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Gloucester, Mass
- 4 April 87

Bernard Cardinal Law
Archbishop of Boston
Chancery of the Archdiocese
Boston, Mass.

NOT ACKNOWLEDGED
AT RESIDENCE

Your Eminence:

I am a member of St. Ann's Parish,
Pleasant St., Gloucester, Mass.

About a month ago, our pastor Rev. Joseph
Birmingham resigned for reasons of health.

Subsequently, the Pilot mentioned that
Rev. Birmingham had submitted his resignation
from the priesthood - which you accepted.

A colleague of mine, in passing, mentioned
a Fr. Joe Birmingham who was taken out of
St. James' Parish in Salem during the
late 1960's to early 1970's.

This man said that Rev. Birmingham
had been removed because he had
molested boys in the parish. As a
matter of fact, this man's brother was
one of the boys who were molested.

I now request that you inform
me if this is the same Rev. Joe Birmingham.

My friend described him to a tee.

I have a son who is an altar boy.

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boy in the church and have a rightful concern about him if this is, in fact, the same person.

Twice within 6 months our Rev. Joe Birmingham gave sermons on AIDS, which I found rather odd.

If it is the same person, how do I bring up the subject of molestation with my son who just turned 13 years old?

Please respond to me as I have a real and rightful concern about this whole matter. I am concerned about the AIDS situation; and about a priest possibly molesting my son.

Thank you for a prompt reply,

[REDACTED]