

Priest R

*Priest R* was assigned to a Diocesan school when seven boys complained to the Diocese that he had been sexually abusing them. He had also given them drugs, alcohol and pornography. The boys routinely slept in this priest's room in the rectory, it was common for them to ask each other, "Who's going to get the wood tonight?" *Priest R* usually picked out one boy per night to sleep with him in bed. *Priest R* later admitted that all of the boy's reports were true.

*Priest R* was sent for a psychiatric evaluation. He reported that a priest had sodomized him when he was a child. *Priest R* was very adverse to treatment and told his evaluators that he would do so only to avoid dire consequences. (Grand Jury Exhibit 33I) An additional report indicated that *Priest R* suffered from a severe personality disorder. The report indicated that external controls were necessary to insure his proper functioning, it was recommended that he be under the control of a senior priest. (Grand Jury Exhibit 33J) Evaluators also determined a clear sexual interest in adolescent males and recommended that he not be in their company. (Grand Jury Exhibit 33L). A final report indicated that there was a moderate risk that *Priest R* would repeat his sexually abusive behavior. Therefore, the professionals recommend that he have no ministry where he could associate with young men, and that he be assigned either a pastor or Diocesan representative who knew of his entire background, as a mentor, to insure proper supervision. (Grand Jury Exhibit 33R) After this, *Priest R* was assigned as Chaplain at several Diocesan hospitals and to reside in a parish rectory. (Grand Jury Exhibit 33T).

Priests committed crimes against children of the Diocese. These crimes were treated as a matter of sin and never reported to law enforcement authorities. The culture of the Diocese was one of secrecy and obfuscation. Diocesan officials purposely withheld information from parishioners and from their own priests and pastors. Recommendations from Diocese- selected

treatment facilities that evaluated abusive priests were ignored. Some of these recommendations included the monitoring and supervising of priests for the specific purpose of preventing future crimes from being committed upon parish children.

Most children did not report the crimes against them until long after the criminal statute of limitations had lapsed. Those who did were promised help, but received little. Instead, they were ignored, belittled and revictimized. In some cases the Grand Jury finds that the Diocese procrastinated for the sole purpose of making sure that the civil and criminal statutes of limitation were no longer applicable in the cases.

Priests and pastors turned a blind eye to improper conduct occurring in their rectories. Pastors failed to exercise supervisory control over rectory life and the conduct of priests in their parish. Rules of conduct were flouted without consequence. Rarely was an official complaint made either by a priest to a pastor, a priest to the Diocese or a pastor to the Diocese. When a complaint was made it was ignored. The policy was to avoid scandal by the suppression of information. Priests and Diocesan officials lied about what they knew about sexually abusive priests to their parishioners and to the public at large. This policy put children at grave risk.

The few pastors who chose to act felt abandoned by Diocesan officials. This was especially so when a priest was simply transferred to another parish, including parishes with elementary schools. The priest problem was moved, not addressed and surely not resolved. Victims and parishioners were misled while the process of ostensible treatment and transfer continued.