

Complaint File – Romeo J. Valliere

CONFIDENTIAL

April 18, 1989

Dr. Henry Ouellette
282 Concord Street
Manchester, New Hampshire 03104

Dear Dr. Ouellette:

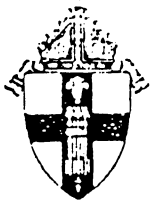
As a result of our recent conversations, I wish to inform you, for the sake of the record, that Father Romeo Valliere will be contacting you in the immediate future to set up an appointment. Father Valliere admits to having a homosexual problem, and we feel it is most important for him to begin to deal with this problem. He has agreed to undergoing a complete series of tests as you deem appropriate, and has also agreed to allow you to share the results of those tests and your recommendations with the Diocese.

Thank you for your kind assistance in this matter, and if I can be of any help to you, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor



SECRETARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND CANONICAL AFFAIRS

Diocese of Manchester, 153 Ash Street, P.O. Box 310, Manchester, NH 03105-0310 603-669-3100

June 26, 1989

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Henry P. Ouellette, Ph.D.
Director, Consultation Service for Clergy and Religious
282 Concord Street
Manchester, New Hampshire 03104

Dear Dr. Ouellette:

On Wednesday, June 14th, I met with Father Romeo Valliere to discuss with him the results of your most helpful psychological evaluation. Father Valliere was most positive in his assessment of the assistance you were giving him, and may I once again thank you for all you do for him and all the priests and religious you assist.

I shared with Father Valliere the concern of the Diocese that the rumors of his involvement with boys who were minors had become so strong that it simply was not possible for the Diocese to reassign him until we verified that such rumors were in effect false. He seemingly understands our position in this regard. When pressed, he admitted to me that on two widely separated occasions a long time ago he had been involved in kissing and fondling two young men. He claims that there was no attempt at any kind of sexual act, and that these incidents have not been repeated. This admission is, as you know, a change in his story, since he had originally denied he had any problems at all with young men.

I would hasten to add that Father Valliere denies he has had any recent difficulties in this regard. Given his admission of these serious past problems, however, I stated to Father Valliere that the Diocese could certainly not reassign him without clear recommendations from more than one expert that the problem was indeed under control, and that there is no present or serious risk to other people. I explained to him that while the Diocese values your professional expertise and recommendations in this regard, a second opinion from an inpatient addiction center would be absolutely necessary before we could even begin to discuss reassignment. Could I ask you to discuss this whole matter with Father Valliere, and to advise me whether such a second opinion, and whatever treatment is involved, is viable, and how we should proceed to obtain it.

In conclusion, may I thank you once again for your invaluable assistance in helping Father Valliere.

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

October 12, 1989

Donald Hands, Ph.D.
Primary Therapist, Clinical Psychologist
Saint Barnabas Center
34810 Fabst Road
Oconomowoc, WI 53066D

Dear Dr. Hands:

Thank you for your recent communication in reference to Father Romeo Valliere.

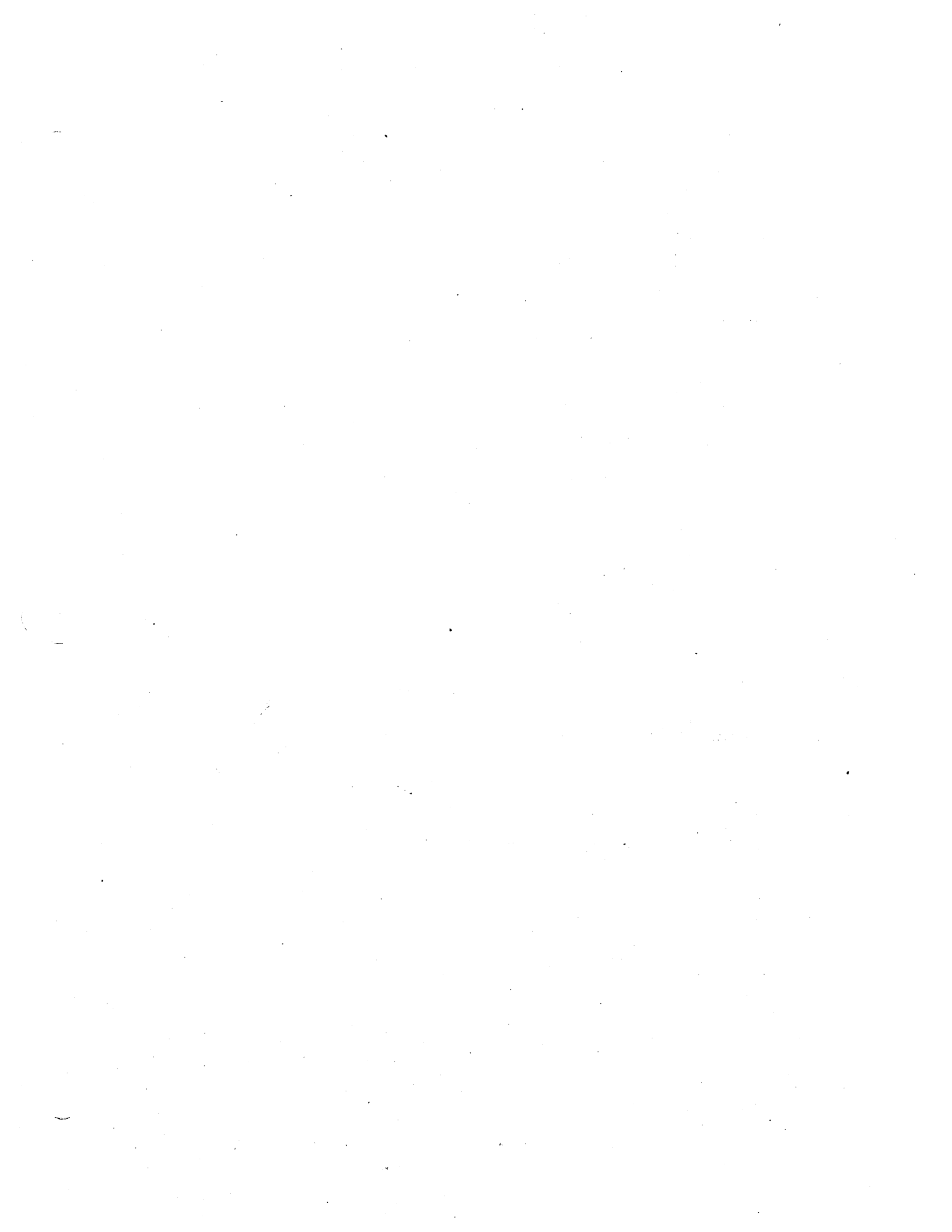
Romeo is now home and with his family in Berlin. I have spoken with him at some length, and we have agreed that he may do week-end ministry in the local area for the time being. I have spoken with the women who had brought their concerns to us, and they seem satisfied with the treatment he has received and the assurances you have provided us. I explained to Romeo my desire that he get his support systems into place as soon as possible. He intends to look into this matter with Dr. Ouellette's help, and indicated he would discuss these points with you when he returns for his after-care treatment in November.

It would appear that we would look to reassigning Romeo some time within the next two to three months, depending on the sort of ministry that becomes available that would be helpful to him, based on your recommendations.

In closing, let me thank you for all that you have done for him during his time with you. I very much enjoyed my visit with you and the other members of the staff, and would look forward to being in touch with you again in the near future. With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christisn
Secretary
Chancellor



West Stewartstown, N.H.
June 14, 1976

058

Most Reverend Bishop Gendron,

We are very sorry that we have to write this unpleasant letter, As much as we appreciated Father Valliere we realize that he is not the Pastor we had hoped for.

We were pleased when he prepared a place in his rectory for our boys to meet, but when we became aware that they were allowed to drink and stay there all night we became suspicious. Finally this weekend we had to go after our boys who were drunk and in a very bad situation.

Some of the boys stated that he is not ashamed of smoking "pot" with them. They also repeat bad "jokes" told THEM by Father.

Some parents are not aware so they don't seem to mind but our children are minors and we want their protection. Please help us save our children from worse harm.

If you want more information you may call us.

[REDACTED]

We are sorry that we have to place this problem in your hands but you are our Bishop and we trust that you shall do what is best for our children.

If possible we would like this confidential between you and us.

Sincerely in Christ,

[REDACTED]

P.S. I am aware of the situation as written above.
Sister Rita Marie, Principal

June 18, 1976

Sister Rita Marie

[REDACTED]
West Stewartstown, N.H.

Dear friends:

May I take this opportunity to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 14th expressing your genuine concern over the situation in your parish rectory. Realizing that it was not easy or pleasant for you to write such a letter, I wish to express my personal gratitude to you for bringing this matter to my attention.

May I simply assure you that I have given the contents of your letter my immediate attention and have handled this situation in a pastoral manner.

Please keep me in your prayers, and be assured of a daily remembrance in my Masses and prayers.

With every prayerful good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

June 18, 1976

Sister Rita Marie
[REDACTED]

West Stewartstown, N.H.

Dear friends:

May I take this opportunity to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 14th expressing your genuine concern over the situation in your parish rectory. Realizing that it was not easy or pleasant for you to write such a letter, I wish to express my personal gratitude to you for bringing this matter to my attention.

May I simply assure you that I have given the contents of your letter my immediate attention and have handled this situation in a pastoral manner.

Please keep me in your prayers, and be assured of a daily remembrance in my Masses and prayers.

With every prayerful good wish, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

Fr. Edward J. Arsenault

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2001 11:56 AM
To: 'Father Arsenault'
Subject: Follow-up

I am following up on your inquiry about the e-mail [REDACTED] received with regards to Father T. [REDACTED] had already met with [REDACTED] and a response had been sent to the individual as follows:

"Thank you for sharing your concern with Catholic Medical Center. I checked into our employee records, this person is not an employee of Catholic Medical Center. Our records indicate that no one by that name has been employed here in the past few years."

Hope you are still on vacation and having a relaxing time. Father Bert said I could go to your church in July as long as I come back to him in August.

Thought you might like to know that my daughter is starting a new job mid-July [REDACTED]
I am really happy for her, it is a great environment and should be less stressful than what she is doing now.

Happy Fourth!

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

PERSON INTERVIEWED: [REDACTED]
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: [REDACTED]
DATE OF INTERVIEW: February 20, 2002
INTERVIEWED BY: Michael Bahan, Chief Investigator

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] was telephonically interviewed regarding Father ALBERT L. BOULANGER. [REDACTED] provided the following information, in substance:

[REDACTED] indicated that he has been living in [REDACTED] for over 20 years. He is only responding to this office because of the professional manner in which the Attorney General of New Hampshire is handling this uncomfortable issue. [REDACTED] stated that he believed the Attorney General is not on a witch hunt and that he has gone through years of personal burden and has had serious problems with this since he was a kid. [REDACTED] stated that he had a lot of trauma at the time and believed he was robbed of his youth and he has carried for years a burden of guilt. [REDACTED] said years later in college he told his family and later he told his wife about the sexual assaults.

[REDACTED] said that during 1963 or 1964, that he had been sexually assaulted by BOULANGER, who at that time was the Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Claremont, New Hampshire. [REDACTED] said he was an altar boy and came from a very religious family. He stated that the incident happened in Claremont at the church and also on a camping trip on the Connecticut lakes that BOULANGER had taken him along with some other altar boys.

[REDACTED] said that FATHER ROMEO J. VALLIERE was another Priest who was friendly with BOULANGER and that he used to drive the other altar boys around. [REDACTED] said that VALLIERE never assaulted him, but he thought that he was a pig as VALLIERE use to always talk about pornography and show it to the other boys. [REDACTED] stated he kept this to himself for many years and it took him a long time to get over the incidents.

[REDACTED] stated that he did not feel that he needed any counseling because he had lived through this for so long, however, he would be willing to provide any further information required of him regarding these issues.

GMB:sch
181169

FILE SUMMARY

Name	Romeo J. Valliere
Date of Birth	04/26/34
Date Ordained	02/02/63
Service	<p>02/11/63 St. Augustine, Manchester</p> <p>09/20/63 Sacred Heart, Laconia</p> <p>08/03/65 St. Mary, Claremont</p> <p>04/02/69 Holy Angels, Plaistow</p> <p>10/10/73 St. Anthony, Manchester</p> <p>01/15/76 St. Albert, West Stewartstown</p> <p>09/05/84 Holy Family, Gorham</p> <p>03/15/89 Resigned Pastorate</p> <p>04/01/89 Sick Leave</p> <p>06/20/90 Our Lady of the Mountains, North Conway</p> <p>01/26/96 Sick Leave</p> <p>06/05/01 Retired</p>
Date and Nature of Complaint	<p>There is a letter dated June 14, 1976 in the file from two women in West Stewartstown, New Hampshire indicating that Romeo Valliere allowed boys to stay all night and drink in the rectory. There is also a reference to smoking marijuana and children repeating bad "jokes" told them by him. There is also reference to an anonymous report to the Diocese in 1989 by an adult that Valliere had hugged and kissed him when he was a minor.</p> <p>In a June 26, 1989 letter from the Diocese to Dr. Henry P. Ouellette referring Valliere for treatment, there is a reference to rumors of his involvement with boys who are minors and the fact that it is not possible to reassign him until those rumors were proven false.</p>
Response Action Taken	<p>Valliere resigned his pastorate on March 7, 1989, at the request of the Diocese and he was referred to Dr. Henry Guertin Ouellette and then subsequently for residential treatment at to St. Barnabas Center in Wisconsin. After a report dated September 22, 1989 concerning his suitability, he was returned to ministry with no restrictions.</p> <p>He was placed on sick leave in 1996 and granted retired status June 5, 2001 by Bishop McCormack as the result of unrelated medical matters.</p>

VALLIERE, ROMEO J.
File Summary
Page 2 of 2

Additional Complaints	None
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MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATES

BOX 549

JACKSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03846

Telephone 383-9183

1756

Robert Richardson, M.D.

N. William White, A.C.S.W.

Richard Anderson, Ph.D.

PATIENT RECORD RELEASE FORM

SECOND REQUEST

Patient Name FATHER Romeo Valliere

Patient Address 356 Hillsboro St

Berlin N.H. 03570

Date of Birth 4-26-34

Physician or center from/to which records are being requested/sent:

CHANCERY OFFICE

153 ASH ST BOX 310

MANCHESTER N.H. 03105

Requesting/sending records from the date of Jan 85 to present

Specific information being requested/sent:

PERSONEL FILES - from Jan 85 through present Day.

PLEASE INCLUDE COPY OF LETTER OF RESIGNATION FROM FEB 89

I give my permission for my medical or other applicable records to be sent to Mental Health Associates, or the above specified address.

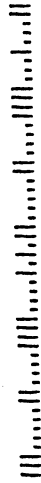
Dec 8, 1992
Date

Romeo Valliere
Signature

Robert Richardson, M.D.
MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATES
BOX 549
JACKSON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03846



Chancery Office
153 Ash Street
Box 310
Manchester, NH 03105



January 11, 1990

Rev. Romeo J. Valliere
356 Hillsboro Street
Berlin, New Hampshire 03570

Dear Father Romeo:

I am most grateful to you for taking the time to share with me, at some length, your feelings regarding the difficult few months you have experienced. I can certainly understand the anger and pain that you went through and which you still have not totally resolved. It seems to me, however, that as painful as all of this has been, you have benefitted from the therapy that you experienced at Saint Barnabas. I hope and pray that the deeper insights you have gained into yourself can be the beginning of the next step of your priestly life, which I hope and pray can be even more satisfying and fruitful than it was previously.

I am sorry if you feel that I or any of my staff did not give you the proper support and help you needed. Everything that was done was done with only two purposes in mind; first, to help you to avoid any serious legal problems and preserve your good reputation, and secondly, to safeguard the Church. I must honestly state that, based on our experience, had we acted in any fashion differently than we did, both of those goals could have been seriously jeopardized.

At this point, I am obviously most concerned about your happiness and welfare in the future. I appreciate the fact that you need time to let things settle and to get your life in good order. I am grateful for the ministry you are doing in the north country at present, and hope that it will be a good stepping stone for you to something more full time when you are ready for that step. If I can be of any help to you in the weeks ahead, please do not hesitate to call upon me. At this point, I am most willing to meet and discuss your future with you at any time, but I will wait for you to initiate such a conversation when you feel it is appropriate.

Assuring you of my prayerful best wishes, I am

Cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Manchester

I Dec 20, 1989

1759

Dear Bishop:

After much reflection and prayer, with the pain of my past personal experience, with much hesitation I write this letter. For nearly twenty-seven years I have served and dedicated myself as a priest to the Church. I had always considered my priesthood a wonderful and joyful calling. I had, a while back, reflected on how blessed I had been since Ordination. These thoughts I had shared with the priests of the Urban Deanery, just before Christmas two years ago. I mentioned then how I had enjoyed being a priest but had come to realize that I had not yet really lived in anyway close to what Christ had for me to share His Priesthood. Was I then aware of preparing myself physically and spiritually for that time? Aware I was, prepared I was not, as it became evident after my experience of last March, something had been brewing in the mind of three vicious women in the parish. Every attempt was made to have me removed from the parish I had come to love. My appeals to the Chancery were made to see if I had rights to days off and vacations, whether I was collecting the Diocesan collections at the right time and date, the list goes on. Always behind me, I felt no compensation. They had to get me so they fabricated a story and reported to Franch that they had evidence of sexual harassment on my part. Even when I wanted

+ talk to you when you come up to Gorham to speak for the Catholic Charities, after having been asked by Frank to appear before him at the hearing, I did not know why nor how serious the outcome would be. Even then I had been suspected of such grave and serious intentions. In a gesture of respect, I suppose, you merely asked if I could keep my appointment with Frank, then.

In one moment with Frank I was accused, judged, condemned, and sentenced - guilty. My resignation was immediately requested. With great pain and mostly the severest of anger I had ever experienced I wrote my resignation as pastor of Holy Family Parish. (You might even have the what letter analysed as to its script.) Thank God, I had someone to drive me back - I agreed to see Dr. Duell etc. Ultimately was asked to go to St. Barnabas Center, in Wisconsin. For two full months I underwent the most extensive of tests, of which you should have read by this time.

The first therapist I met and tested for evaluation ~~was~~ ^{said} saying you are either a saint, or you are in total denial. I responded by saying "I know I'm not a saint, I don't know if I'm in denial but one thing I know I must be a fool!"

I challenged and requested that I get the name of my accusers and the name of the persons I had allegedly sexually advanced. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

The three most unstable persons of the parish, [REDACTED] was afraid the Pastoral Council would let her go as C. C. D. Director. [REDACTED] has so many personal problem [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] plus her having other deep rooted problems. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had from the very first day of my arrival at Holy Family had petitioned my removal. Much more could be said but for fear of becoming more angry at the absurdity I stop.

This was the most traumatic experience I have ever had to face. Near depression, anger, revenge, hate, shame. I experienced them all. I will never be able to forget such abandonment, such pain. I must in truth say that my experience at St. Barnabas was to my benefit. After four weeks of confusion trying to understand my situation. With my primary therapist, the Group I began to understand how I had been victimized by certain few and worse still by my own Church. My life had been filled with caring and love until I entered the seminary. Here I was told I began my deformation years. I became Co-Dependent - that is, Everybody matters and are cared for, but not

ing or taking care of myself. Isn't that how we were trained for the priesthood? Too much respect, almost fear, for authority. Never looking out for myself. The Church and superiors came first. Ask Romeo, he'll do it for you. Never complaining, he can handle it. Never thought that of him. Took at all my assignments. Only once I had asked Bishop Primeau to understand how I needed stability in my priesthood. Tactics, religious, mass words, first. Priest last if ever. Yes, I understand how fearful Bishops have become of libels. I was able to understand ^{part} of that by my primary therapist Von Hands.

When all this happened I didn't know what was going on nor do I now know why these women had so much hatred for me. My mother was heartbroken my brothers have stopped going to church saying if they can do that to you what have we to gain. One said if all this were true you would be in jail, he works at the police station. My sisters were deeply hurt etc. But they were very supportive and still remain so. Many people from Rocham have expressed their anger as to how I was treated and received many cards of support. A few have even asked me how I could still remain a priest after being treated thus.

You see, Bishop, for me it is not a matter

of priesthood, no one can remove that from me. I am a priest forever according to the priesthood of Melchisedec. It is a matter of ministry. That is why I need time to think of what is available for me to do, if I decide to continue. I don't want to be rushed. I finally know how important I am as a person and know how much more good I have to offer, now I come first.

My heart is still experiencing anger and at times revenge. But these are my own and I own that. I must of all don't want to remain under counseling the rest of my life. My evaluation has been done. The results are evident.

The joke about me now is, the child in me is only 19 years old. The year I entered the seminary.

They say, they don't know me, my work speaks for me - I am not a politician possessing for any ambitions, I don't know how to play up to anyone. When I was assigned to Norwich I was told the Angel that makes most noise gets the peace. I don't know that to be true for me -

I must stop this stream of conscience and hope this will give you some knowledge of where I stand now. Don't intend this to be disrespectful & you are my Bishops -

Sincerely, Romeo -

This is what is happening to me right now.
Written and sent as is.

September 28, 1989

Rev. Romeo J. Valliere
St. Barnabas Center
34810 Pabst Road
Oconomowoc, Wis. 53066

Dear Romeo:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your "second step". It is clear that you have done a great deal of reflecting and have gone through a tremendous amount of growth. I am happy for you and look forward to having you back with us.

It is good to know that your release date is the third of October. I have spoken to the Bishop about your desires to have some time off before being reassigned, and he is certainly open to this, if the staff at St. Barnabas recommends it. I look forward to seeing you when you get home. If there is anything I can do, please let me know.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

(Msgr.) Francis J. Christian
Secretary
Chancellor

Step

1766

to believe that a power greater than myself could restore me to sanity. Up to this point in my life I had put my complete trust in the Church served and the people I ministered to. ~~I had been drained for people's needs, rather than for my energy was spent on parish needs and the demands of the people. Everything became more important than whatever my personal needs were.~~ Always aware of phone calls, or not being around to answer the phone or doorbell. I even bought an answering machine, so not to miss any calls. I even had a wireless phone so when I was working in church on parish property I could answer the phone there. I even had a pager for emergency calls covering the five parishes in our area. I had to eventually refuse covering those calls, ^{the situation} it was driving me crazy. I was always available for appointments even when they would interfere with my personal needs. I gave in to any demands. Young couples would name of me while making arrangements for weddings etc. Parents for Baptisms, bending backwards to please and fulfill any request made of me, for any reason, always available and ready to help. ~~Funerals, ^{other} demands had to be direct because of sensitivity of the moment.~~ Did all of the janitorial work in the parish - clean church, cut the grass, maintain buildings.

hauled snow - general repairs, seldom if ever asking for help. (yet felt happy doing these things)

During my days off or vacation time, if a priest in the area needed to take time off and needed a replacement, he knew if he asked me to ~~replace~~ say mass for him or perform other special duties for him. I would not refuse him. A few times I ~~traded~~ traveled 30-40 miles one way during my own time off to come for them. Yet when I could have asked any of them to replace me, I would not ~~ask them~~, I didn't want to impose.

The image of God that I had during this time was one of service, giving of self. My image of God during my growing up years was that of a loving father, forgiving, merciful and caring. I believe my concept of God was influenced by the people who had great love for the church and respect for it. Parents - Grandparents - priests - pastor - nuns etc. The picture ^{of God} I got from them was from example of their faith. This image of God developed tentatively through high school and seminary days into my priesthood.

The relationship I nurtured during this time until now was one of deep trust

care. I felt close to God the Father
rough his Son who had done so much for
in calling me to share his priesthood.

but was the insane thing about it, all was
at what I thought was a close relationship
th. God was merely my experiencing of
presence without sharing fully in
his passion and death - it was all
urrection. No pain - no suffering. I had
an to understand this during a deanery
time around Christmas time, when we shared
experience with God with one another.

when I realized I was not ready spiritually
that experienced and said I better prepare
eff for that moment in time when I would
to share his passion his death - his
bering. It happened I wasn't ready
prepared, Had I put it off to long? I don't

realized now that he had control of my life
that he would do with me as he
illed. To he does things in wared and
dry ways - Be watchful and prepared, for
do not know when I will come. He come
led me to further perfection, I was not
red.

I have now to be restored to new
I have to be

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