

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Reverend James Wilson  
Gate of Heaven Parish, South Boston

February 5, 1993

Father Wilson met with me to respond to allegations made by [REDACTED]. He said Father Wilson was naked in front of [REDACTED] on many occasions and on at least one occasion touched [REDACTED]'s genitals.

After listening to the detailed allegations of [REDACTED], Father Wilson made the following responses:

1. Most of the allegations are true.
2. [REDACTED] told me about what Father Red Raux did to him.
3. [REDACTED] was a young person whom I saw as one who needed help. He was uncomfortable with himself. His behavior was odd.
4. Our encounters were not planned. I intended him no malice. I was the responsible adult. I did not intend to do anything to harm him.
5. When we first met, I had promised that I would take him camping sometime. He asked to go camping with me and I refused. I decided it was not right.  
  
He said that I had promised to be his friend. What I had promised was to listen to him. He kept calling me.
6. One time when he was in my room he copied down my private telephone number. At one o'clock one morning, he called me screaming and yelling that his parents did not understand it. He called again and I picked up the phone. He had a weird voice. The phone continued to ring during the night. He would say that he heard weird voices telling him to do weird things. (I am not sure of all these details.)
7. I invited him to talk with me. After a while he asked me to let him take his clothing off. I felt weird. I thought, though, that it might help him. It was being man-to-man. One time he wanted to sit in my lap. I said okay, sure.
8. Father Phinn complained that we were becoming too exclusive. [REDACTED] complained to me that I was not seeing him as often. He wondered who told Father Wilson not to see him.
9. We began to meet in my office. He would continue to disrobe there. I did touch his genitals. I didn't plan to.

Our conversations turned from my attempting to help him to this kind of behavior. I told him this is wrong and that we need to go to confession.

In November, he told me that he couldn't see me anymore. I was grateful.

10. In terms of him saying that I pushed him – he wouldn't leave the office one evening. He was grabbing on to me. I did push him. I told him you are clawing me.

He said that his grandfather told him that he needed to see me that afternoon. He was close to his grandfather. He claimed that I left a note asking him to see me. I didn't leave a note. (I am not clear about these comments.)

11. In terms of my commanding him to do things – I did ask him to do things. For example, that he ought to tell his folks about Father Raux. I would tell him that I could not see him now, but that I could see him at the end of the week. Maybe this is what he means by command.

12. I did say to him that if Father Phinn came through the door, we would go to jail. It was wrong what we were doing (being nude).

13. "This has never happened before with anyone else. I am straight. I am frightened that I could cause pain in another person. I don't see myself doing this again."

"I did sense something with [REDACTED]. I would have seen him only in the office if I knew. His parents asked if I could help him. They encouraged me. He had been acting odd for a year."

"I worry about ministerial integrity and being a scandal. People lose trust in me and, therefore, in priests and the Church in general. I love being a priest. I feel called by God and now I have destroyed my life. Paul may blame himself, but I am the responsible adult."

"I don't want to be a scandal. I need to resolve this quietly. I am sorry, doesn't hold. I want to seek a resolution and to move forward. I pray I have learned."

14. The reason I allowed [REDACTED] to strip in front of me was that he said that he could not do this in front of someone because he didn't like his body and could not look at himself. (I am not sure this is totally correct.)

He asked me to strip many times. Then I pulled my pants down once. Then it became more often. This way a young person could experience another male doing it and think it was no problem. He touched my penis, I touched his penis. The purpose of this was so that he could feel comfortable.

Then we would dress. Toward the end, he didn't talk. He would say "I don't have anything to say." I began to fear he was setting me up. He would calm down and become quiet once he disrobed.

Sometimes he would come in frazzled. He would say "can I sit on the floor." I would say - "sure, go ahead." It became a place for him to be calm and to grow and trust! If I refused to sit on the floor, he would want to leave. (I think sitting on the floor was an invitation to strip.)

My purpose in allowing these things to happen was that I wanted to help [redacted] be open with his parents. His mother once said that he could exaggerate and manipulate people.

15. In terms of my praying over him - I am in a healing ministry. I would pray with him. He became rested in the Spirit and he became frightened.

One time he drank holy water and said "I am going to kill you."

I told him to go home once when I was visiting a person. A voice came from him that said "you can't get rid of him." "You don't think that you can get rid of me that easily. You can get rid of [redacted] but not me."

I prayed and encouraged [redacted] to go to Arch Street. He went twice. (Arch Street is a shrine in the downtown area of Boston.)

[redacted] told him that a man told him "I have an evil spirit inside of me. They prayed over me and he said I was free." [redacted] has never used this second voice with me since that time.

One time [redacted] hugged me and began to squeeze me. A voice said - "I am not [redacted], I'm going to destroy you." His voice kept laughing. [redacted] kept squeezing me with his whole body. He was clutching me. I pushed him off. He fell to the floor. He then became awakened and said "why did you hurt me." He didn't remember anything before the push.

I wondered if you (Father McCormack) would be open to my telling you these things. Sometimes I wonder if there is someone who is out there to destroy me.

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