity, mortality, and miracles case presentation [for medical residents] With Clare Matney, MD, Chief Forensic Pediatrician at Loma Linda University School of Medicine. This was a seminar about working with behavioral problems of parents of critically ill/dying children, parents who have been abusive, or Munchausen by Proxy cases.

6/1-5/05

Primer of Legal Issues for Pastoral Counselors 2005 Convocation of the New Order of Glastonbury, Cortez, Colorado: Invited seminars for ministers, deacons and priests

A Primer of Mental Health Emergencies for the Pastoral Counselor: ABC's of What to do First

4/05

Detecting deception in children: An experimental study of the effects of event familiarity on CBCA ratings.

Blandon-Gitlin, I., Pezdek, K., Rogers, M. L. & Brodie, L. (April, 2005). Law and Human Behavior, 29(2), 188-197.

11/14/03

Behavioral characteristics of FDP Perpetrators

Symposium on Severe Child Physical Abuse Department of Pediatrics, Loma Linda University School of Medicine. Invited presentation.

08/15/03

Forensic neuropsychological assessment in criminal law cases

Book chapter with Robert J. Sbordone, Martha L. Rogers, Veronica A. Thomas, and Armando de Armas. In Arthur MacNeill Horton Jr. (Editor). Handbook of Forensic Neuropsychology. NY: Springer Publishing Company.

01/04

Detecting deception in children: Event familiarity affects Criterion Based Content Analysis Ratings.

This study entails the use of Statement Validity Analysis (Criterion Based Content Analysis) [SVA-CBCA] to discriminate from children's transcripts which ones have undergone a painful, invasive medical procedure vs. a routine genito-urinary examination. SVA-CBCA is a content-based method for analyzing victim statements regarding characteristics reflecting validity in sexual abuse cases.

Journal of Applied Psychology, 89(1).

Funded research project with Kathy Pezdek, Ph.D., Professor and Associate Director, Center for Organizational and Behavioral Sciences Psychology Department, Claremont Graduate University, and her students, Iris Blandon-Gitlin and Anne Morrow; Gail Goodman, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Director of the Center on Social Sciences & the Law, UC, Davis; Jodi Quas, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology & Social Behavior, UC Irvine; Karen J. Saywitz, Ph.D., Harbor/UCLA Medical Center; Sue Bidrose, University of Otago, New Zealand; Margaret-Ellen Pipe, Ph.D., National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; Martha Rogers, Ph.D. and Laura Brodie, Ph.D., Tustin, CA. Another paper completed and accepted by Journal of Applied Psychology; a third study, in progress.

06/28/02

New Definitions in Munchausen By Proxy Cases: Pediatric Condition Falsification (PCF) and Factitious Disorder by Proxy (FDP)

Pediatrics Grand Rounds
Loma Linda University Children's Hospital

04/02/02

Roadmap to opportunities in forensic mental health settings for the aspiring practitioner

Invited presentation to Psy.D. and MFT graduates and current students at Pepperdine University

01/26/02

Factors influencing children's testimonial capacities in sexual abuse cases

Invited presentation to the Los Angeles Bar Association Annual Meeting for Juvenile Court

11/17/01

Four hour seminar on Working in the Juvenile Dependency Courts

Sponsored by the Orange County Psychological Association. This is an invited seminar on problems in evaluation and treatment of adults and children in dependency matters.

1/20/01

Evaluation of juvenile sex offenders: When is it 'experimental,' an emerging paraphilic interest pattern, or dangerous?

Invited presentation to the Los Angeles Bar Association Annual Meeting for Juvenile Court

8/23/99

Biola and the Internet: Dealing with risks of pornography and deviant sexual exposure on line

A presentation to the Biola University faculty. Based on work of a special advisory committee to the Provost regarding problems of abusing the internet access on campus

4/23/99

A *pot pourri* of ethical issues in forensic practice (Child custody, neuropsychology, use of deception by examiners)

Part of a symposium on Ethical Practice sponsored by the Orange County Psychological Association

6/5/98

Paraphilias on the Internet

Presentation to the Southern California SAFE Team which consists of local and federal-level law enforcement, local and federal level prosecutors working to monitor the Internet and prosecuting sex offenders. Held at the Orange County Sheriff's Academy, Orange, CA.

10/98

Use of deception by forensic examiners to assess credibility and motivation

California Psychologist, 31(10), pages 10-12

4/9/98

Psychological evaluations in sexual harassment cases

Presentation for the Peter M. Elliot Inn of Court, with Veronica A. Thomas, Ph.D.

4/3/98

Assessment of autobiographical memory in forensic evaluations

Part of a Symposium, Application of Ethics in Professional Practice: Forensic and Neuropsychology, with Robert A Leark, Ph.D.

and Richard Romanoff, Ph.D. Presented at the California Psychological Association Meeting, San Francisco, CA

4/3/98

Ethics of deception of a litigant in forensic psychological evaluations

Part of a Symposium, Application of Ethics in Professional Practice: Forensic and Neuropsychology, with Robert A Lark, Ph.D. and Richard Romanoff, Ph.D. Presented at the California Psychological Association Meeting, San Francisco, CA

1998

Brown, D., Schefflin, A. W. & Hammond, D. C. [Editors]. Memory, Trauma Treatment, and the Law: An essential reference on memory for clinicians, researchers, attorneys, and judges. NY: W.W. Norton

My work on developing forensic criteria for distinguishing between true and false memories of abuse, based on my work between 1993-1995, was described and summarized in the Brown, *et al.* volume (pp. 624-625 Table 17.2 Rogers' Variables Indicative of Childhood Sexual Abuse]

11/97

Some ethical issues in cases where reporting of abuse was delayed

California Psychologist, November, 1997

11/21/97

After the diagnosis, then what? Issues of treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder

Defense Research Institute seminar, 'Defense and evaluation of psychological injury cases.' Renaissance Stanford Court Hotel, San Francisco, CA

11/10/97

Influence of range, frequency, severity and chronicity of stressors and developmental status on PTSD symptomatology

Jody Ward, Martha L. Rogers, & Caleb Ho. Research presentation at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Meeting, Montreal, Canada

10/18/97

Rapid assessment tools

Seminar presented at the Annual Fall Conference, Orange County Psychological Association, Doubletree Hotel, Orange, CA.

7/28/96

Retrospective memory of traumatic events in university students: Parameters of recall and current symptomatology: Preliminary findings.

Martha L. Rogers, Jody Ward, Caleb Ho. Presented at an International Research Conference, sponsored by the Family Research Laboratory, University of New Hampshire

6/18/96

Retrospective memory of traumatic events in university students: Parameters of recall and current symptomatology: Preliminary findings

Martha L. Rogers, Caleb Ho, Jody Ward. Presented at the NATO Advanced Study Institute on trauma and memory, Port de Bourgenay, France, 6/15-25/96.

10/95

Factors influencing later recall of childhood sexual abuse survivors. Journal of Traumatic Stress, 8(4), 691-716.

4/5/95

(1) Munchausen syndrome

(2) Case example of MBP

Invited presentations at a Physical Child Abuse Prosecution Seminar, California District Attorneys Association, Newport Beach, CA. Provided overview of Munchausen and Munchausen by Proxy vs. intentional or accidental abuse. The case example of MBP was a fictionalized account created by drawing elements from several MBP cases which the author had handled in the past, with a discussion of typical psychological test findings.

10/94

Factors to consider in assessing adult litigants' complaints of childhood sexual abuse.

Behavioral Sciences & the Law, 12(3), 279-298. Reviews five broad areas which should be evaluated and considered in assessment of validity of forensic cases

3/10/94

The recovered memory controversy: Scientific foundations

A full day workshop sponsored by the California Psychological Association Meeting, San Francisco

1/22/94

Ethical dilemmas: Legal and mental health professionals debate the moral and ethical conflicts that impact children and families

Part of a panel presentation, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Newport Beach, CA

12/5/93

Factors to consider in assessing complaints by adult litigants of adult sexual abuse survivors.

Invited presentation at closed research conference, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts

6/5/93

Truth finding in child abuse: What do we know? How do we find out? Differentiating between genuine and fabricated allegations of child sexual abuse.

Invited presentation as part of a seminar held at Western State University College of Law, San Diego

5/8/93

Toward a standard of care in the treatment of adult sexual abuse survivors: Knowledge base, competencies and ethical issues.

Minnesota Psychological Association Meeting, Minneapolis, MN. Presentation regarding practices that can engender mistaken beliefs that one has been abused

10/92

Satanic ritual abuse and the current stage of knowledge

Martha L. Rogers, Special Journal Issue Guest Editor, Journal of Psychology & Theology, 20(3), Fall, 1992. This issue included invited articles and responses from researchers and practitioners from "pro" and "con" sides of the SRA debate including international authors. Purpose of this issue was education and intervention in a professional/religious community from which many mistaken allegations of sexual abuse were emanating in the wake of the controversies surrounding "recovered memories" and "satanic ritual abuse."

10/92

A call for discernment—natural and spiritual: Introductory editorial to a special issue on SRA

Journal of Psychology & Theology, 20(3), Fall, 1992, pp. 175-186. Points out the areas where religious communities need to be more aware of forms of abuse that are well documented, vs. those for which empirical evidence is substantially lacking. Abuse in some religious communities is frequently ignored.

10/92

The Oude Pekela incident: A case study of alleged SRA from the Netherland;

Journal of Psychology & Theology, 20(3), Fall, 1992, pp 257-259. Summarizing the known facts for readers preceding articles by Dutch authors arguing for and against the SRA etiology in the incident; pp. 271-173. Review of forensic and epidemiological aspects not addressed by either side in their discussion

The Oude Pekela incident: Guest editor's final note

10/92

Journal File: Annotated bibliography of research on SRA

Journal of Psychology & Theology, 20(3), Fall, 1992, pp 306-319. This section of the journal included all of the available research "pro" and "con" as of mid-1992, with critiques.

6/92

Evaluating adult litigants who allege injuries from child sexual abuse.

American Psychological Society, 4th Annual Convention, San Diego, CA

1991

Evaluating an alleged satanic ritual abuser: What we don't know

Issues in Child Abuse Accusations, 3, 166-177. Comparison of purported patterns in alleged SRA perpetrators compared to behavior patterns in known sexual assault perpetrators

1991
Delusional disorder and the evolution of false sexual allegations.

American Journal of Forensic Psychology, 10(1), 47-69. Description of five cases where delusional features led to mistaken sexual abuse allegations in child custody cases, including trends seen in children, their siblings, accused and accusing parents; review of the clinical range of intentionality and level of reality testing in those making mistaken allegations. Article was included in recent book of annotated articles on topic of sexual abuse allegations in the context of divorce

This work was cited and described in a subsequent book: Deaton, W., Long, S., Magana, H. A., Robbins, J. (1995). The Child Sexual Abuse Custody Dispute Annotated Bibliography. Published by Sage, in cooperation with the California Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. Thousand Oaks, CA.

3/91
Interviewing sexual assault victims: How to improve reliability and validity of victim statements and assessing credibility in doubtful cases.

Martha L. Rogers and Laura A. Brodie. Workshop for sexual assault investigators regarding interview techniques to improve reliability and validity. California Juvenile Officers' Association, 42nd Annual Training Program

3/91
A case of alleged satanic ritualistic abuser: In re B.D., P.A., & K. B. by and through her Guardian Ad Litem, B. B., Plaintiffs vs. Ellen Roe, *et al.*, Defendants (1991).

Paper presented at the American Psychology-Law Society, Division 41, APA, San Diego, CA. An overview of a civil lawsuit, testimony, defense's working hypotheses about what happened to lead to the allegations, and review of evidence and outcomes

2/23/91
Ethical issues in forensic psychology for the occasional provider of services to the legal system

Common ethical and procedural pitfalls for psychologist with limited experience in forensic issues. Part of an Ethics Symposium. California Psychological Association Convention, San Diego, CA

1990
The critical role of the investigator in interviewing the child witness and the accused sex offender: Perspective and techniques.

Martha L. Rogers and David Echeandia. Prosecutor's Brief, 13(4), 11-14. Published by the California Prosecutors' Association. Reviews elements of good interviewing of victims and perpetrators which facilitate the later 288.1 PC court-ordered exam for sex offenders to aid determination of dangerousness and treatability by the psychologist

1990

How we make judgments about child sexual abuse: What do we know?

Laura A. Brodie and Martha L. Rogers
Prosecutor's Brief, 13(4), 15-17. Published by the California Prosecutors' Association. Brief review of factors known to contribute to accuracy or inaccuracy in judgments about the validity of child sexual abuse cases

1990

Problems in psychological practice in sexual assault cases.

Martha L. Rogers and David M. Echeandia.
Prosecutors' Brief, 13(4), 8-10. Published by the California Prosecutors' Association. Reviews factors involved in *People v. Stoll* (1989) and *People v. Ruiz* (1990), psychological evidence and "profiling" in sexual assault cases

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Professional Experience

1981 to Present

Rogers, Thomas, Brodie & Ward, An Association of Sole Practitioners. Clinical, Forensic, and Neuropsychology. Began solo practice part-time in Orange County in 1981; full-time in June, 1983; formed limited partnership with Veronica Thomas, Ph.D. in 1992. Laura Brodie, Ph.D. joined in 1995, and Jody Ward, Ph.D. joined in 2000. Dr. Rogers and other colleagues have each separately incorporated and began to function as completely separate practices in 2005 and no longer are in the same offices.

1975 to 1977

U. S. Air Force, Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas; Captain, USAF, Biomedical Sciences Corps, Air Force Staff Psychologist; Associate Director of Clinical Psychology Residency Program Admissions, Adult Outpatient psychiatric services;

1966 to 1970

Bakersfield Unified High School District, China Lake/Ridgecrest, CA. High school teacher, part-time community college instructor. High school teacher in sciences, health, driver's education, and development of an experimental learning disabled classroom

1964 to 1966

Department of Neurology, Duke Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina. Research Technician. Engaged in large clinical research grant involved in the study of stroke; animal research in regard to physiological and behavioral changes after experimentally-induced stroke; assistant in clinical neurological procedures and research

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FYI



FILE

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

November 24, 2009

Christian Van Liefde
26725 Granvian Drive
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Dear Chris,

I believe that you are aware that a new report of abuse has recently been made against you by a young man from Sherman Oaks.

Enclosed is a copy of the Declaration of [REDACTED] as well as a report to the court by a social worker, [REDACTED]

Without knowing how this might develop, it is important that you maintain your attorney-client relationship and rights. Therefore, you should provide a copy of these documents to your civil attorney and ask him to please call [REDACTED] the attorney for the Archdiocese.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] will explain the nature of the accusation and the steps that need to be taken.

I am sorry that this added burden has developed. Know that you continue in our prayers.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Michael Meyers
Monsignor Michael Meyers
Vicar for Clergy

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CLERGY MISCONDUCT OVERSIGHT BOARD

Wednesday, March 23, 2005

The 45th meeting of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board was held on March 23, 2005, in Room 785 of the Archdiocesan Catholic Center in Los Angeles, California. [REDACTED] opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m., and Sr. [REDACTED] distributed a prayer which was read by all.

Members present: [REDACTED]

Also present: Cardinal Roger Mahony, Msgr. Craig Cox [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] welcomed Cardinal Mahony and re-appointed Board member [REDACTED] who has changed law firms and no longer has a conflict of interest.

The following topics were discussed by the Cardinal and the members of the Board.

1. Cardinal Mahony advised the Board that information recently came to the attention of the Archdiocese from a third party that a bishop of the Archdiocese may have been involved in inappropriate behavior with a minor in the 1990s. Since this involves a bishop rather than a priest or deacon, he has requested guidance from both the Congregation of the Bishops and the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith as to how to proceed. The Archdiocese is acting with due diligence. Efforts to obtain information from the possible victim have been rebuffed. He will keep the Board advised.

2. Cardinal Mahony stated that he agrees that the procedures for investigating allegations of abuse of minors will be improved by having an independent person responsible to the Board direct the investigation and supports the accepted version of the job description of the Independent Review Administrator which was considered by the Board at its last meeting. He believes that the Vicar for Clergy needs to be in the loop. The issue of monitoring priests who are on administrative leave is still a concern locally as well as nationally. It was suggested that this might be a topic to take to the provincial bishops and addressed as a joint effort on a regional basis. Cardinal Mahony will bring this up at the April provincial meeting.

3. Cardinal Mahony stated that it is likely that the Holy Father will deem that the sexual abuse of a minor is a canonical irregularity both pre-ordination and post-ordination. This would expand the boundaries of an ecclesiastical crime and allow a canonical trial to go forward in cases where a priest is alleged to have abused a minor before ordination.

REDACTED

REDACTED

On the civil side, it was agreed to develop proffers listing a historical chronology of the facts in each priest's file from ordination to the present and the point at which the Archdiocese obtained knowledge of sexual misconduct by the priest. The plaintiffs and the court have these proffers and the Archdiocese plans to release them on the website. Attorney [REDACTED], who represents a number of the priests, has objected to posting the information on the internet. A hearing is set in April in the Court of Appeal on this issue.

REDACTED

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REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

CMOB-012-01: [Christian Van Liefde] This case was sent to Rome over a year ago and a decision as to what action should be taken is expected soon.



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The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

REDACTED

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CLERGY MISCONDUCT OVERSIGHT BOARD**

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

The 60th meeting of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board was held on June 14, 2006, in room 785 of the Archdiocesan Catholic Center in Los Angeles, California. [REDACTED] opened the meeting at 9:45 AM and Sr. [REDACTED] offered the opening prayer.

Members present: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Also present: Msgr. Craig Cox, Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **REDACTED**

[REDACTED] **REDACTED**

[REDACTED] **REDACTED**

[REDACTED] **REDACTED**

REDACTED

CMOB-012: Christian Van Liefde A canonical trial has been authorized, but it is on hold pending permission to interview the second victim, which has not been granted as yet. The case will remain in the active file pending further developments.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

The minutes of the May 24, 2006 meeting were approved as submitted. REDACTED
REDACTED will offer the opening prayer at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

REDACTED

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CLERGY MISCONDUCT OVERSIGHT BOARD

Wednesday, May 28, 2003

The eighteenth meeting of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board was held on May 28, 2003, in Room 785 of the Archdiocesan Catholic Center in Los Angeles, California. [REDACTED] called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. [REDACTED] gave the opening prayer.

Members present: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Also present: Msgr.

Craig Cox.

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[REDACTED] reported on the following matters:

- Cardinal Mahony designated a chapel in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels to remember those who have been affected by sexual abuse.
- [REDACTED] second draft of the revision of the Archdiocesan Policy on Sexual Abuse by Clergy is nearing completion and will be available for review shortly.
- [REDACTED] Msgr. Cox are working on a revision of the protocol. Msgr. Cox stated that there was a need to increase the number of auditors who could be used to conduct investigations of alleged sexual abuse and that all of the investigators should be given training by a well qualified and experienced investigator. [REDACTED] said he knew of such a person and gave his name and number to Msgr. Cox.
- Cardinal Mahony approved the Board's recommendation that the Archdiocese produce a video dealing with sexual abuse and that it be developed as part of the overall "Safeguard the Children" program. [REDACTED] is scheduled to meet with the Cardinal on May 30, 2003 to discuss the proposal further.

- A workshop for Bishops/Eparchs on the Charter to Protect Children & Young People and Essential Norms was held in El Segundo on May 7 & 8, 2003. It was attended by all of the bishops and eparchs of Region XI of the USCCB as well as other priests, women religious and lay people from the dioceses in Region XI who are involved in the sexual abuse issue.
- REDACTED submitted a written proposal for an Interfaith Conference on the Prevention of Cleric/Spiritual Leaders Sexual Misconduct. The proposal was distributed and discussed. The Board approved the proposal and forwarded it to REDACTED for his consideration.

REDACTED reported on recent developments in two cases.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED stated that he had received a request from Farther Christian Van Liefde for permission to concelebrate two masses at public events involving members of his family. Father Van Liefde is being investigated by the LAPD and has been on administrative leave for a year. He has not been the subject of a document subpoena and, at this point, it does not appear that charges will be filed against him. The request was considered and the Board unanimously agreed that permission should not be given for Father Van Liefde to concelebrate the masses.

REDACTED

The minutes of April 30, 2003 were approved, as submitted.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

REDACTED _____

ORIGINAL

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CLERGY MISCONDUCT OVERSIGHT BOARD

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

The twenty-third meeting of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board was held on October 8, 2003, in Room 785 of the Archdiocesan Catholic Center in Los Angeles, California. [REDACTED] called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. [REDACTED] opened with a prayer.

Members present: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Also present: Msgr. Craig Cox, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] asked the members to review the Minutes of the September 24, 2003 meeting. Additions or corrections will be taken at the end of the meeting.

[REDACTED] was introduced to the Board. He is the investigator recently hired by the Archdiocese to provide investigative services concerning cases of alleged sexual abuse involving clergy. Mr. [REDACTED] related his background and experience. After graduating from St. Mary's College in the Bay Area, he joined the U.S. Air Force and served in Viet Nam. He joined the FBI in 1971 and retired in 1996. He presently has a private investigator's license and has worked with the Los Angeles Police Commission on the Rampart scandal, with the LAUSD, and others.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

CMOB-012-01: Christian Van Liefde - In April 2002 there was an allegation of inappropriate conduct 28 years ago. Fr. Van Liefde has been on administrative leave from his position as Pastor and as Chaplain for the Los Angeles Fire Department since June of 2002. Further investigation is required. REDACTED has written to Rome requesting a canonical trial. Mr. REDACTED has been asked to investigate in preparation for the trial.

REDACTED

October 8, 2003

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REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

There was further discussion of the independence of the Board, both in reality and in relation to the perception of the community at large. Msgr. Cox acknowledged that [REDACTED] will be notified of new cases no later than the end of the next business day, that [REDACTED] will have direct access to Mr. [REDACTED] and that the Board will be consulted about the assignment of cases to Mr. [REDACTED]. It was suggested that the Cardinal be advised of the protocol that the Board recommends to be followed in handling new cases.

Father [REDACTED] agreed to give the opening prayer at the October 22, 2003 meeting.

The Minutes of the September 24, 2003 meeting were approved as submitted. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE
CLERGY MISCONDUCT OVERSIGHT BOARD

Wednesday, November 10, 2004

The fortieth meeting of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board was held on November 10, 2004, in Room 785 of the Archdiocesan Catholic Center in Los Angeles, California. [REDACTED] opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m. as acting Chair for vacationing [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] gave the opening prayer.

Members present: [REDACTED]

Also present: Msgr. Craig Cox and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] circulated an e-mail from Cardinal Mahony sent to [REDACTED] suggesting finalization of the job description for the proposed special administrator who would be appointed to investigate allegations of the sexual abuse of minors involving clergy. This position would most likely be part-time. Cardinal Mahony believes that the vast majority of the 20 Deaneries approved this new approach, and it can now be presented and voted upon at the next Council of Priests' meeting scheduled for December 13th.

The Minutes of the meeting of October 27, 2004, were approved as corrected to reflect that Msgr. Loomis was known as [REDACTED] when he was a teacher at Pater Noster High School.

Msgr. Cox presented the following new cases:

REDACTED

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REDACTED

REDACTED

Christian Van Liefde [CMOB-012-01] A report was sent with additional information requesting authorization for a trial.

REDACTED

November 10, 2004

[REDACTED]

There are three ways in which a request can be made of Rome when submitting cases: 1) a direct Papal dismissal; 2) a summary trial whereby Rome would ratify the decree issued by the bishop; and 3) a trial authorized by Rome whereby three judges appointed from outside the Archdiocese would render a decision based on disputed evidence.

It will be proposed to Cardinal Mahony that at the proper time he send a delegation including Msgr. Cox and Father [REDACTED] to Rome to meet with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith to follow up on these cases and to answer any questions.

[REDACTED] has agreed to give the opening prayer at the next meeting on December 8, 2004.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]

His Eminence
Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
00120 Vatican City State

Re: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
Request for Dispensation in accord with Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela.
CFD Prot.No: 342/03

Your Eminence:

On August 29, 2003, I wrote to you seeking a dispensation from prescription so that a canonical trial could proceed to examine allegations that Msgr. Christian Van Liefde, a priest incardinated in our Archdiocese, and presently domiciled here, violated his responsibility under canon 1395 #2. by engaging in sexual misconduct with minors. With my letter I enclosed selected documentation from Msgr. Van Liefde's file for your review.

In my letter I explained that in accord with canon 1717 a preliminary investigation was initiated, was placed in abeyance because of a danger of perceived interference with the investigations of civil authorities, and was then resumed once that danger passed.

At this point, we have been unable to conclude the preliminary investigation. The first complainant, [REDACTED] presented a sworn affidavit describing her contentions in great detail. However, persons mentioned in that affidavit whom she says could substantiate her claims have been interviewed, and all, except for her blood relatives deny any knowledge of wrongdoing.

In January 2004, [REDACTED] the other complainant completed a claimant questionnaire in connection with a suit for damages she is bringing against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as a result of alleged actions perpetrated by Msgr. Van Liefde. The allegations are extremely sketchy in nature, and she offers no suggestion as to how she intends to support them. It appears that any misconduct may have begun while Christian Van Liefde was a seminarian and before he became a cleric, thus ruling out an ecclesiastical crime. According to her complaint, however, the abusive activity continued during the time he was a deacon and a priest. These matters cannot be clarified at this time since her civil attorney has not permitted an interview with her by a canonical auditor.

The evidence discovered thus far certainly meets the criteria of a "semblance of truth" and provides sufficient foundation to suspect that Msgr. Van Liefde may have abused two

minor girls in the years 1973-1976. But, indications are that exonerating or incriminating evidence will be very difficult to develop. My greatest concern is that justice be done to the complainants, if they genuinely were victimized, as well as to Msgr. Van Liefde, if indeed he is innocent. There is, too, bewilderment, if not impatience, evident among members of our presbyterate over the uncertainty of Msgr. Van Liefde's status. The common good would benefit greatly from a just and swift solution to this matter. In my assessment, only by means of a trial can the evidence be fully assessed, additional evidence sought as necessary, and a determination made with moral certitude that will be credible to the presbyterate and people of our Archdiocese.

For these reasons I respectfully request a dispensation from prescription with respect to this action and authorization to initiate a formal penal trial. Should the trial lead to moral certitude that Msgr. Van Liefde did indeed commit these delicts, we would seek the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state.

Should the Congregation not concur with my request for a trial, I would very much appreciate direction on how to proceed.

Thank you for your attention to this difficult matter. Please be assured of my prayers.

Sincerely your in Christ.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles.

TO: File
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox
RE: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
DATE: 25 August 2003

I finally connected with [REDACTED] of the Los Angeles Fire Department today., His number is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] explained that Detective Brown of the Los Angeles Police Department, Sexually Exploited Children Unit, has communicated with him by telephone. In that conversation, Detective Brown had indicated that the police were closing the investigation on Monsignor Van Liefde. The reason communicated was the Supreme Court decision. There was no communication of any of the specifics that the investigation had discovered, and whether that information tended either to incriminate or exonerate Monsignor Van Liefde.

I informed [REDACTED] that we would be conducting out canonical process with regard to Monsignor Van Liefde and that I would keep him informed appropriately.



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 20.528

September 8, 2003

This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer

Dear Monsignor Cox:

In the temporary absence of His Excellency, The Apostolic Nuncio, I acknowledge your kind letter of August 30, 2003 with enclosure.

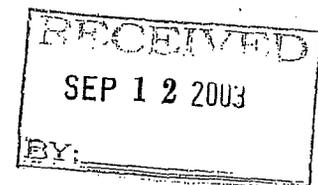
Rest assured that the correspondence regarding **the Case of Monsignor Christian Van Liefde** will be duly forwarded to His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

With cordial regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Leopoldo Girelli
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.
Vicar for Clergy for Archdiocese
of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010-202





COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2241

December 7, 2010

Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
[REDACTED]

Dear Chris,

During the last few months the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board has been able to review the allegations of misconduct which have been made against you and have presented a recommendation to Cardinal Mahony.

Briefly, the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board recommended that you should "be removed from public ministry permanently". Cardinal Mahony has accepted that recommendation and asked me to share it with you.

At this time you should contact your canonist, [REDACTED] to review the decision. I would also request that we have a meeting with you, Father [REDACTED] and me to discuss this decision and the next steps and options available to you. With your approval, Father [REDACTED] can work with Father [REDACTED] as was done for our last meeting, to arrange a suitable day for him to be here with you.

I am sorry that I have to share this with you just before Christmas, but since the Cardinal just accepted the recommendation, it is important for you to be notified.

Know that you continue in our prayers daily.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Michael Meyers
Monsignor Michael Meyers
Vicar for Clergy

cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: Sunday, December 05, 2010 9:08 AM
To: REDACTED
Subject: Re: Greetings

REDACTED

Thank you for your kind note and update. You are a faithful servant of God, and a very patient man!

I am, with you, chagrined that these matters have taken so long. I have recently been appointed to some new trials, but again with a very part-time staff, and it seems to take forever to move things along. Patience is always the key.

REDACTED

I am very sorry to hear about Chris's case. How very sad the whole matter has been. I will pray for him especially this weekend and hope that he will be able to regain some footing in his life.

I hope you are well and that we might see one another in the not-too-distant future. I may be out on the West Coast for a retreat during the winter months, perhaps we could get together then.

Blessings for the Advent season,

REDACTED

On Dec 3, 2010, at 1:57 PM, REDACTED
wrote:

12/6/2010

Hi 

Hope all goes well with you. I tried to call you on your cell; it told me that the mail box is full.

Shamefully, it is only recently that the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board provided its final recommendation to the Cardinal regarding Chris. As was pretty much expected, the majority recommendation is that Chris "be removed from public ministry permanently". However, two members of the Board felt that this response was too drastic given that the events alleged were 37 years ago and there are no indications of any predatory behavior or risk of re-offending. The Cardinal concurred with the majority recommendation. To my knowledge, Chris had not yet been apprised of this development. That will probably happen some time during this coming week. I cannot begin to thank you enough for your help on that case.





I hope we can make contact soon.

Blessings



12/6/2010

XXI 000874

1 December 2010

[REDACTED]

Now that CMOB has made its recommendation to the Cardinal that Van Liefde be permanently removed from ministry, and the Cardinal has accepted the recommendation, the next step would seem to be to inform Chris and his advocate [REDACTED] of this determination. It is Mike Meyers' and my recollection that [REDACTED] pretty much had Chris to the point of seeing the need to request laicization.

A lot of Chris' case was handled before [REDACTED] came on board, and so he is unfamiliar with the details. As I recall, once the CDF authorized a trial, the matter was put on hold for the duration of the civil litigation. Once that was resolved, CMOB was asked for its thoughts since the cooperation of the claimants was unlikely and the evidence seemed to fall short of the moral certitude required for a conviction. Since Chris had not yet been formally interviewed, this was now done, with the assistance of [REDACTED]. As CMOB was about to consider the matter, the third allegation came in, which put everything on hold again. Once it was determined that there was no reasonable hope of obtaining any more information relating to the third allegation, CMOB did in fact finally consider the case and issued its recommendation. Meanwhile Chris and [REDACTED] have been waiting to hear from us.

It would probably be best if you, [REDACTED] and I met this Monday (the 6th) to discuss the process. Could I ask you to review Chris' file on Friday while I'm out of town, and see what you think.

[REDACTED]

Copy: Msgr. Michael Meyers



MEMORANDUM

To: Cardinal Roger Mahony

From: Monsignor Michael Meyers *MM*

Date: November 29, 2010

RE: CMOB Recommendation for Reverend Christian Van Liefde

On October 8, 2010, the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board recommended that as a result of its investigation regarding allegations of misconduct, Monsignor Christian Van Liefde should "be removed from public ministry permanently".

There were two members of the Board who felt that this response was too drastic given that the events alleged were 37 years ago and there are no indications of any predatory behavior or risk of re-offending. These members acknowledge the allegations of abuse, but simply do not agree with the application of zero tolerance in this case.

The investigation and review by the Misconduct Board was very thorough and I recommend that you accept the recommendation of the majority opinion. The commitment of the Bishops' Conference and our own policy precludes a priest from ministry in this situation.

I concur

+ RMM

11-29-10

Interview of Msgr. Christian Van Liefde

On August 17, 2009 at the Los Angeles Archdiocesan Catholic Center [redacted] reintroduced himself as a Canonical Auditor for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (ADLA) to Msgr. Christian Van Liefde. Also present were Fr. [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Msgr. Mike Meyers, ADLA Vicar for Clergy and [redacted]

Fr. [redacted] advised Msgr. Van Liefde this meeting was an opportunity for further formal discussion of matters discussed in this setting with him on July 8, 2009 regarding the allegations of sexual misconduct against him, specifically by [redacted]

Msgr. Van Liefde, hereafter referred to as "Msgr. V." thanked the group for reconvening on this later date which gave him the opportunity to review the documents concerning the allegations against him by [redacted]. He said the information in the documents are very upsetting to him and that he doesn't know how to adequately respond to those allegations and doesn't know what he can do to defend himself. He said "... my impression is that this is a he said- she said..." situation.

The interview was started after a short prayer was offered by Fr. [redacted]. Fr. [redacted] then informed Msgr. V. of his canonical rights including the fact that he had the right not to respond to questions, that he as the interviewee was not under oath and a verbatim transcription of the proceedings would not be made. Msgr. V. was informed he and Fr. [redacted] would be given a copy of the interview report at a later date. He was advised that no promises could be given that this matter may not result in a future criminal or civil law proceeding.

Msgr. V. and Fr. [redacted] were given copies of the report of the July 8, 2009 interview of Msgr. V. and both suggested corrections to the report. Arrangements were made to transmit that report and the report of the August 17th interview to Msgr. V and Fr. [redacted]

[redacted]

Msgr. V said he first met [redacted] in 1973 at Holy Family Parish soon after he was ordained. He cannot recall the exact details of the meeting, but his first recollection of her was when she was attending a weekly prayer group meeting within a month of his assignment at Holy Family parish. He cannot recall his first private meeting with [redacted]

Msgr. V. stated that he stands by the statement he made to Msgr. Craig Cox during an interview on May 7, 2002 (which is shown on page 8 of a report compiled by [redacted]). The statement: "Concerning the relationship, (with [redacted]) Monsignor Van Liefde acknowledged that some boundaries had been crossed. The two of them had hugged, given neck rubs and embraced-which had been inappropriate. However he (Msgr.V.) denied genital contact of any kind."

Msgr. V. advised that in and around 2002 the phrase "boundary violation" was a common "buzzword." Msgr. V. said when he told Msgr. Cox that boundaries had been crossed; Msgr. V. was referring to being in a car alone with [REDACTED] on a number of occasions and hugging her after bringing other teenagers home from prayer meetings. Msgr. V. said that some behavior with juveniles which was appropriate 30 years ago is not proper under the boundaries accepted today.

When asked by [REDACTED] about the specific allegations against him by [REDACTED] Msgr. V. stated [REDACTED] allegation that he engaged her in any genital, digital or oral sex or that she was partially unclothed at any time in his presence is absolutely untrue. He said he did kiss [REDACTED] and hugged her on occasion, but never engaged in any sexual contact of any kind with her. He remembers swimming in [REDACTED] grandmother's pool with [REDACTED] and several of her family members at a backyard family picnic but denies [REDACTED] allegations that he had sexual contact or attempted sexual contact with her in the pool. Msgr. V. said that [REDACTED] statement that he gave her a watch as a gift and afterward took her to a drive-in movie and engaged in sexual contact with her is not true. He said he bought her a Christmas or birthday gift but never bought her a watch. He said that contrary to [REDACTED] statements he never told her to keep their relationship a secret and at Mass during the Eucharist, he never gave [REDACTED] the unconsumed half of his host and later told her this was his way of letting her know she was important to him.

He said [REDACTED] statement and [REDACTED] mother's statement that her mother observed [REDACTED] rubbing his bare back in the [REDACTED] home at 2:00 or 3:00 AM is not true. He does not ever recall being in the [REDACTED] home past 11:00PM nor being asked by either parent to leave the house. [REDACTED] did on occasion rub his shoulders while sitting on the couch, but at no time did he ever have his shirt off in their home. He remembers that he met with [REDACTED] mother, at their home, date unrecalled and she expressed concern about his relationship with her daughter, [REDACTED]. He could not recall exactly what her concerns were, but at no time did Mrs. [REDACTED] tell him that she or her husband had observed him on the couch embracing and or kissing [REDACTED]. He did not beg her not to call the Cardinal, nor did he cry.

Msgr. V. says again in disagreement with [REDACTED] statements, that he did not introduce her to her future husband, [REDACTED]. He believes that [REDACTED] a [REDACTED] at the time was the person who introduced [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had been class mates in the seminary.

[REDACTED] advised Msgr. V. that [REDACTED] says she had a telephone conversation with Msgr. V. after the death of Father [REDACTED] a friend of [REDACTED] at which time Msgr. V. told her that "we both made mistakes." Msgr. said he had lunch with [REDACTED] shortly after the death of Father [REDACTED] who was a friend of [REDACTED] but did not tell her that "we both made mistakes." He says the conversation was mainly related to the death of [REDACTED]

At the conclusion of the interview Fr. ^{REDACTED} informed Msgr. V. that this matter will be presented to the Los Angeles Archdiocese Cleric Misconduct Oversight Board (CMOB) and will be forwarded with recommendations to REDACTED

On September 2, 2009 Msgr. V. met with ^{REDACTED} in Newport Beach, CA and reviewed and corrected items in this report. Msgr. V. stated the report accurately reflects his statements.

Signed Msgr. Christian Van Liefde 9-2-09
Msgr. Christian Van Liefde
REDACTED

Witnessed _____ 9/2/09

Interview of Msgr. Christian Van Liefde

On July 8, 2009 at the Los Angeles Archdiocesan Catholic Center James T. Burns introduced himself as a Canonical Auditor for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (ADLA) to Msgr. Christian Van Liefde. Also present were Fr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Msgr. Mike Meyers, ADLA Vicar for Clergy and [REDACTED]. Fr. [REDACTED] advised Msgr. Van Liefde this meeting was convened at the request of the ADLA Cleric Misconduct Oversight Board (CMOB) to obtain information from Msgr. Van Liefde regarding the allegations of sexual misconduct against him. Fr. [REDACTED] informed Msgr. Van Liefde of his canonical rights including the fact that he had the right not to respond to questions, that he as the interviewee was not under oath and the proceedings would not be transcribed. Msgr. Van Liefde was informed he would be given a copy of the interview report at a later date. He was advised that no promises could be given that this matter may not result in a future criminal or civil law proceeding. The interview was started after a short prayer was offered by Fr. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Msgr. Van Liefde, hereafter referred to as "Msgr. V.", stated that approximately four years ago (approx. 2005) in a several minute conversation ADLA Vicar for Clergy Msgr. Craig Cox informed him that a female named [REDACTED] made allegations of sexual misconduct against Msgr. V. Msgr. V. could not recall the exact details of the allegation described by Msgr. Cox, but recalls Msgr. Cox saying it didn't sound good for Msgr. V. Msgr. V. said that he informed Msgr. Cox the allegations were untrue and completely denied that he had any sexual contact with [REDACTED]

When asked by Burns if Msgr. V. knew [REDACTED], he replied he knew the [REDACTED] family who were members of St. Kilian parish and recalls the family had a daughter named [REDACTED] whom he probably met in about 1970-71 when he was a seminarian and was at St. Kilian, his home parish on very infrequent home leaves. Msgr. V. outlined the few possible dates he was present at St. Kilian including his first homily as a deacon on Mother's Day in the Mission Viejo High School gym, being rented during construction of the church. Msgr. V. said that his first time in the new church was approximately August 23, 1972 for the funeral of his sister. He said that after his priestly ordination while on vacation he occasionally said Mass there on Sunday's while visiting his family.

Msgr. stated that he knew the [REDACTED] parents better than the [REDACTED] children and never developed a close relationship with the children. He said he may have been in the [REDACTED] family home on one or two occasions and was not in the home often enough to develop a close pastoral relationship with the family including [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] read Msgr. V. allegations made by [REDACTED] on pages 3 and 4 against Msgr. V. in her signed Claimant's Questionnaire (C.Q.) sworn under penalty of perjury on January 9, 2004. Note: [REDACTED] C.Q. is attached hereto.

Msgr. V. said that REDACTED allegations that he had sexual contact or relationships with her are "completely false." He reiterated that he had no sexual contact of any type with her and does not recall ever seeing REDACTED alone without other persons present. Msgr. REDACTED also denied REDACTED allegation that he sexually abused REDACTED brother or any other of REDACTED siblings.

On page 4 of REDACTED C.Q. she claims that Msgr. V. was her "Catholic spiritual director" and was her confessor. REDACTED asked Msgr. V. if he was Brady's spiritual director and confessor and he replied that to ensure he was not in violation of any canon regarding the seal of confession he desired to confer with Fr. REDACTED, his canonical advisor. After a short conversation with Fr. REDACTED Msgr. V. said he was never REDACTED spiritual advisor as he was assigned 70 miles from St. Kilian and he was never her confessor. Fr. REDACTED then said that based on the information supplied to him by Msgr. V. there was no confessional relationship between Msgr. V and REDACTED

Msgr V. was informed that REDACTED claimed in her C.Q., page 6 that Msgr. V. was assigned at St. Kilian and St. Nicholas parishes as a priest to oversee and spiritually and temporally direct the parishioners and the school children including her (REDACTED.) Msgr. V. stated that after his priestly ordination he was present at St. Kilian one or two times a year and at no time in his priesthood was he ever assigned to St. Kilian or St. Nicholas parishes. He said the Los Angeles Archdiocesan assignment records would confirm this.

REDACTED then asked Msgr. V. if he knew of any reason REDACTED made these allegations against him. Fr. REDACTED stated there had been rumors that a priest assigned to St. Kilian during the time frame in question did sexually abuse children. Msgr. V. was requested to identify the priest and describe the rumors. He said he would not be comfortable identifying the priest based on the rumors he had hear some 35 years ago. Msgr. V. said he was uncertain what type of relationship the unnamed priest had with the REDACTED family. Msgr. V. requested a short break in the interview to confer privately with Fr. REDACTED

Upon return to the interview room, Msgr. V said he cannot understand why REDACTED and other REDACTED family members would accuse him of sexual molestation of REDACTED and her brother. Msgr. V. said he never had a falling out or fight with any of the family members. REDACTED referred to page 168 of a report compiled by REDACTED Page 168 is a letter dated December 15, 2008 from REDACTED an attorney representing the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Misconduct Oversight Board describing a December 15, 2009 telephone conversation he had with REDACTED the brother of REDACTED. The letter contains a statement from REDACTED that he REDACTED was abused by Fr. REDACTED and was never abused by Msgr. Van Liefde. Fr. REDACTED stated that in his personal opinion the press reports of the REDACTED allegations are of the same pattern as the other charges against Msgr. V. made by REDACTED, and the REDACTED allegations could be a matter of misidentification.

REDACTED

Msgr. V. was asked to respond to allegations made against him by REDACTED Msgr. V. stated that he has not had an opportunity to see the report of REDACTED allegations and is uncomfortable in saying anything until he is able to read the allegations. Msgr. V. requested a break to confer privately with Fr. REDACTED

NOTE: During the break REDACTED reviewed the ADLA priest assignment data base and determined that Fr. REDACTED was temporally assigned at St. Kilian during the time of the REDACTED allegations.

Upon the return of Msgr. V. and Fr. REDACTED it was decided to delay the interview of Msgr. V. regarding the REDACTED allegations until 10:30 AM, August 17, 2009 at the Los Angeles Archdiocesan Catholic Center.

On September 2, 2009 Msgr. V. met with REDACTED in Newport Beach, CA and reviewed and corrected this report. Msgr. V stated the report accurately reflects his statements.

Signed: Msgr. Christian Dan Kelly 9-2-09
M-REDACTED

Witnessed: 2/2/09

✓

REDACTED

From: REDACTED

Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 1:46 PM

To: REDACTED

Subject: Friday

REDACTED

Peace. I hope you are well and look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

I spoke with Chris and he has indeed been in contact with the civil lawyers. He expects a meeting in LA fairly soon, when he hopes to get more of an idea where things are headed.

I may yet meet with him tomorrow, but we shall see how he feels. Right now he seems fairly down.

So... I am still aiming for 12 noon or so to meet you at the Chancery. If plans change, I will call.

REDACTED

2/12/2010

XXI 000895



FILE COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles



3424 Wilshire Boulevard Los Angeles California 90010-2241

October 7, 2005



Dear [Redacted]

Recently Cardinal Mahony received authorization from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith authorizing him to conduct a penal trial in the matter of certain allegations against Rev. Msgr. Christian Van Liefde, a priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, regarding misconduct covered under Canon 1395, §2, and *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, Article 4.

In Cardinal Mahony's absence, I am authorized to request your assistance in obtaining the services of three canon lawyers to form a panel of judges for the trial. If it is at all possible, it would be very helpful if at least one member of the panel, to serve as Praeses, could be from one of the westernmost States, excluding those living within the Province of Los Angeles.

I thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in these regrettable matters. May the Lord continue to bless you in your ministry at the Bishops' Conference.

Sincerely in Christ,



Copy: Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop

Check Date: 08.Oct.2009

ACCLA

Check No. 241246

Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Voucher ID	Gross Amount	Discount Available	Paid Amount
2009 VC	28.Sep.2009	00203729	600.00	0.00	600.00

Vendor Number	Name			Total Discounts	
0000033673	REDACTED			\$0.00	
Check Number	Date		Total Amount	Discounts Taken	Total Paid Amount
	08.Oct.2009		\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00



The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles
 (A Corporation Sole)
 3424 Wilshire Blvd.
 Los Angeles, California 90010-2241
 (213) 637-7691

Wachovia Bank, N.A.
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 4759-613201 67-11/532

241246

Date
 October 8, 2009

Pay Amount
 \$ 600.00***

Pay ****SIX HUNDRED AND XX / 100 US DOLLAR****

To The
 Order Of

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

TO: File
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox
RE: Monsignor Chris Van Liefde
DATE: 29 May 2002

I spoke with Monsignor Van Liefde today and communicated briefly the input supplied by the mother of [REDACTED]

Monsignor Van Liefde made the following comments:

I do not recall ever having a key to their house.

I do not recall Mrs. [REDACTED] ever sitting me down to talk to me as she describes it, or making any comments along the line of "If you love her, take off that band aid and marry her."

I don't know what else to say other than I stand by what I told you earlier.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
 Sent: Friday, May 15, 2009 10:56 AM
 To: REDACTED
 Subject: FW: MSGR VAN LIEFDE CMOB 012

REDACTED

Here is the last status email I have on Van Liefde. I will also forward a few earlier emails I have on him. I should be around through July, so I am available to meet whenever it is convenient to you.

Take care,

REDACTED

> [Original Message]
 > From: REDACTED
 > To: CI
 REDACTED

> Date: 12/26/2008 2:33:51 PM
 > Subject: MSGR VAN LIEFDE CMOB 012

> Fr REDACTED

> On Monday 12-22-08, we all met to review this case. It was decided
 > that Fr ^{REDACTED} has the canonical lead and that ^{REDACTED} would continue to
 > provide investigative support for this case. We also concluded that
 > the following work needs to be done before this case can be brought to
 > the CMOB for recommendation:

> 1. LAPD needs to be asked (Deputy Chief Beck) if the two victims they
 > identified are the same victims we already know about, e.g.,
 > REDACTED

> 2. A interview needs to be done of REDACTED ex-husband as he also
 > roomed with Van Liefde at the Seminary. Caution must be exercised to
 > respect spousal privilege.

> 3. The attorneys representing REDACTED and REDACTED in the civil suit
 > need to be contacted and asked if they found anything we need to know
 > about.

> 4. The attorney(s) representing the Archdiocese in the civil cases
 > needs to be contacted and asked if (s)he found anything we need to
 > know about.

> 5. Finally, Van Liefde needs to be interviewed. ^{REDACTED} will do the
 > actual interview, but Fr REDACTED and/or REDACTED may
 > need to be present.

> So, the status of this case is returned to Canonical Services for
 > further investigation as of 12-22-08. Please notify me once the
 > additional investigation is completed including any significant leads
 > it may generate, and I will schedule it for a special CMOB review ASAP.

> Thanks,

> REDACTED
 > I

REDACTED

Confidential
Attorney Client Privilege
Attorney Work Product

Memorandum

To: REDACTED

From: Canonical Auditor/Independent Investigator

Date: June 15, 2009

Subject: Christian Van Liefde
Canonical Investigation

Reference: Interview conducted by REDACTED on December 18, 2003 of Detective James Brown, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Exploited Children's Unit.

By referenced interview, Mr. REDACTED determined from Detective Brown that the LAPD case involved two separate victims during the same general time frame. Detective Brown confirmed that the first and most egregious case involved REDACTED. He would not provide the name of the second victim, nor would he confirm or deny that the second victim was REDACTED.

On June 12, 2009, Canonical Auditor REDACTED contacted Detective Moises Castillo, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Child Abuse Unit, regarding the identity of the victims in the LAPD investigation of Van Liefde. Detective Castillo advised that a review of the Van Liefde matter, LAPD case #029924675, revealed the only victim in the case as REDACTED. He advised that he was not able to locate the name of REDACTED as a victim in the case.

It is noted that Detective Castillo was not the original detective in the investigation and was not privy to information personally collected by Detective Brown, who is now retired.

REDACTED

(1)

His Eminence
Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
00120 Vatican City State

Re: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde
Request for Dispensation in accord with Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela.
CFD Prot.No: 342/03

Your Eminence:

On August 29, 2003, I wrote to you seeking a dispensation from prescription so that a canonical trial could proceed to examine allegations that Msgr. Christian Van Liefde, a priest incardinated in our Archdiocese, and presently domiciled here, violated his responsibility under canon 1395 #2. by engaging in sexual misconduct with minors. With my letter I enclosed selected documentation from Msgr. Van Liefde's file for your review.

In my letter I explained that in accord with canon 1717 a preliminary investigation was initiated, was placed in abeyance because of a danger of perceived interference with the investigations of civil authorities, and was then resumed once that danger passed.

At this point, we have been unable to conclude the preliminary investigation. The first complainant, [REDACTED], presented a sworn affidavit describing her contentions in great detail. However, persons mentioned in that affidavit whom she says could substantiate her claims have been interviewed, and all, except for her blood relatives deny any knowledge of wrongdoing.

In January 2004, [REDACTED] the other complainant completed a claimant questionnaire in connection with a suit for damages she is bringing against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles as a result of alleged actions perpetrated by Msgr. Van Liefde. The allegations are extremely sketchy in nature, and she offers no suggestion as to how she intends to support them. It appears that any misconduct may have begun while Christian Van Liefde was a seminarian and before he became a cleric, thus ruling out an ecclesiastical crime. According to her complaint, however, the abusive activity continued during the time he was a deacon and a priest. These matters cannot be clarified at this time since her civil attorney has not permitted an interview with her by a canonical auditor.

The evidence discovered thus far certainly meets the criteria of a "semblance of truth" and provides sufficient foundation to suspect that Msgr. Van Liefde may have abused two

minor girls in the years 1973-1976. But, indications are that exonerating or incriminating evidence will be very difficult to develop. My greatest concern is that justice be done to the complainants, if they genuinely were victimized, as well as to Msgr. Van Liefde, if indeed he is innocent. There is, too, bewilderment, if not impatience, evident among members of our presbyterate over the uncertainty of Msgr. Van Liefde's status. The common good would benefit greatly from a just and swift solution to this matter. In my assessment, only by means of a trial can the evidence be fully assessed, additional evidence sought as necessary, and a determination made with moral certitude that will be credible to the presbyterate and people of our Archdiocese.

For these reasons I respectfully request a dispensation from prescription with respect to this action and authorization to initiate a formal penal trial. Should the trial lead to moral certitude that Msgr. Van Liefde did indeed commit these delicts, we would seek the penalty of dismissal from the clerical state.

Should the Congregation not concur with my request for a trial, I would very much appreciate direction on how to proceed.

Thank you for your attention to this difficult matter. Please be assured of my prayers.

Sincerely your in Christ.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles.

REDACTED

Re:Van Liefde

1. Attached is a proposed votum. Also attached is a copy of your original votum which you sent last year together with a listing of the accompanying documentation. Do you think we need to send that documentation again. If so, I would need to cul it from the file, as a copy was not made. That, however, could easily be done as I am very familiar with the file. The alternative would be to describe the allegations in some detail in the votum.

I do think that there is a common good issue here. I have heard guys talk about this matter and some have expressed bewilderment over what is happening.

2. I filled in the needed information on the cover sheet. I don't have the information on the civil suits.

3. I will be in on Wednesday morning to complete this matter for you.

REDACTED

REDACTED

Thank you for forwarding the materials provided by REDACTED relating to REDACTED complainant in the Van Liefde case.

In the near future the Van Liefde case is due to come before CMOB for its evaluation preparatory to a final recommendation to REDACTED regarding Msgr. Christian Van Liefde's suitability for ministry.

To avoid making an ill informed recommendation that could possibly place REDACTED in a future embarrassing position, the Board requires written verification that a request has been made of attorneys for complainants and attorneys for the archdiocese in the civil suits to make available any and all pertinent information in their possession to ensure a thorough investigation. Should pertinent information exist, and the request is denied, the record needs to reflect that the effort was made to secure it.

To that end, may I presume on your good offices to document the fact that,

1. a request has been made of the attorneys representing REDACTED and REDACTED in the Van Liefde suit for any pertinent information to ensure the completeness of the canonical investigation, and the outcome of the inquiry.
2. a similar request has been made of the attorneys for the archdiocese in the same cases and the outcome of the inquiry.

REDACTED I regret being a pain about this. However, The Board's expectation is that this part of the investigation has been carried out and that there is documentation to prove it.

Thank you
REDACTED

REDACTED

August 19, 2009

Memo:

To: REDACTED

From: REDACTED

Re: Van Liefde

Dear ^{REDACTED} ;

REDACTED has identified a number of matters that need to be investigated preparatory to a review of this case by CMOB. Among the items on the list are the following;

1. The attorneys representing REDACTED and REDACTED in the civil suit need to be contacted and asked if they found anything we need to know about (to ensure the completeness of the canonical investigation).
2. The attorney(s) representing the Archdiocese in the civil cases needs to be contacted and asked if he (she) found anything we need to know about (to ensure the completeness of the canonical investigation)

We have on file:

1. Claimant Questionnaire for both REDACTED and REDACTED
2. Record of REDACTED contact with REDACTED brother of REDACTED
3. Summary of deposition of REDACTED REDACTED father from REDACTED
4. Record of REDACTED conversation with REDACTED

Can you help me with this REDACTED,

Many thanks,
REDACTED

CLERGY MISCONDUCT OVERSIGHT BOARD

Archdiocesan Catholic Center
Wednesday, September 23, 2009
9:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

AGENDA

Call to Order 9:30 a.m.

Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes from July 2009 meeting

Introduction of Board Member Dr. REDACTED

CMOB 012 Ongoing Investigation

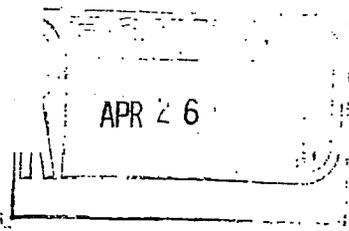
Consent Agenda
REDACTED

REDACTED

November/December Meeting Schedule

Adjournment

REDACTED



Via Personal Delivery

Personal & Confidential
For Addressee's Eyes Only

Sr. REDACTED
Assistance Ministry
Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

Dear Sr. REDACTED

This letter is written in the strictest confidence. The contents of this letter, either specifically or generally shall not be discussed with or disclosed to any other person without my written authorization.

The purpose of this letter is to advise the Archdiocese of Los Angeles of sexual misconduct involving a Los Angeles Archdiocese parish priest, Msgr. Christian Van Liefde during the period of 1973 - 1975. During this period, Msgr. Van Liefde was a parish priest at Holy Family Parish in Glendale, where I attended both grade school and high school. At the time of the incident, I was 16 through 17 1/2 years old. Although the incident is legally and in other respects classified as child abuse or molestation, I will refer to the incident as serious sexual misconduct and personal indiscretion, thereby avoiding any possible inference that Msgr. Van Liefde has in the past or is presently engaged in serial child molestation or other aberrant sexual behavior.

A brief chronology of events will place this matter into the proper perspective and will provide the basis for further detailed discussion. In or about June 1973, Msgr. Van Liefde was assigned to Holy Family Catholic Church in Glendale, California as an associate pastor. In or about July 1973, Msgr. Van Liefde became friends with my family, visiting my family's home often for dinner, social events, etc. For the next year and a half, until approximately January 1975, the "relationship" between Msgr. Van Liefde and I evolved from an innocent "friendship" to one that involved sexual activity consisting of kissing, hugging, fondling and other sexual behavior, that occurred on a weekly, sometimes daily basis. I was a 16 year old student at Holy Family High School and Msgr. Van Liefde was a 25 year old associate pastor. The sexual advances were always initiated by Msgr. Van Liefde and typically occurred either in my parents' home, in his car or at the beach.

Although unaware of the extent of the "friendship" or any of the sexual activity, my mother became suspicious and concerned in late 1974 and discussed the matter with Msgr. Van Liefde who advised her that the friendship was "innocent" and "nothing to be concerned with ..."; and that we were just good friends. Shortly thereafter, my mother

72120

discussed the situation with Sr. REDACTED the Dean of Girls at Holy Family High School. Sr. REDACTED told my mother to immediately advise Holy Family Church REDACTED of the situation and demand that he and the archdiocese resolve the matter. My mother spoke with REDACTED in or about January 1975, and almost immediately, Msgr. Van Liefde was transferred to another parish. REDACTED advised my mother that the situation had been "properly handled" and that Msgr. Van Liefde would not be transferred to another parish with high school girls. My information is that Msgr. Van Liefde did, in fact, serve at other parishes with high schools after the incident and, in fact, is currently at a parish with a high school.

In or about May 1975, I met and thereafter became friends with another parish priest, REDACTED. In or about December 1980, I advised Fr. REDACTED of the incident with Msgr. Van Liefde and asked him on numerous occasions over the following 3 or 4 years to assist me in filing the proper report with the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Fr. REDACTED after many discussions, advised me against going to the Archdiocese about the situation, warning me that I would be viewed as a liar or that otherwise my reputation would be at issue. Fr. REDACTED told me that he felt the situation was properly handled by simply transferring Msgr. Van Liefde to a new parish, thereby stopping the misconduct and that further discussing the incident with the Archdiocese would not elicit any further response or action on their part. I was obviously unaware at the time that Fr. REDACTED was, concurrently, engaging in aberrant sexual behavior and child molestation with young boys.

In or about 1996, after the revelation of Fr. REDACTED actions and his ultimate suicide, I had at least two telephone conversations with Fr. REDACTED of the Los Angeles Archdiocese office. While the initial reason for my call to Fr. REDACTED was to discuss Fr. REDACTED situation, I took the opportunity to discuss the incident regarding Msgr. Van Liefde as well, in part seeking advice and direction from Fr. REDACTED, and in part, hoping to confirm what was appearing to be an ever-growing problem of sexual misconduct by the clergy. In short, Fr. REDACTED told me that there was nothing that could be done, beyond what had been done and that I was best off trying to forget about the past, and go forward with my life. My concerns over both matters were promptly dismissed and, in fact, Fr. REDACTED was rude and abruptly ended the last conversation.

It is not my desire nor intention at this time to involve the courts, attorneys, media or persons outside of the Los Angeles Archdiocese regarding this matter. To the contrary, it is my intention to discuss and resolve this matter solely with the Archdiocese in a discreet and highly confidential manner. Any involvement by the courts, media or outside persons would only serve to create a negative environment for discussion in an already media-frenzied atmosphere, and would undoubtedly severely, negatively impact both Msgr. Van Liefde's life and my own life as well. It is not my desire to resolve this matter in today's

Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Page 3

volatile court of public opinion, but rather to bring closure to a very serious situation that has been left unresolved for over 25 years. To bring this matter into the public view would, in my opinion, only victimize me again, in light of my professional career and need for privacy and anonymity regarding the situation.

I am hereby requesting a personal meeting with you to discuss this matter more fully. I reiterate that this letter is written in the strictest confidence, the contents may not be disclosed or discussed with any other person without my written authorization. You may confidentially contact me at my office private line REDACTED if I am unavailable, I will promptly return your call.

Thank you
REDACTED

72122

Chronology of Events
Re: Chris Van Liefde

REDACTED	REDACTED
73	16 th birthday
5/26/73	Chris ordained a priest
6/73	Met Chris Van Liefde
REDACTED 73	Chris 25 th birthday (vestment)
8/30/73	Chris birthday - dinner - First sexual contact
2/74	Valentine's Day - Rec'd tulips from Chris - dinner/movie
3/10/74	REDACTED 17 th birthday - dinner
4/27/74	Junior Prom - Chris' brother REDACTED
5/74	Introduced to REDACTED after Mass
7/5/74	Postcard from Chris from Sequoia
8/26/74	Chris' 26 th birthday (vestment) - dinner
10 - 11/74	REDACTED mom's discussion with Chris re: situation
10-11/74	mom's discussion with Sr. REDACTED
11-12/74	Last sexual contact with Chris
1/75	REDACTED mom's discussion with REDACTED
2/75	Re-met REDACTED after Mass
3/75	REDACTED 18 th birthday
4-5/75	Met REDACTED and REDACTED
6/75	REDACTED graduated High School
4/77	Married to REDACTED
12/80	Tok REDACTED about Chris
8-9/84	Marriage to REDACTED annulled
1995/96	Discussions with Fr. REDACTED, re: REDACTED and Chris

72119

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 45y/o

DOB: [REDACTED]

See attached chronology and letter from [REDACTED] for more information. Sister [REDACTED] and Monsignor Loomis were present, as well as [REDACTED] husband.

Ms. [REDACTED] told her story using the attached chronology. She said that she had pieced it together from high school memories kept in boxes. The dates are approximate but are within months of the actual date.

8/26/73 - She had cloth from a vestment she made for Father Chris for his 25th birthday, saying she was a seamstress. She claimed this birthday was their first sexual contact. She was 16. They continued this relationship until her 18th birthday. The sexual contact included foreplay and oral sex. They never had intercourse because they were both afraid of pregnancy.

It was like a dysfunctional dating relationship. She never had normal dating because of what Father Chris did. He kept her from going out with boys her own age. He did not even want her to go to the Junior Prom (4/74) with someone so he set her up with his own brother, [REDACTED]. He wanted to keep her away from boys. On top of her mother not allowing her to go out.

Father Chris said that they had a "special kind of love." In reality, [REDACTED] describes it as emotionally abusive but never physically abusive. She did not have a normal date until after she divorced her first husband.

5/74 - Introduced her to [REDACTED] after Mass. Eventually she married him. Divorced after seven years. He was gay.

In November or December of 1974, [REDACTED] mother caught them necking. Father Chris said they were just good friends and that it was all innocent. Our sexual contact ended December of 1974. Through Sister [REDACTED], it was reported to [REDACTED] (1/75). He told us it was handled by having Father Chris transferred. [REDACTED] chronology breaks down here. Father Chris did not move until June of 1976.

[REDACTED] said that she told Father [REDACTED] about herself and Father Chris.

72117

REDACTED also recounted that she knew REDACTED and REDACTED (met them in 4/75 or 5/75). She became very good friends with REDACTED, saying that they became "girlfriends" (going shopping together, etc.). REDACTED said she was his champion until it was clear he had indeed done what his victims said. She said that she smoked marijuana for the first time with REDACTED. After speaking of two other priests who never did anything sexual to her but were very inappropriate (REDACTED), she asked, "Why did I have contact with so many bad people (all priests)? And my mother sent me someplace safe (Catholic high school)!" *Interesting point: how did one person meet so many priests all of whom had problems?*

REDACTED spoke with REDACTED about this situation at length and he encouraged her to let it go. She said that, somewhere around 1980, when she told him, REDACTED and Chris confronted each other and it ended their friendship.

"The most Chris has ever said to me is that we both made serious mistakes."

REDACTED presented photos of Father Chris in their home in Glendale, photos that appeared to be his brother in a tuxedo taking her to the Prom, and a postcard from a vacation in which Father Chris said it was nice where he was but that "he missed the back scratches."

REDACTED said that she discussed her situation with Father REDACTED in 1995 or '96. He told her not to be so naïve. She said that REDACTED gave her no resolution but told her it was her own fault.

72118

REDACTED

November 30, 2006

VIA U.S. MAIL AND FAX REDACTED

REDACTED

Re: The Clergy Cases
Our Client: Jane GM Doe

Dear Mr. REDACTED

Prior to the aged and infirm deposition of REDACTED my client's father, we discussed issues of how I might get my client's case advanced and released. In the course of that discussion you suggested that I might consider submitting a "reasonable" section 998 Offer To Compromise to the Archdiocese in an effort to resolve this dispute without necessity of full discovery and litigation. We have considered your suggestion carefully, and have elected to submit such an offer, which I enclose herewith. In this accompanying letter, I would like to explain, under full protections of confidentiality of settlement discussions, and under the express understanding that nothing stated in this letter shall be admissible for any purpose at the trial of this matter, our basis for the formulation of the enclosed Offer To Compromise.

Our Guiding Approach In Making This Offer

Two general guidelines have controlled the formulation of the accompanying settlement offer. The first guideline is that the offer must be in a fair amount, considering not only the potential value of the case, appropriate risk factors, and expense savings associated with settlement at this point, but also must be reasonable if we hope for it to stand any chance of acceptance. The second guideline is the language of Section 998 itself, which compels us to set our offer at an amount which we believe we will be able to exceed at trial if we wish to obtain the statutory benefits available if the Church elects to refuse a reasonable offer.

Incidentally, due to confidentiality concerns, we are not electing to post either this letter or our 998 Offer To Compromise on CaseHomePage, believing such posting not to be required in this specific context.

REDACTED

REDACTED

November 30, 2006

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In discussing whether our settlement offer is fair, we need to place the facts of this case in some perspective. Mark Twain once said: "Show me a man who knows what's funny, and I'll show you a man who knows what's not". By way of analogy, I will in this letter attempt to show you what this case truly *is* in terms of its merits, but I also know what it is *not*. It is not the most dangerous case in the Clergy abuse portfolio, because it does not involve homosexual child molestation, rape by instrumentality, gang rape or seduction, pregnancy followed by priest-compelled abortion, or some of the other and worst allegations generally appearing in the Clergy abuse litigation. It does not even involve sexual intercourse. Moreover, the perpetrator is not among the very worst, since we know of only two victims, and he appears to have abandoned his predatory ways after completing his victimization of my client. Therefore, my client's case does not belong on the top rung in terms of settlement value, and I believe our offer is discounted accordingly.

On the other hand, as I will explain, this is a very strong and a very sad case, and what it presents is one of the truly stark "before and after" photos of the kinds of damage that priest abuse will produce. This is because my client had the benefit of a virtually perfect, loving upbringing in the most stable of households, under the watchful eye of two parents and a grandmother who were as protective of my client as family members can be. Nevertheless, because of the family's inherent trust in the Catholic Church and its priesthood, there was one person, Father Van Liefde, who, posing as a friend of the family, surrogate son, and big brother, was able to slip under their protective radar and effectively ruin the life of their loved one. REDACTED my client, was earnest, devout, compliant, a good student, and entirely accepting of the Italian-American mores of her family. Her future predicted nothing other than marriage accompanied by children and grandchildren, with the offspring being raised happily in the ways of the Church. Unfortunately, as seems to have happened in so many cases in which priests have abused young females, her life following her victimization pursued a disturbingly altered path. Having been socially and sexually isolated by her perpetrator before she established her own sexual identity or sense of self, REDACTED did not get the opportunity to learn to connect sexual conduct with love; instead, such activity became associated with manipulation, deception, and sin. She followed the lead of her priest thinking that doing so would bring her closer to God, but in the final analysis, the path he took her down led to a complete loss of faith in herself and in the Church she had always loved. With her own self-esteem shattered by her experience, and with her spiritual anchor having been destroyed, REDACTED descended into a childless lifestyle of promiscuous sport sex and even prostitution, frozen in place by the thought that if she ever had children she would be

REDACTED

REDACTED

November 30, 2006

Page 3

unable to protect them, and held down as well by her belief that she did not qualify for a more stable and committed kind of relationship. Thus, others might have been the subject of a greater form of initial or repeated violation, but what is clear in this matter is simply how far REDACTED got thrown off track by what happened to her. There really is no explanation other than the priest abuse for the altered path she followed.

Preliminary Issues Of Notice And Proof

REDACTED you and I both know that the Clergy cases are a mixed bag. There are instances of horrible abuse, and there seem to be instances in which either the abuse may never have occurred, or there was simply nothing the Church could have done to prevent it. One of the challenges of any kind of global settlement is the stark variance from case to case. In this case, however, the proof of the violation, its duration, and the Church's awareness of the propensities of the perpetrator are solid.

As you know from the deposition of my client's father, REDACTED, Father Van Liefde was caught by both of his victim's parents in the act of sexual conduct with a minor, and that conduct was reported to various Church representatives, including REDACTED Holy Family's Sister REDACTED and Fr. REDACTED to whom REDACTED made a confession despite being prohibited by her perpetrator from doing so. Both Sister REDACTED and REDACTED e acknowledged to my client's mother that Father Van Liefde had been the subject of a prior complaint, which from subsequently-acquired knowledge we were able to tie to Father Van Liefde's other victim in these Clergy I cases. That prior complaint indicated that Father Van Liefde had attempted sexual intercourse with a minor about ten years his junior after a grooming period of approximately two years, and such conduct occurred *before Van Liefde was even ordained*. As you know, the model complaint in these cases includes a cause of action for negligent hiring, which in most instances is a throw-away claim. In this matter, however, it is very significant that a deaconate with a history of attempted statutory rape would have nevertheless been promptly ordained and placed within the mouth-watering confines of a girls' school such as Holy Family. That was simply a terrible mistake, and one which ordinary prudence would not have permitted. Moreover, REDACTED expressly promised my client's mother that Father Van Liefde would be immediately removed from the school and parish and that his opportunities to molest other young girls would be cut off. In actual fact, there were subsequent instances of sexual conduct between Father Van Liefde and my client after REDACTED made this promise, and our documents include a newspaper photo taken months after that report, showing REDACTED with his parish co-priests, *including Father Van Liefde*.

REDACTED

REDACTED

November 30, 2006

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The evidence in this case demonstrates clearly the existence of a prompt and long-enduring program pursuant to which Father Van Liefde groomed my client to prepare her to be physically available to him. The very first time that Father Van Liefde met my client, at a general introduction to numerous parish members, he nevertheless took her aside, told her how pretty she was and how she reminded him of his beloved late sister, who had the same first and middle name (as well as birth month), and he told her that they had been brought together for a reason. REDACTED was a very devout and somewhat overprotected young girl of about 15 at the time, and this kind of flattery was overpowering. She and her mother arranged for a special Mass to be celebrated in their home, by Father Van Liefde, and at that Mass, he received an invitation to a future dinner at the REDACTED household. Thereafter, for well over two years, he was a regular dinner guest, and probably visited the home on average three times per week over that span. For his 26th birthday, which arrived only months after he came to Holy Family, REDACTED presented him with a hand-sewn vestment that she had spent almost the entire time she had known him making. In thanking her privately for the gift, he kissed her romantically for the first time, telling her it was all right; the next time he saw her, this goodbye ritual extended to French kissing. These were REDACTED first kisses, and threw her into a combined state of excitement, flattery, and confusion. In context, however, there was absolutely no one other than Father Van Liefde with whom she could speak about these developments.

For the next two years, Father Van Liefde, with his protected and guaranteed entrée into the REDACTED household, continued to sexually abuse the daughter of the people to whom he referred as his surrogate parents, in his "home away from home". Father Van Liefde would stay at the home until both of my client's parents went to bed, explaining to REDACTED mother that he and REDACTED were going to talk for a short while or watch television. During these after-hours interludes, he would provide REDACTED with tobacco and alcohol, mixed with flattery about her maturity and beauty. The initial kissing already described led in these sessions to fondling, and soon Father Van Liefde was directing REDACTED's hand to his penis, and guiding the movement of her hand until he was ready to ejaculate, at which point his hand would replace hers while he finished. This scenario would sometimes play out several times before he would actually leave for the night.

These episodes should not be mistaken for the normal young couple getting physically carried away by their passions. Though a young priest, Father Van Liefde was eleven years my client's senior and had about that same number of years of additional education. He was not a date or a boyfriend; he was a priest and the closest thing she knew to God, and she was doing what this unquestioned authority figure was having her

REDACTED

REDACTED

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do, while he was generally telling her that it was alright. At the same time, however, he knew that he was committing a terrible sin, but, as between the two of them, he was in the position to assign blame, and he would often require REDACTED to pray and confess her participation in sin promptly after she followed his explicit lead in committing it.

The inappropriateness, and even sickness, of the conduct which occurred extends well beyond the mere age disparity of the "couple", and, indeed, it was this twisted aspect which caused my client the greatest damage. Father Van Liefde had charmed and seduced her with flattery and special attention, singling her out from all the other young girls at Holy Family and telling her that she was more beautiful, intelligent, and mature than the rest. He chose her family over all others in the parish. In his oversight of the CCD program at Holy Family, he gave her a catechism teaching assignment, the second grade, which included the introduction to Holy Communion; this was a position always reserved for an adult instructor because of the significance of the subject matter, and Father Van Liefde's appointment of my client was a compliment of extraordinary proportion to a devout girl of her age. He told her that he felt more comfortable, even serene, when she was in attendance at his morning Masses, and so she became a regular attendee at 6:00 a.m. weekday proceedings, even after having been kept up until 3:00 a.m. the night before attending to his sexual desires. At Mass, he would often save half of the special host reserved solely for the celebrant, and give it to REDACTED, underscoring her apparent importance to him while simultaneously corrupting the sacrament.

Eventually, Father Van Liefde even purchased a breviary for REDACTED and taught her how to use it. As a non-Catholic, REDACTED did not personally appreciate the significance of this when I first learned of it. Although I was familiar with the regimen of prayer engaged in my monastics, I did not know that ordinary parish priests were charged with the duty to pray five times a day, or that the Catholic year was divided into several sections, and that each prayer for each portion of the day during every section of the year was organized into a special priest's prayer book (the breviary), which was formulated for the sole purpose of permitting priests to fulfill a duty of prayer specific to their calling. When Father Van Liefde gave REDACTED a breviary, and taught her how to use it (there is a system of ribbon-markers which are used to keep the priest oriented to the proper prayer for the time of the year and the time of the day designated for the particular prayer), and when he had her join him in his priestly prayers, he was beckoning her with the opportunity to bring her closer to God. Being devout, REDACTED followed.

Disgustingly, however, Father Van Liefde was bartering God to gain sexual satisfaction, and he corrupted REDACTED sexual and spiritual life in the process. Sexually,

REDACTED

REDACTED

November 30, 2006
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she was introduced to kissing, fondling, and genital conduct not as an expression of love, but as a sin to be hidden, then confessed. Unlike what occurs in any normal male-female relationship, REDACTED was not an actual participant in the fondling, because it was not playful, exploratory, or reciprocal. Instead, he fondled her breasts and digitally penetrated her merely as a means of heightening his own selfish excitement, and she never once reached for him without being told or guided to do so. She was a deer in his headlights, robotically giving in to what he wanted, without any kind of ordinary, human, mutual exchange. He used her as a virtual hand-job machine, and yet she never even saw his penis, because it always remained inside his underwear, and her hand was always used to get him ready to ejaculate, but was removed for the grand finale, in which she was not allowed to participate. The sickness of all of this conduct was only exacerbated by its schizophrenic and confusing nature. In this regard, you will recall that Father Van Liefde sent REDACTED the message that she was special by sharing his communion host with her; at the same time, however, he was corrupting the very sacrament designed to lead her to God. Similarly, he would orchestrate her satisfaction of his sexual urges, telling her that it was okay to do so, and then assign moral blame to her conduct, reminding her that her disclosure to anyone of what was going on would likely result in her excommunication as well as his. Thus, by trying to get closer to God and by following Father Van Liefde's lead, REDACTED found herself constantly confused, and worried that the distance between her and the Almighty was constantly growing.

Father Chris, as he had REDACTED call him, also made a point of isolating REDACTED for his own exclusive use, and thereby stunted her social growth. He warned her off boys her own age, telling her that they only had one thing in mind, and when she expressed an interest in going to her own senior prom, he refused to allow it unless she went with his own younger brother, whom he could control. Between his possessiveness and the need to keep secret the sinful side of their late-night encounters, Van Liefde closed off REDACTED life to normal romantic or sexual relationships, and isolated her psychologically as well as spiritually. Because of Father Van Liefde, she never had the opportunity to judge for herself the motives or behavior of boys in a dating relationship, and she was entirely denied any ability to speak to peers or parents and obtain their input on what Father Van Liefde was doing to her. During a key developmental stage in her social and sexual life, REDACTED therefore had neither a sounding board nor any kind of baseline for judgment.

The results were insidious. Drawn by the prospect of being someone special and by getting closer to God, REDACTED was ultimately left faithless and utterly without self-esteem. Central to the teachings of the Church she loved was the belief that only through

REDACTED

REDACTED

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its priesthood and the sacraments it celebrated could she find God's grace. However, such sacraments are without value if they are not sincerely attended and performed, and REDACTED was ultimately robbed of the ability to faithfully participate in the sacraments. In this regard, she was having a relationship with a priest which featured repeated and forbidden sexual contact, which she was being told was acceptable (she was even told that she was his angel on earth, and that she was making him a better priest by relieving his stresses); what this meant was that she could never have a true and sincere confession, especially not to him, her exclusive confessor, because for the confession to be effectual, the confessing soul needs to be penitent, must believe that a sin was committed, and must intend not to commit that sin in the future. How could she confess in that manner when her priest was directing her conduct, telling her it is all right, and fully intending to continue such conduct in the future? And so long as Father Van Liefde remained her exclusive confessor, how could she truly bare her soul about her guilt and her concerns without insult to him and possible reproachment to her? Because of the peculiar situation in which REDACTED found herself, confession became a sham, and the value of the sacrament was lost to her, with predictable ripple-effect results, for the sacraments are the pillars upon which the Catholic faith stands. When REDACTED through Father Van Liefde's insidious conduct lost the sacraments, she lost her faith in the entire Catholic Church. In the meantime, of course, she continued to accept blame for the sins exercised upon her, thinking that since a priest must by definition be a good man, then Father Van Liefde's waywardness is probably best explained by his having encountered a seductive whore or temptress. With her self-esteem being battered in this manner, and deprived of the spiritual anchor of her faith, REDACTED was thrown into a chronic depression as a result of the molestation and mental cruelty of Father Van Liefde.

REDACTED subsequent life bears many of the noticeable scars of these injuries. REDACTED interest in being a student, and in the educational process itself, waned. Her grades fell off dramatically, and her college aspirations disappeared, replaced by vocational training. Her church attendance declined and then terminated altogether. REDACTED; depression produced thoughts of suicide and hopelessness, and anxiety became her dominant state. Although she obtained a great deal of therapy, she continued to battle with sexual dysfunction (sport sex, bisexual adventures, and even prostitution), addictive behavior, weight gain, insomnia, and other problems of mood and outlook, most notably distrust of authority figures and fear of betrayal. As we will discuss further below, REDACTED also emerged from her abuse with a terrible fear that she would be unable to protect any child that she had, and so she has lived, regrettably, a childless life.

REDACTED

REDACTED

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Let us then briefly summarize some of the broad-brush characteristics of this case. It is uncontestable that Father Van Liefde engaged in sexual misconduct with REDACTED for two parents caught him in the act, and among our documents is a postcard written to an absent REDACTED from Father Van Liefde telling her that he misses the "backscratches", which rather strikingly reveals how far outside appropriate bounds this relationship was. Fortunately for her case, REDACTED is a most articulate third witness to the inappropriateness and sickness of her encounters with Father Chris. It is also demonstrable that he had done and attempted this kind of thing before, that he subjected REDACTED to a very extended regimen of grooming and abuse, and that her life spiraled into a path completely unexplained, and in fact, fully denied, by the values with which she was raised. For these reasons, we view this as a case in which notice and sexual abuse will readily be proven. To the extent that REDACTED chooses to deny, or, for medical reasons, cannot recall that he was told of the abuse, and to the extent that the Church's records do not reflect the prior report by another Van Liefde victim, the resulting factual contest, in my view, will not only go my clients' way, based on highly credible proof, but will actually tend to fuel the jury against the Church and suggest possible perjury and destruction of evidence, even if neither is actually the case. Such are the dynamics of trial. Therefore, we believe that this is a legitimate liability case, involving an error the Church might best acknowledge in the interests of healing. Let us now turn our attention to the damages analysis.

Our Assessment Of The Damages Issue

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

Declaration of Canonical Auditor [redacted]

I, [redacted] appointed as a Canonical Auditor for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles by Cardinal Roger M. Mahony on December 5, 2003 declare the following statements are true and correct.

On January 20, 2009 in my capacity as a canonical auditor at the request of Fr. [redacted] [redacted], I interviewed [redacted] the former husband of [redacted]. The purpose of the interview was to verify [redacted] statement in a legal deposition that while dating and when married to [redacted] she informed [redacted] that prior to their marriage in or about 1974-75, she was sexually abused when a minor while in high school by Fr. Christian Van Liefde a priest incardinated in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. [redacted] supplied the following signed sworn statement:

Declaration of [redacted]

"I, [redacted] declare:
My business address is [redacted] My business phone number is [redacted]
I married [redacted] in 1977, we were divorced in 1985, and subsequently the marriage was annulled. At no time during our courtship or marriage did [redacted] inform me that she had a sexual relationship with, or was sexually abused as a minor by Fr. Christian Van Liefde.
In approximately 2006 or 2007, exact date unrecalled, [redacted] telephoned me and said she had brought legal charges against Fr. Van Liefde for sexually abusing her as a minor when she was in high school. This phone call was the first time I ever heard of Michelle's claim of sexual abuse by Fr. Van Liefde and I was very surprised at this statement.
Executed this ____ day of January, 2009 at Huntington Beach, CA.
I swear under the oath administered to me by Mr. [redacted] who has identified himself as a Canonical Auditor for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, that the information in this declaration is true and correct."

Signed: _____
Witnessed: _____

During the interview Mr. [redacted] appeared to be sincere in his statements and gave me no reason to question his veracity

I swear under oath administered to me by Fr. [redacted] that my statements in this declaration are true and correct.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Witnessed: _____ Date: _____

REDACTED

To: REDACTED

Subject: RE: Interview of REDACTED former husband REDACTED

REDACTED

Thanks so much!

Fr. REDACTED

From: REDACTED

Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2009 9:02 AM

To: REDACTED

Subject: Interview of REDACTED former husband REDACTED

Fr. REDACTED

Attached is a copy of the signed sworn declaration of REDACTED Also attached is my declaration stating that I believe Mr. REDACTED was truthful in his declaration. I will be at the ACC next week and will bring you the signed declaration.

Thanks
REDACTED

1/21/2009

Declaration of REDACTED

I, REDACTED declare:

My business address is REDACTED
phone number is REDACTED

My business

I married REDACTED in 1977, we were divorced in 1985, and subsequently the marriage was annulled. At no time during our courtship or marriage did REDACTED inform me that she had a sexual relationship with, or was sexually abused as a minor by Fr. Christian Van Liefde.

In approximately 2006 or 2007, exact date unrecalled, REDACTED telephoned me and said she had brought legal charges against Fr. Van Liefde for sexually abusing her as a minor when she was in high school. This phone call was the first time I ever heard of REDACTED claim of sexual abuse by Fr. Van Liefde and I was very surprised at this statement.

Executed this _____ day of January, 2009, at Huntington Beach, CA.

I swear under the oath administered to me by Mr. REDACTED who has identified himself as a Canonical Auditor for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, that the information in this declaration is true and correct.

Signed: _____

Witnessed: _____

LIBELLUS OF THE PROMOTER OF JUSTICE

Petition in accord with Canon 1504 to the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for a penal trial in the matter of Reverend Monsignor Christian M. Van Liefde, accused of the sexual abuse of minors.

I, [REDACTED], duly appointed promoter of justice, at the direction of the diocesan bishop, hereby request the Tribunal of Los Angeles to conduct a penal trial to determine the truth of allegations brought against Reverend Monsignor Christian M. Van Liefde, residing at [REDACTED], that he committed the canonical delict mentioned in Canon 2359 #2. of the 1917 Code of Canon Law, and preserved in Canon 1395 #2. of the 1983 Code of Canon Law and Sacramentorum sanctatis tutela #4. If he is found guilty, I further request that he be permanently removed from ministry, not excluding dismissal from the clerical state. This petition is being made so that public order might be restored and that scandal might be repaired.

The General Facts

Christian M. Van Liefde was born on August 26, 1948. He attended St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, California. He was ordained a deacon on June 15, 1972, and was ordained a priest on May 26, 1973. He is incardinated in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

His first assignment was as associate pastor at Holy Family Parish, Glendale, California, beginning on June 11, 1973. Subsequently, he had several assignments in schools and parishes within the Archdiocese. He served ^{as} Treasurer on the Archdiocesan Personnel Board, then as Chairman of the Archdiocesan Council of Priests, and as Vicar Forane of Deanery #18 of the Archdiocese. He also served as a part-time chaplain ^{of} the Los Angeles City Fire Department. His most recent assignment is as pastor of St. Genevieve Parish, Panorama City, California.

The first report of an allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor against Christian Van Liefde was received by the Archbishop of Los Angeles on April 19, 2002. He directed his Vicar for Clergy to begin a preliminary investigation in accord with Canon 1717. Simultaneously, the civil authorities initiated a criminal investigation. In May 2002, Msgr. Van Liefde was asked to leave the parish and not engage in public ministry pending the outcome of the investigation. A second report alleging a separate incident of sexual misconduct was received on June 13, 2003. The allegations date back approximately thirty years.

The evidence discovered during the preliminary investigation provided sufficient foundation to suspect that Monsignor Van Liefde might have sexually abused two minor girls in the years 1973 to 1976. The Acta of the investigation were forwarded to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in accord with the provision of

Sacramentorum sanctatis tutela #4.1. After a careful examination of the Acta, and in the light of the archbishop's votum, that Congregation granted derogation from prescription for action concerning the delict of sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric, and authorized a penal process to determine the truth of the matter. (Congregazione per la Dottrina della Fede, 13 September 2005: Prot. N. 342/2003-21555).

Competence

The Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles has legal competence in this case by virtue of authorization, and a grant of derogation from the terms of prescription for criminal action concerning the crime of sexual abuse of a minor by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. (13 September 2005: Prot: N. 342/2003-21555)

Basis for action

The basis for this action is an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor under the age of 16 against Christian Van Liefde when he was a cleric brought by REDACTED. These actions are alleged to have occurred within the years 1972 to 1976 in violation of Canon 2359 #2. of the 1917 Code of Canon Law.

The Allegation

REDACTED born REDACTED alleges that, during the years while she was in the 9th and 10th grades, Christian Van Liefde perpetrated acts against the sixth commandment with her. These acts included, but were not confined to messaging genitals, buttocks and breasts, over and under the clothes, masturbation, and attempted vaginal penetration. An aggravating circumstance is that Christian Van Liefde was REDACTED spiritual director and confessor.

During the time in question, Christian Van Liefde was an ordained priest, and REDACTED had not reached her 16th birthday. Therefore, the allegation rises to the level of the delict of Canon 2359 #2. of the 1917 Code of Canon Law.

Proofs

1. Declaration under penalty of perjury of REDACTED
2. Declaration of Greg Brady, brother of REDACTED
3. Almost simultaneous with the allegation of sexual abuse by REDACTED against Christian Van Liefde there came the allegation of REDACTED

REDACTED, born REDACTED, alleges that, beginning on August 30, 1973, Christian Van Liefde, an ordained priest, began to perpetrate acts against the sixth commandment with her. These acts included, but were not confined to kissing, fondling, hugging, messages, attempted oral sex, digital penetration and attempted intercourse. These acts were perpetrated two to four times per week between August 1973 and February 1975. An aggravating circumstance was the use of the alleged perpetrator's knowledge of catholic doctrine, human psychology and philosophy to elicit trust in his words and actions.

Since REDACTED, 16th birthday preceded by about five months the date on which the alleged first act of sexual abuse was perpetrated, these actions do not qualify as the delict of Canon 2359 #2. of the 1917 Code of Canon Law. Nevertheless, they will be used as adminicula in evaluating the principal complaint.

4. Declaration under penalty of perjury of REDACTED (Claimant Questionnaire)
5. Declaration under penalty of perjury of REDACTED for purposes of settling her claim with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.
6. Declaration under penalty of perjury of REDACTED
7. Minutes of meeting between REDACTED and Sister REDACTED of the Archdiocese with REDACTED and her husband.
8. Correspondence between Sister REDACTED and REDACTED
9. Interview of Canonical Investigator REDACTED with ~~Detective James Brown~~.
10. Documentary evidence of publicity that attended the case.

REDACTED



**Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board
Consent Agenda
October 28, 2009**

REDACTED

REDACTED

CMOB #012
Fact Sheet
September 18, 2009

This case involves a 61 year old priest who was ordained a priest in May 1973. In June 2002, he was placed on administrative leave and restricted from public ministry. Those restrictions remain in effect. In March 2006, Rome authorized a canonical trial, but that trial is on hold pending an interview with a second complainant.

Complainant #1:

1. Born REDACTED
2. Alleges she was abused 2 to 4 times a week from August 1973 to February 1975
3. She was 16 years 5 months old when the alleged abuse began, so it did not constitute a delict under canon law at that time. (A delict now occurs in the United States when the person is under 18.) *ART 4 - 557, APRIL 30, 2001 ANYWHERE*
4. The priest was 25 years old and became a priest 3 months before it started
5. The abuse consisted of fondling, hugging, massages, attempted oral sex, digital penetration and attempted intercourse.
6. The priest was close friend of the complainant's family
7. The complainant's ex-husband was the accused priest's roommate in the seminary
8. The complainant's father was becoming suspicious that the priest's relationship with his daughter had become inappropriate.
9. Late one night the father alleges he found them kissing on the couch. He confronted the priest who admitted what had happened.
10. The complainant's father was deposed and corroborated those statements.
11. The complainant was part of the Clergy I settlement and she received a median amount of money as part of that settlement.
12. The priest acknowledges that some boundaries had been crossed. The two of them had hugged, given neck rubs, kissed and embraced. But, he denied genital contact of any kind or that either of them was ever partially unclothed.

Complainant #2:

1. REDACTED
2. Alleges the priest abused her about 6 times between 1972 and 1976, when she was in the 9th & 10th grades.
3. She was under 16, so the acts constitute a canonical delict.
4. The priest would have been about 25 years old and either a deacon or priest.
5. The abuse consisted of touching her genitals, buttocks & breasts over and under the clothes, masturbation and attempted vaginal penetration.
6. This occurred during a pastoral relationship.
7. She claims this priest also abused her brother, but her brother adamantly denies it.
8. The priest states he recalls the family, but denies every abusing this victim or anyone else.
9. This complainant and her brother both received median settlements from the Clergy I suits.

In causa: Van Liefde

General Facts

Chris Van Liefde, born August 26, 1948, was ordained deacon June 15, 1972, priesthood May 26, 1973.

First assignment Holy Family, Glendale, beginning June 11, 1973. Several assignments in parishes and schools. Served as treasurer on the Personnel Board, Chairman of the Council of Priests, and as Dean of Deanery 18. Also, part time chaplain to LA fire department. Last assignment as pastor of St. Genevieve, Van Nuys.

First accusation received April 19, 2002, from REDACTED born March 10, 1957. Beginning on August 30, 1973, Van Liefde began to perpetrate acts against the sixth commandment with her. These acts included kissing, fondling, hugging, messages, attempted oral sex, digital penetration and attempted intercourse. These acts were perpetrated two to four times per week between August 1973 and February 1975. An aggravating circumstance was Van Liefde's knowledge of catholic doctrine, human psychology and philosophy to elicit trust in his words and actions. Since the accuser's 16th birthday preceded by about five months the date on which the first act of sexual abuse was perpetrated, these actions do not constitute the delict of c.2359 #2. of the 1917 Code.

Second accusation received June 13, 2003. REDACTED born March 24th. 1959, alleged that while she was in the 9th and 10th. Grades, Van Liefde perpetrated acts against the sixth commandment with her. These acts included messaging genitals, buttocks and breasts over and under the clothes, masturbation, and attempted vaginal penetration. An aggravating circumstance is that Van Liefde was REDACTED spiritual director and confessor. During the time period in question, REDACTED had not yet reached her 16th. birthday. Therefore, this allegation rises to the level of the delict of c.2359 #2. of the 1917 Code. The allegation dates back 30 years.

Basis For Action.

The basis for action in this case is the accusation of REDACTED She alleges sexual misconduct on the part of Chris Van Liefde during the years 1972-1976. She had not yet reached her 16th. birthday. The matter would qualify as the delict of c.2359.2. of the 1917 Code.

Evidence:

In the claimant questionnaire ^{REDACTED} states that she was born on March 24, 1959, and that her religion is catholic. She has been married once and is presently not married. She has no children. The highest educational level achieved is two years of Junior College. Between the years 1980 and 2004 she has had eight different employers. Her occupations were exotic animal handler, tennis instructor, flight attendant, part time sales, sales consultant.

Sexual problems she has experienced are confusion about sexual identity and orientation, loss of desire and function, inability to be sexually intimate with men, physical illness and nausea after sexual intimacy with men, constant fear of intimacy with men, chronic problems with intimacy.

^{REDACTED} claims that Chris Van Liefde was "a visiting priest at her parish" (p.3.1.d), he developed a close personal relationship with her parents and siblings and with her; he ingratiated himself into her family.

She claims that she was abuse 6-7 times when she was in the 9th and 10th grade. This consisted in physical molestation of her genitals, buttocks and breasts, over and under the clothes, masturbation and attempted vaginal penetration. In addition she claims that Chris Van Liefde, in addition to molesting her, "also abused at least one of my brothers; (^{REDACTED} cf.p.7.V1).perpetrator may have molested my siblings". (p.4.1) As aggravating factors relating to the abuse she cites; "Perpetrator was my catholic spiritual director; perpetrator was my confessor".

She claims that she "told various members of my immediate family, mother, and siblings etc. about the abuse". While the abuse was occurring they did not know. Presently, her mother, spouse and siblings know about the sexual abuse. She claims that the archdiocese of Los Angeles or the diocese of Orange knew that the sexual abuse was happening during the time the abuse was occurring (p .5. H), and, that one or other diocese had reason to know of this conduct before or during the time it was occurring. (p5)

She claims that shortly after the sexual abuse began, she suffered psychological injury; loneliness, inability to be touched by men, nausea, headaches, anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, anger, guilt. Etc.

"I've lived the last 30 years thinking that a priest's life was more important than mine, because of their statement, 'don't hurt Chris'. Their denial that someone in the church could do such a thing shattered my trust in my parents. It took an article in the LA Times about my perpetrator for my parents to fully believe me...Because of this abuse that was perpetrated to myself and my brother ^{REDACTED}, any kind of spiritually (sic) that we had has been shattered..."

Her statement was declared under penalty of perjury on January 9, 2004.

Supporting evidence:

On June 13, 2003, REDACTED brother of REDACTED called to speak to REDACTED. The call was forwarded to Sr. REDACTED Mr. REDACTED was angry and ventilating in response to media coverage on June 12&13, 2003. In the course of his distraught outburst he said that his sister, REDACTED was abused by Msgr. Chris Van Liefde. No specific data was given. Since Mr. REDACTED had an attorney, Sr. REDACTED did not believe that she could, from an ethics perspective, further the conversation.

On 12/18/03 Canonical Investigator, REDACTED telephonically contacted Detective Brown, LAPD Children's Exploitation Unit.

Brown told him that had the statute of limitations not run out, the facts of the case against Msgr. Van Liefde were sufficient to have sustained a criminal child molestation criminal charge against him. He advised that there were two separate victims in the same general time frame. He confirmed that the first and most egregious case involved REDACTED REDACTED. He would not provide the name of the second victim. He would neither confirm or deny that the second victim was REDACTED.

I find no interview with Chris Van Liefde relative to the REDACTED allegation.

I enquired of REDACTED if CMOB or SAAB offered any opinions or reports to the REDACTED. He believes not. He acted *motu proprio* in removing Chris from ministry.

Thus, all we have at the moment on the matter is that which is listed above. To pursue the matter at trial, it would be necessary to cite REDACTED her mother and siblings. I have pursued with REDACTED the possibility of having REDACTED testify. As of now, I have not heard back.. We have no indication whether or not she, her mother or siblings will testify or not.

What now?

Re: REDACTED

Allegation.

REDACTED born March 10th.1957, in a **Claimant Questionnaire** for purposes of mediation, alleges that beginning on August 30th.1973, Christian Van Liefde, ordained priest May 26th.1973, began to perpetrate acts against the sixth commandment with her. These acts included kissing, fondling hugging, messages, attempted oral sex, digital penetration and attempted intercourse. These acts were perpetrated two to four times per week between August 1973 and February 1975. An aggravating circumstance was the use of the alleged perpetrator's knowledge of catholic doctrine, human psychology and philosophy to elicit trust in his words and actions.

Since REDACTED 16th.birthday preceded by five months the date on which the alleged first act of sexual abuse was perpetrated, these actions do not qualify as the delict of Canon 2359.2 of the 1917 Code of canon Law.

Evidence:

Declaration of REDACTED under penalty of perjury January 8th.2003.

Met Fr. Chris in June 1973 in his capacity as associate pastor at Holy Family Glendale and chaplain to the high school there. Claims that she was singled out by him from the first time they met allegedly because she reminded Fr. Chris of his younger sister who had died in name and looks. He would make it a point to speak with her privately after various group meetings and activities.

Fr. Chris became good friends with her parents, often coming to her home for dinners and relaxation. After a dinner at a restaurant, celebrating Fr. Chris' 26th birthday (August 30th.1973), sitting on a sofa in her parent's home, the first physical contact took place. This consisted of hugging and kissing on the lips.

Developed into removal of his shirt for back rubs and a partial undressing of her. Over a period of five to six months, the physical contact continued to occur and become more sexual and intimate in nature, (p.4) French kissing, fondling under clothes. "Fr. Chris said he had experience and told me he would teach me what to do and not to worry and just relax" (p.5).

Fr. Chris bought her a watch for her 17th.birthday, took her to dinner and a drive-in movie' kissed and fondled her. "This was the first time Fr. Chris placed my hand on his groin and he had an erection. He guided my hand with his to masturbate himself. This was also the first time Fr. Chris touched my genitals. We did not remove our under garments". (p.6) Similar activity took place on a regular basis. "...there was no intercourse or penetration at any time". (p.6)

Declaration of] REDACTED (Mother of REDACTED

Confirms that REDACTED had reached her 16th birthday when the alleged sexual misconduct began. Confirmed that Fr. Christ became a close and trusted family friend. Confirms the dinner on Fr. Chris' 26th birthday. Became suspicious that a relationship was developing other than friendship. She confronted Fr. Chris about the relationship. He assured her that there was nothing to worry about. Affirms that she found REDACTED rubbing his back at 3am. Confirms seeing the postcard from the sequoias which talked of back rubs. Confronted Chris about late nights and back rubs. He assured her their relationship was nothing more than brother/sister. October 1974 her husband found them kissing in the middle of the night. Next day Chris admitted what happened. Reported the matter to REDACTED told her they had physical and sexual contact for 18 to 20 months.

Declaration of REDACTED (Father of REDACTED)

Confirms that REDACTED had reached her 16th birthday. Fr. Chris was a frequent visitor to his home. Witnessed kissing in the middle of the night. (p.26) "A very passionate kiss". (p28) Reaction "Get that son of a bitch out of this house or I'll kill him".

In causa: Van Liefde

General Facts

Chris Van Liefde, born August 26, 1948, was ordained deacon June 15, 1972, priesthood May 26, 1973.

First assignment Holy Family, Glendale, beginning June 11, 1973. Several assignments in parishes and schools. Served as treasurer on the Personnel Board, Chairman of the Council of Priests, and as Dean of Deanery 18. Also, part time chaplain to LA fire department. Last assignment as pastor of St. Genevive, Van Nuys.

First accusation received April 19, 2002, from REDACTED, born March 10, 1957. Beginning on August 30, 1973, Van Liefde began to perpetrate acts against the sixth commandment with her. These acts included kissing, fondling, hugging, messages, attempted oral sex, digital penetration and attempted intercourse. These acts were perpetrated two to four times per week between August 1973 and February 1975. An aggravating circumstance was Van Liefde's knowledge of catholic doctrine, human psychology and philosophy to elicit trust in his words and actions. Since the accuser's 16th birthday preceded by about five months the date on which the first act of sexual abuse was perpetrated, these actions do not constitute the delict of c.2359 #2. of the 1917 Code.

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Basis For Action.

The basis for action in this case is the accusation of REDACTED. She alleges sexual misconduct on the part of Chris Van Liefde during the years 1972-1976. She had not yet reached her 16th. birthday. The matter would qualify as the delict of c.2359.2. of the 1917 Code.

Evidence:

In the claimant questionnaire REDACTED states that she was born on March 24, 1959, and that her religion is catholic. She has been married once and is presently not married. She has no children. The highest educational level achieved is two years of Junior College. Between the years 1980 and 2004 she has had eight different employers. Her occupations were exotic animal handler, tennis instructor, flight attendant, part time sales, sales consultant.

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She claims that she "told various members of my immediate family, mother, and siblings etc. about the abuse". While the abuse was occurring they did not know. Presently, her mother, spouse and siblings know about the sexual abuse. She claims that the archdiocese of Los Angeles or the diocese of Orange knew that the sexual abuse was happening during the time the abuse was occurring (p .5. H), and, that one or other diocese had reason to know of this conduct before or during the time it was occurring. (p5)

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"I've lived the last 30 years thinking that a priest's life was more important than mine, because of their statement, 'don't hurt Chris'. Their denial that someone in the church could do such a thing shattered my trust in my parents. It took an article in the LA Times about my perpetrator for my parents to fully believe me...Because of this abuse that was perpetrated to myself and my brother REDACTED any kind of spiritually (sic) that we had has been shattered..."

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Allegation.

REDACTED, born March 10th.1957, in a **Claimant Questionnaire** for purposes of mediation, alleges that beginning on August 30th.1973, Christian Van Liefde, ordained priest May 26th.1973, began to perpetrate acts against the sixth commandment with her. These acts included kissing, fondling hugging, messages, attempted oral sex, digital penetration and attempted intercourse. These acts were perpetrated two to four times per week between August 1973 and February 1975. An aggravating circumstance was the use of the alleged perpetrator's knowledge of catholic doctrine, human psychology and philosophy to elicit trust in his words and actions.

Since REDACTED 16th.birthday preceded by five months the date on which the alleged first act of sexual abuse was perpetrated, these actions do not qualify as the delict of Canon 2359.2 of the 1917 Code of canon Law.

Evidence:

Declaration of REDACTED, under penalty of perjury January 8th.2003.

Met Fr. Chris in June 1973 in his capacity as associate pastor at Holy Family Glendale and chaplain to the high school there. Claims that she was singled out by him from the first time they met allegedly because she reminded Fr. Chris of his younger sister who had died in name and looks. He would make it a point to speak with her privately after various group meetings and activities.

Fr. Chris became good friends with her parents, often coming to her home for dinners and relaxation. After a dinner at a restaurant, celebrating Fr. Chris' 26th birthday (August 30th.1973), sitting on a sofa in her parent's home, the first physical contact took place. This consisted of hugging and kissing on the lips.

Developed into removal of his shirt for back rubs and a partial undressing of her. Over a period of five to six months, the physical contact continued to occur and become more sexual and intimate in nature, (p.4) French kissing, fondling under clothes. "Fr. Chris said he had experience and told me he would teach me what to do and not to worry and just relax" (p.5).

Fr. Chris bought her a watch for her 17th.birthday, took her to dinner and a drive-in movie' kissed and fondled her. "This was the first time Fr. Chris placed my hand on his groin and he had an erection. He guided my hand with his to masturbate himself. This was also the first time Fr. Chris touched my genitals. We did not remove our under garments". (p.6) Similar activity took place on a regular basis. "...there was no intercourse or penetration at any time". (p.6)

REDACTED reiterates her story in a letter to Sr. REDACTED. She also provided a chronology of events, and with the aid of that chronology spoke with Sr. REDACTED and REDACTED with he husband present.

Declaration of REDACTED (Mother of REDACTED)

Confirms that REDACTED had reached her 16th. birthday when the alleged sexual misconduct began. Confirmed that Fr. Christ became a close and trusted family friend. Confirms the dinner on Fr. Chris' 26th. birthday. Became suspicious that a relationship was developing other than friendship. She confronted Fr. Chris about the relationship. He assured her that there was nothing to worry about. Affirms that she found REDACTED rubbing his back at 3am. Confirms seeing the postcard from the sequoias which talked of back rubs. Confronted Chris about late nights and back rubs. He assured her their relationship was nothing more than brother/sister. October 1974 her husband found them kissing in the middle of the night. Next day Chris admitted what happened. Reported the matter to REDACTED told her they had physical and sexual contact for 18 to 20 months.

Declaration of REDACTED (Father of REDACTED)

Confirms that REDACTED had reached her 16th. birthday. Fr. Chris was a frequent visitor to his home. Witnessed kissing in the middle of the night. (p.26) "A very passionate kiss". (p28) Reaction "Get that son of a bitch out of this house or I'll kill him".

Memo from REDACTED to REDACTED : May 21, 2002.

"Chris Van Liefde readily admitted that he knew REDACTED and admitted that there had been boundary violations with her, as well as hugging and embracing. He denies, however, any genital activity of any kind and specifically denied the allegation of oral sex. He also said that if there had been a report about him, REDACTED would have confronted him immediately".

"There appear to be substantial holes in Ms REDACTED ; story. All the people she named for us as corroboration do not back up her claims. This is somewhat balanced, however, by Msgr. Van Liefda's admission of boundary violations. We seem to have a he-said, she-said situation with some definite inappropriate behavior".

REDACTED advised that the matter be brought to SAAB for full review. There is no record that this was done.

What to do? **Perhaps a discussion with his advocate?**

LIBELLUS OF REDACTED

Petition in accord with Canon 1504 to the Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for a penal trial in the matter of Reverend Monsignor Christian M. Van Liefde, accused of the sexual abuse of minors.

I, REDACTED, duly appointed promoter of justice, at the direction of the diocesan bishop, hereby request the Tribunal of Los Angeles to conduct a penal trial to determine the truth of allegations brought against Reverend Monsignor Christian M. Van Liefde, residing at REDACTED REDACTED, that he committed the canonical delict mentioned in Canon 2359 #2. of the 1917 Code of Canon Law, and preserved in Canon 1395 #2. of the 1983 Code of Canon Law and Sacramentorum sanctatis tutela #4. If he is found guilty, I further request that he be permanently removed from ministry, not excluding dismissal from the clerical state. This petition is being made so that public order might be restored and that scandal might be repaired.

The General Facts

Christian M. Van Liefde was born on August 26, 1948. He attended St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, California. He was ordained a deacon on June 15, 1972, and was ordained a priest on May 26, 1973. He is incardinated in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

His first assignment was as associate pastor at Holy Family Parish, Glendale, California, beginning on June 11, 1973. Subsequently, he had several assignments in schools and parishes within the Archdiocese. He served Treasurer on the Archdiocesan Personnel Board, then as Chairman of the Archdiocesan Council of Priests, and as Vicar Forane of Deanery #18 of the Archdiocese. He also served as a part-time chaplain of the Los Angeles City Fire Department. His most recent assignment is as pastor of St. Genevieve Parish, Panorama City, California.

The first report of an allegation of sexual misconduct with a minor against Christian Van Liefde was received by the Archbishop of Los Angeles on April 19, 2002. He directed his Vicar for Clergy to begin a preliminary investigation in accord with Canon 1717. Simultaneously, the civil authorities initiated a criminal investigation. In May 2002, Msgr. Van Liefde was asked to leave the parish and not engage in public ministry pending the outcome of the investigation. A second report alleging a separate incident of sexual misconduct was received on June 13, 2003. The allegations date back approximately thirty years.

The evidence discovered during the preliminary investigation provided sufficient foundation to suspect that Monsignor Van Liefde might have sexually abused two minor girls in the years 1973 to 1976. The Acta of the investigation were forwarded to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in accord with the provision of

Sacramentorum sanctatis tutela #4.1. After a careful examination of the Acta, and in the light of the archbishop's votum, that Congregation granted derogation from prescription for action concerning the delict of sexual abuse of a minor by a cleric, and authorized a penal process to determine the truth of the matter. (Congregazione per la Dottrina della Fede, 13 September 2005: Prot. N. 342/2003-21555).

Competence

The Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles has legal competence in this case by virtue of authorization, and a grant of derogation from the terms of prescription for criminal action concerning the crime of sexual abuse of a minor by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. (13 September 2005: Prot: N. 342/2003-21555)

Basis for action

The basis for this action is an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor under the age of 16 against Christian Van Liefde when he was a cleric brought by REDACTED. These actions are alleged to have occurred within the years 1972 to 1976 in violation of Canon 2359 #2. of the 1917 Code of Canon Law.

The Allegation

REDACTED born REDACTED, alleges that, during the years while she was in the 9th and 10th grades, Christian Van Liefde perpetrated acts against the sixth commandment with her. These acts included, but were not confined to messaging genitals, buttocks and breasts, over and under the clothes, masturbation, and attempted vaginal penetration. An aggravating circumstance is that Christian Van Liefde was REDACTED spiritual director and confessor.

During the time in question, Christian Van Liefde was an ordained priest, and REDACTED had not reached her 16th birthday. Therefore, the allegation rises to the level of the delict of Canon 2359 #2. of the 1917 Code of Canon Law.

Proofs

1. Declaration under penalty of perjury of REDACTED
2. Declaration of REDACTED, brother of REDACTED
3. Almost simultaneous with the allegation of sexual abuse by REDACTED against Christian Van Liefde there came the allegation of REDACTED

REDACTED, born March 10, 1957, alleges that, beginning on August 30, 1973, Christian Van Liefde, an ordained priest, began to perpetrate acts against the sixth commandment with her. These acts included, but were not confined to kissing, fondling, hugging, massages, attempted oral sex, digital penetration and attempted intercourse. These acts were perpetrated two to four times per week between August 1973 and February 1975. An aggravating circumstance was the use of the alleged perpetrator's knowledge of catholic doctrine, human psychology and philosophy to elicit trust in his words and actions.

Since REDACTED 16th birthday preceded by about five months the date on which the alleged first act of sexual abuse was perpetrated, these actions do not qualify as the delict of Canon 2359 #2. of the 1917 Code of Canon Law. Nevertheless, they will be used as adminicula in evaluating the principal complaint.

4. Declaration under penalty of perjury of REDACTED (Claimant Questionnaire)
5. Declaration under penalty of perjury of REDACTED for purposes of settling her claim with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.
6. Declaration under penalty of perjury of REDACTED
7. Minutes of meeting between REDACTED and Sister REDACTED of the Archdiocese with REDACTED and her husband.
8. Correspondence between Sister REDACTED and REDACTED
9. Interview of Canonical Investigator REDACTED with Detective James Brown.
10. Documentary evidence of publicity that attended the case.

REDACTED

3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, 90010-2241.

REDACTED

Security Consultants

18627 Brookhurst St. #607
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

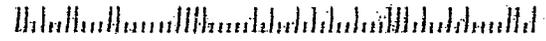
SANTA ANA, CA 92703
02 SEP 2009 PM 4 1



REDACTED

Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2202

90010+2202



REDACTED

December 15, 2008

Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3434 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90010-2202

Re: Monsignor Christian Van Liefde

Dear Members of the Board:

Today I contacted REDACTED, the brother of REDACTED, who has accused Monsignor Van Liefde of childhood sexual abuse. I explained that I represented the Archdiocese, that the Archdiocese was initiating a canonical proceeding to remove Monsignor Van Liefde from the clerical state and that the Archdiocese would appreciate his cooperation in testifying about any abuse that he suffered from Monsignor Van Liefde. I told him that his sister had testified that Monsignor Van Liefde had abused him. In her claimant questionnaire, she testified that, "Because of this abuse that was perpetrated on myself and my brother REDACTED, any kind of spirituality that we had has been shattered!"

Mr. REDACTED was quite hostile. He said he has been trying to get the Church to act for over a decade and now all of a sudden it wants to do something. He said he is tired of the whole thing, hates the Catholic Church, does not care any more about what happens to the priests, blames REDACTED for everything, and does not want to be involved in any way. I said that we needed victim testimony to remove the offending priests from ministry. He then said that he was not abused by Monsignor Van Liefde. But he was abused by Fr. REDACTED. He did not want to discuss the details and told me never to call again.

Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board
December 15, 2008
Page 2

Sincerely,

REDACTED

REDACTED
REDACTED

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REDACTED



FILE COPY
COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

REDACTED

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

6 February 2009

Msgr. Christian Van Liefde
REDACTED

Dear Chris,

The task has fallen to my office as REDACTED to try to resolve the outstanding cases in which a penal trial has been authorized for allegations of sexual misconduct by clergy with minors. It is in this capacity that I am writing you now.

Given the settlement of the lawsuits against the Archdiocese that occurred a little over a year ago, additional efforts were made to secure testimony and any other information relevant to your case. This has taken much effort and time but is now almost complete.

The final step of the so-called preliminary investigation is to invite you to an interview in which you will have the opportunity to review all the material and to make any statement that you may wish to give.

For this interview you will need to have your canonical advisor with you. The principal reason for this letter is to learn from you if indeed you have such a person. Please be aware that he must be a cleric. If you have not secured anyone's services as yet, I will be happy to supply you with a list of qualified priests to select from.

While we will advise you of your rights and apprise you of our estimate of the case as it has developed, it is important that you have access to professional, independent advice.

If you wish, a simple phone call will suffice to give me the name of your advisor or to ask that I send you a list. My direct office line is REDACTED A written reply is also fine.

I realize that this has been a very long, difficult road. I will make every effort to move the matter to a suitable conclusion. Praying for God's blessing on you, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
REDACTED



COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
Vicar for Clergy
(213) 637-7284

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

June 2, 2009

Rev. Msgr. Chris Van Liefde

[Redacted]

Dear Chris,

This letter is by way of following up on my previous letter of May 15, in which I sent you the names of two canonists who be able to offer you canonical counsel.

I am writing to ask if you have selected an adviser yet, and if so, who it is, so that we can make arrangements for him.

Since it is in everyone's interest not to delay the resolution of the matter, I need to inform you that [Redacted] will appoint Father [Redacted] as your *ex officio* adviser if we have not heard from you by the 15th of this month.

He is an excellent canonist and will have other duties this fall, so it is necessary that we schedule him soon.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Handwritten signature

Reverend Monsignor Gabriel Gonzales
Vicar for Clergy

*Chris -
you can reach me at
my cell [Redacted]
if you prefer.
[Redacted]*

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

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FILED
LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT
DEC 02 2003
JOHN A. CLARKE, CLERK
C. L. Coleman
BY C. L. COLEMAN, DEPUTY

Case assigned to
Judge

Elizabeth A. Grimes

Attorneys for Plaintiff

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - CENTRAL DISTRICT

JANE BJ DOE, an individual,

Case number: BC307034

Plaintiff,

JUDGE _____
DEPT: _____

vs.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

DOE 1; DOE 2; DOE 3; and
DOES 4 through 100, inclusive

- 1) CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE
- 2) NEGLIGENCE
- 3) NEGLIGENT SUPERVISION/FAILURE TO WARN
- 4) NEGLIGENT HIRING/RETENTION
- 5) FRAUD
- 6) BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY / CONFIDENTIAL RELATIONSHIP/CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT FRAUD
- 7) BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY
- 8) NEGLIGENT FAILURE TO WARN, TRAIN, EDUCATE
- 9) INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS
- 10) VIOLATION OF PENAL CODE SECTION 32
- 11) VIOLATION OF PENAL CODE 11166
- 12) VIOLATION OF PENAL CODE 273a(a), (b)
- 13) VIOLATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE SEC. 17200
- 14) NEGLIGENCE PER SE FOR STATUTORY VIOLATIONS
- 15) CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Defendants.

CIT/CASE: RC307034 LAM/DEP
 RECEIVED: _____
 CHECK: 349.50
 CASH:
 CHANGE:
 CARD:
 RECEIPT # _____
 DATE PAID: 12/02/03 09:31:03 PM
 PAYMENT: 4289.50
 0110 1

COMPLAINT

1) 16) PREMISES LIABILITY
 2) 17) SEXUAL ASSAULT and BATTERY
 3) 18) NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION
 4) [FILED PURSUANT TO CCP 340.1]
 5) [DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL]

6 Plaintiff JANE BJ DOE, an individual, alleges and complains as follows:

7 GENERAL ALLEGATIONS AS TO THE PARTIES

8 1. At all times mentioned herein, Plaintiff JANE BJ DOE
 9 (hereinafter PLAINTIFF) was a resident of the County of ORANGE,
 10 State of California. The name used by PLAINTIFF in this Complaint
 11 is not the real name of PLAINTIFF but is a fictitious name utilized
 12 to protect the privacy of PLAINTIFF, a victim of childhood sexual
 13 abuse. Plaintiff JANE BJ DOE (hereinafter Plaintiff) is an adult
 14 male, but was a minor at the time of the sexual abuse alleged
 15 herein.

16 2. Defendant DOE 1 (hereinafter DOE 1), was and is a
 17 corporation organized and existing under the law of the State of
 18 California, having its principal office in the County of Los
 19 Angeles, State of California.

20 3. Defendant DOE 2 (hereinafter DOE 2), was and is a
 21 corporation organized and existing under the law of the State of
 22 California having its principal office in the city of Mission
 23 Vlejo, County of Orange, State of California.

24 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon
 25 alleges that Defendant DOE 3 is an individual, presently residing
 26 in the City of Los Angeles, California. During the period of time
 27 in which the childhood sexual abuse alleged herein took place, DOE

REDACTED

p. 3

1 3 (hereinafter DOE 3) was an individual living in the County of
2 Orange, State of California and at all times was a priest ordained
3 and encardened by the DOE 1 and/or employed by the DOE 1.

4 6. At all times mentioned herein, each and every defendant,
5 including fictitiously named defendants, and DOE 3 were employees,
6 agents, and/or servants of the DOE 1 and DOE 2, and/or DOES 4
7 through 100, inclusive, and/or were under its complete control
8 and/or active supervision. Defendants and each of them and DOE 3
9 are individuals, corporations, partnerships and/or other entities
10 which engaged in, joined in and conspired with DOE 3, other
11 defendants and wrongdoers in carrying out the tortious and unlawful
12 activities described in this Complaint.

13 7. Defendants DOES 1,2,3,and 4 through 100 ("DOE
14 Defendants"), inclusive, and each of them, are sued herein under
15 said fictitious names. Plaintiff is ignorant as to the true names
16 and capacities of such DOE Defendants, whether individual,
17 corporate, associate, or otherwise, and therefore sues said
18 Defendants by such fictitious names. When their true names and
19 capacities are ascertained, Plaintiffs will request leave of Court
20 to amend this Complaint to state their true names and capacities
21 herein.

22 8. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis
23 alleges, that at all times mentioned herein, each fictitiously
24 named Defendant is responsible in some manner or capacity for the
25 occurrences herein alleged, and that Plaintiff's damages, as herein
26 alleged, were proximately caused by each said DOE Defendant.

27 9. Defendants, including DOE 1, DOE 2, DOE 3, and DOES 4 -
28

1 100, inclusive, are some times collectively referred to herein as
 2 "Defendants" and/or as "All Defendants"; such collective reference
 3 refers to all specifically named defendants as well as those
 4 fictitiously named herein.

5 10. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis
 6 alleges, that at all times mentioned herein, there existed a unity
 7 of interest and ownership among defendants and each of them, such
 8 that any individuality and separateness between Defendants, and
 9 each of them, ceased to exist. Defendants and each of them, were
 10 the successors-in-interest and/or alter egos of the other
 11 defendants, and each of them, in that they purchased, controlled,
 12 dominated and operated each other without any separate identity,
 13 observation of formalities or other manner of division. To continue
 14 maintaining the facade of a separate and individual existence
 15 between and among Defendants, and each of them, would serve to
 16 perpetrate a fraud and an injustice.

17 11. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis
 18 alleges, that at all times mentioned herein, Defendants and each of
 19 them and DOE 3 were the agents, representatives and/or employees of
 20 each and every other defendant. In doing the things hereinafter
 21 alleged, Defendants and each of them and DOE 3 were acting within
 22 the course and scope of said alternative personality, capacity,
 23 identity, agency, representation and/or employment and were within
 24 the scope of their authority, whether actual or apparent.

25 12. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis
 26 alleges, that at all times mentioned herein, Defendants and each of
 27 them and DOE 3 were the trustees, partners, servants, joint

28

1 | venturers, shareholders, contractors, and/or employees of each and
 2 | every other Defendant, and the acts and omissions herein alleged
 3 | were done by them, acting individually, through such capacity and
 4 | within the scope of their authority, and with the permission and
 5 | consent of each and every other Defendant or that said conduct was
 6 | thereafter ratified by each and every other Defendant, and that
 7 | each of them is jointly and severally liable to Plaintiff.

8 | 13. At all times material, DOE 3 was under the direct
 9 | supervision, employ, agency, and control of Defendants DOE 1, DOE
 10 | 2, DOE 3, and DOES 4 through 100, inclusive.

11 | 14. At all times material, DOE 3's employment duties with the
 12 | named defendants, included, in part, providing for the spiritual,
 13 | educational, physical and emotional needs and well-being of
 14 | parishioners, including plaintiff, of the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH,
 15 | and more specifically of DOE 1 and DOE 2.

16 | 15. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was a parishioner of DOE
 17 | 2, the parish and church controlled by Defendants and each of them.
 18 | It is under these circumstances that Plaintiff came to be under the
 19 | direction and control of DOE 3, who used his position of trust to
 20 | molest and sexually abuse Plaintiff.

21 | 16. As a parishioner at DOE 2, where DOE 3 was (employed and
 22 | worked ??), Plaintiff was under DOE 3's supervision and care,
 23 | creating a special fiduciary relationship or special care
 24 | relationship with Defendants, and each of them. As the responsible
 25 | party and/or employer controlling DOE 3, and as the operators of
 26 | the parish, Defendants were also in a special relationship with
 27 | Plaintiff.

28 |

Msgr Christian Van Liefde (CMOB #012)
Review Dec 22, 2008

Born 8-26-48; ordained deacon 6-15-72; priesthood 5-26-73.

June 2002 Placed on administrative leave, restricted from public ministry

March 22, 2006 Rome authorized a canonical trial, but that trial is on hold pending an interview of a second victim.

Victim #1: REDACTED

1. Bor
2. Abused 2 to 4 times a week from 8-73 to 2-75
3. She was 16 years 5 months old when it began; so it did not constitute a canonical delict.
4. He was 25 years old and became a priest 3 months before it started
5. Abuse consisted of fondling, hugging, messages, attempted oral sex, digital penetration and attempted intercourse.
6. He was close family friend
7. IV by REDACTED
8. Her ex-husband was seminary room mate with Van Liefde
9. Father was deposed and corroborated the abuse.

Victim #2: REDACTED

1. Born
2. Abused 6 or times between 1972 and 1976, when she was in the 9th & 10th grades.
3. She was not yet 16, so the acts constitute a canonical delict.
4. He would have been about 25 years old and either a deacon or priest.
5. Abuse consisted of touching her genitals, buttocks & breasts over and under the clothes, masturbation and attempted vaginal penetration.
6. Occurred during pastoral relationship.
7. Claims he also abused her brother, but her brother adamantly denies that occurred.

12-03 REDACTED contacted LAPD investigator who opined that, had statute not run, the facts were sufficient to sustain a criminal child molestation charge.

Detective confirmed that REDACTED was the more egregious case and that they knew of a second victim, but would not confirm or deny that REDACTED was 2nd victim.

To do:

1. Follow-up with LAPD to identify second victim.
2. While denying that VanLiefde abused him, REDACTED alleges that "REDACTED " did abuse him—who is he?
3. IV REDACTED ex-husband who roomed with Van Liefde at the Seminary

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DIOCESE OF CHEYENNE

Post Office Box 1468 • Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1468 • 307-638-1530 • Fax: 307- 637-7936

OFFICE OF THE TRIBUNAL

December 2, 2005

[Redacted]

Archdiocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2202

Dear Father [Redacted]

Thank you for your letter of November 17, 2005. I am pleased to be able to be of service to you, His Eminence Cardinal Mahony and the People of God of Los Angeles. My heartaches that the need for my assistance is due to the scandal of sexual abuse of minors by clerics and allegations against some specific clerics. Be assured I will do my best to be impartial, thorough, fair and just.

I have served as an associate judge in a trial involving the allegations of sexual abuse of minors by a cleric, and have been through the special training offered by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. I also bring eleven years of marriage case experience. I will not require a dispensation from the academic requirement of a doctorate in canon law, as I have this degree (see *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela, normae*, art. 8; Faculties to Dispense, February 7, 2003).

In addition to being Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Cheyenne, I am pastor of a parish of 900 families. I appreciate your efforts to minimize my time away from these duties.

I can be reached at the above numbers, and my email address is [Redacted]. Please address all correspondence to the above address. If need be, I may be reached in my parish, Holy Trinity, at 1 (307) 632-5872, ext. 15.

Please know my prayers for all involved.

Sincerely in Christ,

[Redacted Signature]

VAN LIEPDE



Fr. [Redacted]

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of the Archbishop
(213) 637-7288

3424 Wilshire Boulevard

Los Angeles California 90010-2202

November 2, 2005

[Redacted]

One Peter Yorke Way
San Francisco, CA 94109

Dear Bishop Wester:

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has given permission for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to proceed with two canonical trials involving priests who have been accused of the sexual abuse of minors.

[Redacted], in his role as the [Redacted] of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has appointed the [Redacted] to serve on one of the judicial panels.

We are not permitted to proceed until you have given your permission to have Father [Redacted] serve on a canonical panel dealing with a canonical trial here in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

I would be most grateful if you would inform me in writing if you would permit him to accept this assignment.

Thanking you for your kindness in considering this request, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ *Cardinal Roger Mahony*

His Eminence
Cardinal Roger Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles
Fax: (213) 637-6510



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of
the Archbishop
(213) 637-7288

3424
Wilshire
Boulevard

Los Angeles
California
90010-2202

November 2, 2005

Most Reverend Thomas Olmsted
Bishop of Phoenix
400 E. Monroe
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Dear Bishop Olmsted:

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has given permission for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to proceed with two canonical trials involving priests who have been accused of the sexual abuse of minors.

[REDACTED], in his role as the [REDACTED] of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has appointed the [REDACTED] to serve on one of the judicial panels.

We are not permitted to proceed until you have given your permission to have Father [REDACTED] serve on a canonical panel dealing with a canonical trial here in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

I would be most grateful if you would inform me in writing if you would permit him to accept this assignment.

Thanking you for your kindness in considering this request, and with kindest personal regards, I am

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ 

His Eminence
Cardinal Roger Mahony
Archbishop of Los Angeles
Fax: (213) 637-6510

CMOB # 012
Considered by CMOB
Inactive Date 9/22/2010
Case Name Christian Van Liefde
Active Case?

Priest Name Van Liefde, Christian M.
DOB 8/26/1948
Ethnicity Belgian
Diocese Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Canon State Prelate of Honor/Chaplain of His Holiness
Religious Order
Incardination
Date Of Ordination 5/26/1973
Clergy Status Administrative Leave

Clergy (Faculties)
Religious
Diocesan
Description

Deacon
DOB
Diocese
Ethnicity
Ordination
Status

Date Referred to Vicar 5/28/2003
Date Of Alleged Incident 1973
Alleged Victim Minor Female
Multiple Victims
Accusers
Investigation Complete
Investigator Name
Removed From Ministry
Date Removed From Ministry
Date Returned To Ministry
Case Disposition Substantiated
Disposition Comments

Intervention

Description Father is being investigated by the LAPD and has been on administrative leave for a year. He has not been the subject of a document subpoena and, at this point, it does not appear that charges will be filed against him. Father has requested permission to concelebrate two masses at public events involving members of his family.

Case Status

May 28, 2003	The request was considered and the Board unanimously agreed
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	that permission should not be given for Pat Van Liefde to concelebrate the masses.
October 08, 2003	The Board was advised that the Cardinal has written Rome requesting a formal finding on this matter, and that the investigator is involved.
November 10, 2004	A report was sent to Rome with additional information requesting authorization for a trial.
March 25, 2005	Expecting to hear from Rome regarding request for a canonical trial soon.
March 22, 2006	Trail has been authorized, but is on hold.
June 14, 2006	Permission has not been received to interview the second victim. Trial is on hold until this interview has been completed.
November 14, 2007	Cardinal has declared his term as officially concluded.
December 02, 2009	V/C gave Board an update, including the information that a new allegation against Fr. X has been received and, while it is inconsistent with previous complaints against him, it must be investigated. This will result in a delay in sending the case to Rome.
April 28, 2010	A new allegation arose in late 2009 involving a boy who accused the priest of molestation in 1984-85. Canonical Investigator [REDACTED] reported that the [REDACTED] Fr. Van Liefde's attorney will not consent to an interview but stated that the priest categorically denies each and every allegation. The case will be carried over to the next meeting.
August 25, 2010	After reviewing the case again and some discussion, the Board concluded that a recommendation should be made that Father not be returned to ministry and that a report should be submitted to the Cardinal about the Board's discussion, including dissenting opinions. A draft of the report will be presented at the next CMOB meeting for ratification (there was no quorum at the 8/24/2010 meeting).
September 22, 2010	Since there was a quorum, the Board reviewed the facts of the case again. A letter to the Cardinal from the Board Chair will be prepared detailing the case and all Board actions with the recommendations that: 1) a majority of the Board recommends that Msgr. Van Liefde be removed from public ministry permanently; a minority recommends that he be restored to full ministry and 2) the Board recommends that the two complainants be notified of the Archbishop's final decision on these matters.
December 02, 2010	Memo from Cardinal to Board Chair stating that he (Cardinal) agrees with majority of Board in recommending that Van Liefde be removed from ministry permanently and that the two complainants be notified of the Cardinal's final decision.

Follow Up
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Legal Proceedings?
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Response Date
Sent To Rome? *Date Sent To Rome*
Canonical Trial *Canonical Trial Date*
Canonical Disposition
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CMOB # 012

Considered by CMOB

Inactive Date 9/22/2010

Case Name Christian Van Liefde

Active Case?

Priest Name Van Liefde, Christian M.

DOB 8/26/1948

Ethnicity Belgian

Diocese Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Canon State Prelate of Honor/Chaplain of His Holiness

Religious Order

Incardination

Date Of Ordination 5/26/1973

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Multiple Victims

Accusers

Investigation Complete

Investigator Name

Removed From Ministry

Date Removed From Ministry

Date Returned To Ministry

Case Disposition Substantiated

Disposition Comments

Intervention

Description Father is being investigated by the LAPD and has been on administrative leave for a year. He has not been the subject of a document subpoena and, at this point, it does not appear that charges will be filed against him. Father has requested permission to concelebrate two masses at public events involving members of his family.

Case Status

May 28, 2003 The request was considered and the Board unanimously agreed

October 08, 2003	that permission should not be given for Father Van Liefde to concelebrate the masses.
November 10, 2004	The Board was advised that the Cardinal has written Rome requesting a formal finding on this matter, and that the investigator is involved.
March 25, 2005	A report was sent to Rome with additional information requesting authorization for a trial.
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Follow Up
Follow Up Date
Legal Proceedings
Legal Proceedings?
Court Cases Settled
Response
Response Date
Sent To Rome? *Date Sent To Rome*
Canonical Trial *Canonical Trial Date*
Canonical Disposition
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CMOB # 011
Considered by CMOB
Inactive Date
Case Name Christian Van Liefde
Active Case?

Priest Name Van Liefde, Christian M.
DOB 8/26/1948
Ethnicity Belgian
Diocese Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Canon State Prelate of Honor/Chaplain of His Holiness
Religious Order
Incardination
Date Of Ordination May 26, 1973
Clergy Status Administrative Leave

Clergy (Faculties)
Religious
Diocesan
Description

Deacon
DOB
Diocese
Ethnicity
Ordination
Status

Date Referred to Vicar 5/28/2003
Date Of Alleged Incident 1973
Alleged Victim Minor Female
Multiple Victims
Accusers
Investigation Complete
Investigator Name
Removed From Ministry
Date Removed From Ministry
Date Returned To Ministry
Case Disposition Unresolved
Disposition Comments

Intervention

Description Father is being investigated by the LAPD and has been on administrative leave for a year. He has not been the subject of a document subpoena and, at this point, it does not appear that charges will be filed against him. Father has requested permission to concelebrate two masses at public events involving members of his family.

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Follow Up Awaiting canonical resolution.

Follow Up Date

Legal Proceedings

Legal Proceedings?

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Response Date

Sent To Rome?

Date Sent To Rome

Canonical Trial

Canonical Trial Date

Canonical Disposition

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CMOB # 012
Considered by CMOB
Inactive Date
Case Name Christian Van Liefde
Active Case?

Priest Name Van Liefde, Christian M.
DOB 8/26/1948
Ethnicity Belgian
Diocese Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Canon State Prelate of Honor/Chaplain of His Holiness
Religious Order
Incardination
Date Of Ordination May 26, 1973
Clergy Status Administrative Leave

Clergy (Faculties)
Religious
Diocesan
Description

Deacon
DOB
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Ordination
Status

Date Referred to Vicar 5/28/2003
Date Of Alleged Incident 1973
Alleged Victim Minor Female
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Accusers
Investigation Complete
Investigator Name
Removed From Ministry
Date Removed From Ministry
Date Returned To Ministry
Case Disposition Unresolved
Disposition Comments

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Follow Up Awaiting canonical resolution.

Follow Up Date

Legal Proceedings

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Court Cases Settled

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Sent To Rome?

Date Sent To Rome

Canonical Trial

Canonical Trial Date

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**Confidential
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Memorandum

To: REDACTED

From:

Date: January 14, 2010

Subject: Rev. Christian Van Liefde;
REDACTED
St. Francis de Sales Church
Sherman Oaks, CA

Case #: CMOB 012

Enclosures: REDACTED dated September 27, 2009.
Reports from REDACTED Report from REDACTED
Government's Response to REDACTED Sentencing
Position Paper.

Summary

In June of 2002, Rev. Christian Van Liefde was placed on administrative leave after two women made allegations that he had sexually abused them in 1973 and 1974 when they were fifteen and sixteen years old.

In October of 2009, REDACTED through an attorney made an allegation that Rev. Van Liefde sexually molested him in 1984 or 1985 when he was nine or ten years old. REDACTED did not recall the molestation until June of 2008, four months after he pled guilty to REDACTED and sixteen months before he was sentenced. REDACTED used the allegations of the molestation in his defense to argue for a lesser prison sentence.

A review of REDACTED, criminal court file was done along with interviews of REDACTED REDACTED the former pastor at St. Francis, and Sister REDACTED a former teacher at the school.

Results of Investigation

REDACTED who graduated from St. Francis de Sales Elementary School in 1989 alleged that when he was nine or ten years old, he was sexually abused by Rev. Christian Van Liefde in 1984 or 1985. On June 1, 2008, REDACTED claimed that his repressed memory of the abuse by Rev. Van Liefde resurfaced for the first time.

REDACTED prepared a DVD through his attorney in July of 2009 and a written declaration on September 27, 2009. On January 8, 2010, Auditor REDACTED REDACTED viewed the DVD.

In both the DVD and declaration, REDACTED recounted his alleged abuse by Rev. Van Liefde in the sacristy of the church. REDACTED claimed that in two instances he was in his altar boy robes wearing only underwear underneath while Rev. Van Liefde was in his priestly robes but naked underneath. Rev. Van Liefde performed oral sex on REDACTED and then forced REDACTED to perform oral sex and also sodomized him. In a third instance Rev. Van Liefde allegedly sodomized REDACTED but was wearing pants instead of his robes.

REDACTED cited details of various problems to include REDACTED since childhood, REDACTED REDACTED has seen eight different therapists. REDACTED a therapist, began treating REDACTED in January of 2007 and questioned him whether he was exposed to trauma, sexual molestation, or inappropriate sexual stimulation at an early age. After REDACTED recovered his memory of the molestation in June of 2008, he continued to see REDACTED who wrote a report of how his molestation affected his later life choices.

On October 12, 2006, federal agents serve a search warrant for REDACTED computer at his work place for investigation of REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED On September 19, 2007, REDACTED was indicted by a federal grand jury in Los Angeles for REDACTED REDACTED initially was facing 70 to 87 months in prison.

On February 25, 2008, REDACTED pled guilty to REDACTED REDACTED On November 4, 2009, REDACTED was sentenced to 36 months in federal prison and is required to surrender himself on February 8, 2010.

In REDACTED arguments to the court for a reduced sentence, he claimed that his alleged abuse by Rev. Van Liefde contributed to his later problems to include viewing child pornography. REDACTED a clinical psychologist, wrote a report for the prosecution in response to the report by REDACTED therapists. In her conclusion paragraph REDACTED wrote:

"The alleged molestation may be true. If this was a case of so-called recovered memories, there are factors that could reduce the reliability of the account, including therapist pursuit of the issue and the fact that he was under indictment. Recovered memory accounts are less common in victims who are as old as age ten at the time of the abuse, because their cognitive development has matured to the point that they have adequate source memory, they have continuous autobiographical (episodic) memory functioning."
(line 27, page 28 or 29 or actual page 17)

The U.S. Attorneys Office filed a court document entitled "Government Response to Defendant REDACTED Sentencing Position Paper" that contains comments starting on page 22 of 30 (or page 17, paragraph C of the actual document) about the molestation. It includes the statement: "Accordingly, defendant's attempt to explain his REDACTED that he possessed by pointing to the recently remembered abuse he purportedly suffered is plagued with some obvious and significant flaws." (page 26 of 30 or document page 21, line 5).

REDACTED attorney representing the ADLA, proposed a \$ REDACTED settlement. However REDACTED rejected it and countered with \$ REDACTED is having a staff psychologist review REDACTED declaration and REDACTED report. Because REDACTED was over 26 years old in 2003, this a *Hightower* case.

REDACTED

REDACTED has been the pastor at St. Francis de Sales Church from 1981 until he retired in 2009. Rev. Chris Van Liefde was an associate priest there from 1982 until 1986. REDACTED last saw Rev. Van Liefde six weeks ago at an annual retreat called the House of Prayer. He was with a group of other priests. REDACTED was aware that accusations had been made against Rev. Van Liefde and that he was out of ministry but did not know the details. He is living with his parents in Mission Viejo. Prior to Rev. Van Liefde coming to St. Francis, he was a principal at a high school.

When Rev. Van Liefde was at St. Francis, he was a fine priest. REDACTED never had any problems with him or had received any complaints from parents.

When REDACTED took over as pastor at St. Francis in 1981, REDACTED had been accused of sexual abuse against altar servers. Because of that case, REDACTED was very cognizant of not allowing something like that to occur again by oversight of parish activities. There was an atmosphere at St. Francis of awareness of proper protocol and behavior. Because Rev. Van Liefde replaced REDACTED Rev. Larkin would have made him aware of this policy. Besides Rev. Van Liefde; there was another associate at St. Francis.

REDACTED was responsible for the training of the altar servers in the 1984 to 1985 time frame. He felt that the associates did not train them properly. All the servers at that time were boys who began as altar servers in the fifth grade. Almost all the boys at school were altar servers. REDACTED tried to have adults present whenever he was training altar servers. He also had an open door policy for the sacristy and encouraged the parents of altar servers to come in to help the boys get dressed. Adult lay persons acted as sacristans to help set up the Mass. There were five to six altar servers for each Sunday Mass. Therefore there usually were many people around the sacristy before and after Mass. However REDACTED said that the victims of REDACTED were altar servers whom he molested in the sacristy.

Adults were the altar servers for the weekday Masses. REDACTED said that no school age boys were servers for the weekdays. Sometimes the boys served at funeral Masses but eventually REDACTED had adults perform that duty.

REDACTED did not remember REDACTED nor did he recognize a picture of REDACTED as an adult from REDACTED DVD declaration. REDACTED did not recognize a photograph of REDACTED brother, REDACTED as a youth depicted with Rev. Van Liefde on the DVD. REDACTED did remember the parents REDACTED and that REDACTED was active in the church. He could not provide any other details about the family. REDACTED could not say whether REDACTED was an altar server. His eighth grade teacher was REDACTED She was a friend of family.

REDACTED advised that the St. Francis sacristy has not changed since the 1980's. He described it as large. He provided a tour of the sacristy which consisted of four rooms all connected to each other with doors: the priest's sacristy that had a small restroom and walk-in safe as part of it; the altar servers sacristy that had a closet for the server's robes; a smaller flower room; and a storage room that formerly had been a men's restroom. A door from the priest's sacristy and a door from the altar servers opened into a curved hallway behind the altar. REDACTED advised that usually the priests had the doors open to their sacristy room because they did not require any privacy to put on their robes. He explained that the priests would come to the sacristy already dressed and just put the Mass vestments over their clothing.

REDACTED

Montebello, CA
REDACTED

January 14, 2010 (telephonic)

REDACTED had taught eighth grade at St. Francis de Sales School from 1979 to 1987. She knew REDACTED and their sons REDACTED REDACTED taught REDACTED but not REDACTED who was the youngest because she left before he reached the eighth grade. REDACTED knew REDACTED the least of the REDACTED boys.

The REDACTED were an affluent family as the father owned a construction company. REDACTED remained friends with REDACTED after she left. REDACTED received a Christmas card and note from REDACTED this year. However REDACTED did not say anything about REDACTED

REDACTED never heard that REDACTED had any problems or illness while attending school.

REDACTED knew Rev. Christian Liefde. She thought he was a good priest and never suspected that there were any issues with him. He was well liked by everyone. REDACTED REDACTED was not involved in the altar servers. She was shocked to hear about the original allegations against him and was not aware of the complaint by REDACTED

Rev. Van Liefde used to take four eighth graders one day each week during school hours to visit the residents of a convalescent home. He would say Mass there and the students would visit with the residents. He would take both boys and girls. He never took any students alone. Permission from the parents was obtained for the students to go on these visits.

REDACTED whose two daughters attended St. Francis, were good friends with Rev. Van Liefde. They now live in Newport Beach and still see him.

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Record of Investigation/Interview

On November 18, 2009, Detective Juan Perez, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Juvenile Division made available LAPD files for case number S0206023001 related to the investigation of Reverend Christian Van Liefde. Detective Perez advised that the files were available for review in their entirety; however, he was only authorized to provide copies of the initial reports made by the victims. Review of the files revealed the following:

The investigative files for LAPD case number S0206023001 consist of two separate file folders; one for REDACTED and the second for REDACTED

The folder for REDACTED only contains a confidentiality request form and a preliminary investigation report, both dated August 27, 2002. Copies of both documents were obtained from Detective Perez and they are attached hereto.

The folder for REDACTED also contained a confidentiality request form attached to the preliminary investigation report and both documents were dated June 26, 2002. Copies of both documents were obtained and are attached hereto. The folder also contained several other documents, including, but not limited to, declarations made by REDACTED and other witnesses in connection with REDACTED lawsuit against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (ADLA) and email correspondence from REDACTED to LAPD Detective James Brown. It is noted that, with the exception of the email correspondence and a handwritten note of a telephone message from someone named REDACTED the other documents are identical to items in possession of the ADLA in this matter.

Further, in an email dated August 5, 2002 from REDACTED to Detective Brown, REDACTED makes reference to a girl named REDACTED who Van Liefde had introduced to her as a good friend. REDACTED further stated that when Van Liefde was a deacon at his first parish, Stewart came to visit him from Ojai and that she had a crush on Van Liefde. REDACTED did not specifically state that REDACTED was a victim and the file does not reflect that Detective Brown conducted any investigation to determine the relationship between REDACTED and Van Liefde.

In addition, in the same email, REDACTED states that when her mother told REDACTED about her concerns regarding the relationship between her and Van Liefde, REDACTED referred her to the pastor, REDACTED. According to REDACTED REDACTED referred her mother to REDACTED because there had been a "problem with another girl", but her mother never told her because she did not want to hurt her feelings.

Review of Los Angeles Police Department Records
Investigation on: November 18, 2009 at 100 W. First Street, Los Angeles, California
By: Canonical Auditor REDACTED

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Attorney Work Product

REDACTED claims she only found out when she fully disclosed the extent of her relationship with Van Liefde to her mother.

The last item of interest in the file is a hand written note documenting a telephone call to LAPD on July 18, 2002 from someone named REDACTED who would not provide a last name. REDACTED reported that in approximately 1981 -1982, when Van Liefde was the Principal at Our Lady of Loretto High School, there were a series of reported incidents of child molestation in the area of the church and the children were coaxed into the church by the perpetrator. She also claims that the police investigated the reports and the incidents were reported by the Los Angeles Times. She further states that the police drawing of the suspect looked like Van Liefde and parents had made a report to the ADLA.

REDACTED did provide a contact telephone number REDACTED. The file reflects that Detective Brown attempted to contact REDACTED by telephone, but never received a return call.

Review of Los Angeles Police Department Records
Investigation on: November 18, 2009 at 100 W. First Street, Los Angeles, California
By: Canonical Auditor [REDACTED]
