

Father James J. Grear: Paper Trail

Her Velvety Voice, Her 'Magic': Friends Honor Claudette Colbert

By Enid Nemy

Sept. 5, 1996

Claudette Colbert would have loved it. She might have protested modestly in what was described as her cream-of-tomato-soup voice, but she would probably have been the first to chuckle over the anecdotes and reminiscences at the memorial service held for her yesterday in Manhattan. The legendary actress, who made more than 60 films and appeared in a number of stage productions, died on July 30 at her home in Barbados at the age of 92.

Some 700 friends (and several handfuls of fans) attended the 100-minute service held at St. Vincent Ferrer Church on the Upper East Side, where Miss Colbert was confirmed, received her First Communion and often went to sit in solitude. Four of the clergymen closest to her -

- the Revs. Boniface Ramsay and Frederick D. Hoesli of St. Vincent Ferrer, the Rev. Jerome Vereb, a representative of the Holy See, and the **Rev. James J. Grear of Barbados** -- took part in the service.

The one word that would best describe Miss Colbert was "magic," said the screenwriter Leonard Gershe. He recalled seeing her for the first time at a garden party given by Clifton Webb for Noel Coward. The woman with whom Mr. Gershe was talking saw his reaction and hustled him through the crowd to meet the actress, bumping half of Hollywood along the way. "I remember Barbara Stanwyck saying 'Watch it, willya!'" he said.

Helen O'Hagan, a long-standing friend and confidante, read several letters she had received after Miss Colbert's death, including one from Susan Pollack, who worked with Miss Colbert on the television production of "The Two Mrs. Grenvilles" in 1987. Ms. Pollack recounted the advice she had received from the actress: "One vitamin and one vodka a day, and I'd be like her and live a long and happy life," she said. "I said, 'But will I have those legs?' She just laughed."

Among the recollections of Robert Bernstein, chairman of Human Rights Watch and former chairman of Random House, was a glimpse of Miss Colbert's more acerbic side. He recalled her comment at a cocktail party when "someone was prattling on too long." She leaned toward a friend and said, sotto voce, "When you're born dumb, it's for a long time."

Among those at the service were a niece, Claudette Lewis; Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and his wife, Vera; Bobby Short; Phyllis Cerf Wagner; Betty Comden; Grace Mirabella and Dr. William Cahan; Dominick Dunne; Leonora Hornblow, widow of the Hollywood producer Arthur Hornblow; Peter Rogers, an advertising executive; the designers Adolfo, Geoffrey Beene, Donald Brooks, Bill Blass and Arnold Scaasi, and the restaurateur Glenn Birnbaum of Mortimer's.

Later, at a reception at Mortimer's, more memories were shared. Richard Nicholson, an employee of the men's department at Saks Fifth Avenue, said he had met Miss Colbert a number of times since their first encounter in the store in 1969. He was particularly delighted, he said, when he gave her a photograph to sign in 1988, when she was 85 years old. "She looked at the picture," he said, "took the felt-tipped pen and began retouching her neck and shoulders."

Marie Corbin of Barbados, Miss Colbert's "maid, cook, nurse, everything" for 31 years, remembered that when she was first hired, "Madam had a big party to introduce me to her friends."

"I loved her beyond love," she said. "I dreamt that she's happy; I saw her laughing."

Source: *The New York Times*, Sept. 5, 1996 "Her Velvety Voice, Her 'Magic': Friends Honor Claudette Colbert" by Enid Nemy

More victims come forward with accusations of abuse by former Indiana priest

by: Randy Spieth

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INDIANAPOLIS - Two new victims have come forward claiming they were sexually abused by Father James Grear. They said it happened while he was an English teacher and the dean of students at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis.

The lawsuits, filed in Marion County, claim two adult men were sexually assaulted in 1974 and 1975 while they were between the ages of 12 and 13.

The two claim Grear would buy them gifts and took them on trips. He also took them to his apartment where sexual contact took place.

Brebeuf's president has issued a letter to families in the school's community. He said both USA Midwest Jesuit Province and the school have not been notified of any allegation against Grear while he was an employee. The president added the school has a zero-tolerance policy on the issue and even gave contact information to anyone who suspected their loved ones were abused.

The school was not named in the lawsuit, but The Roman Catholic Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and Grear were all named as defendants.

The two accusers said the diocese knew about Grear and moved him to the church in Carmel to help cover it up.

A man has filed a lawsuit claiming in the 1980s that he was sexually assaulted the Our Lady of Mount Carmel's gymnasium. This was the first lawsuit filed accusing Grear was sexual abuse.

of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP). "One example is one gymnast comes forward and then followed by 500 more."

All three lawsuits name the same parties as defendants, and they include 100 unidentified employees who they said also worked to cover up Grear's actions.

Lennon said the church's actions are consistent with what other employees have done across the country.

"It's not unusual," he said. "It's not unheard of. We've seen these consistent practices of church officials on both coasts, covering up of the sexual abuse of hundreds of victims."

Lennon said anyone wanting to report sexual abuse can call the SNAP office or Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN).

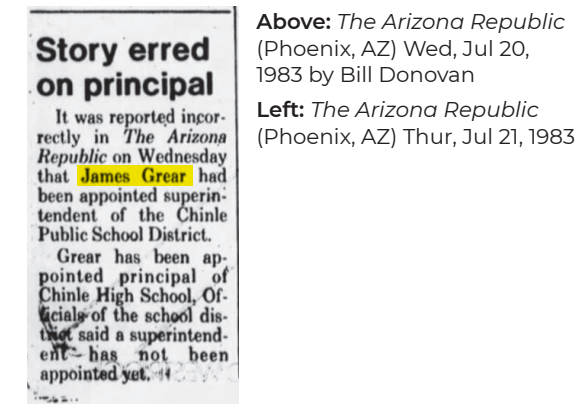
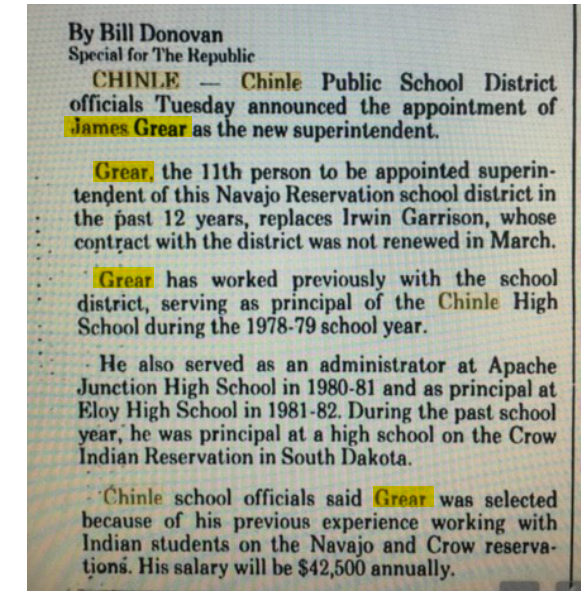
Earlier this month, the Indiana Attorney General's Office began an online form for Hoosiers to report clergy abuse. A spokesperson at the office said the form has been used eight times since it went online.

Source: Fox 59, March 25, 2019 "More victims come forward with accusations of abuse by former Indiana priest" by Randy Spieth



Above: *Pacific Daily News* (Agana Heights, Guam) Fri, Apr 27, 1990; Page 92

Below: *North County Times* (Oceanside, California) Sun, Aug 4, 1996; Page 12



Above: *The Arizona Republic* (Phoenix, AZ) Wed, Jul 20, 1983 by Bill Donovan

Left: *The Arizona Republic* (Phoenix, AZ) Thur, Jul 21, 1983