

***REV. JOHN COFFIELD***

**DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES 2013  
PURSUANT TO JCCP 4286 SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

**Vicar for Clergy Database**

Clergy Assignment Record (Detailed)

**Rev John Vincent Coffield***Current Primary Assignment*

<i>Birth Date</i>	1/24/1914	<i>Age:</i>
<i>Birth Place</i>	Indianapolis, Indiana, USA	<i>Deanery:</i>
<i>Diaconate Ordination</i>		
<i>Priesthood Ordination</i>	6/7/1941	
<i>Diocese Name</i>	Diocese of Orange	
<i>Date of Incardination</i>	6/7/1941	
<i>Religious Community</i>		
<i>Ritual Ascription</i>	Latin	
<i>Ministry Status</i>	Deceased	
<i>Canon State</i>	Diocesan Priest	<i>Incard Process</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Begin Pension Date</i>		

*Seminary* St. John's Seminary, Camarillo  
*Ethnicity*

**Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training***Date Background Check**Virtus Training Date***Assignment History**

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Beginning Date</i>	<i>Completion Date</i>
Deceased	2/2/2005	
Leave of Absence, All assignments upon return were in Diocese of Orange	1/2/1965	3/10/1969
Ascension Catholic Church, Los Angeles Pastor, Active Service, Exact end date not known	9/26/1961	1/1/1965
Dolores Mission, Los Angeles Pastor, Active Service	1/21/1959	9/25/1961
Dolores Mission, Los Angeles Administrator, Active Service	1/18/1955	1/20/1959
Nativity Catholic Church, El Monte Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	5/4/1943	1/17/1955
Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	11/6/1942	5/3/1943
St. Brendan Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	6/26/1941	11/5/1942

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

FOR REDACTED REDACTED

DATE 5/9/02 TIME 4:41 AM  
PM

M REDACTED

OF REDACTED

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FAX AREA CODE \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXTENSION \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE AREA CODE \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ TIME TO CALL \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONED	X	PLEASE CALL	X
CAME TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTS TO SEE YOU		RUSH	
RETURNED YOUR MESSAGE		SPECIAL ATTENTION	

MESSAGE: is a 49 yr. old victim;  
occurred @ Dolores Mission  
Parish in East LA; he said a  
Fr. Cofield; I tried looking in  
the database under Dolores  
Mission, but the ~~most~~ oldest

SIGNED REDACTED **Office**  
REPORT

Catholic Charities

20532

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE**

FOR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ A.M.  
P.M.

M \_\_\_\_\_

OF \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FAX AREA CODE NUMBER EXTENSION

MOBILE AREA CODE NUMBER TIME TO CALL

TELEPHONED	PLEASE CALL
CAME TO SEE YOU	WILL CALL AGAIN
WANTS TO SEE YOU	RUSH
RETURNED YOUR CALL	SPECIAL ATTENTION

MESSAGE *date there is 1961 and  
no VFL. Colfield, very quiet  
man' was hesitant to  
call us but did.*

REDACTED



20533

Call Monday  
5/13

# SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORT

## To be Completed by Reporting Party

<b>A. Case Identification</b>	
To be completed by Investigating CPA	
Victim Name:	_____
Report No./Case Name:	_____
Date of Report:	_____

### B. Victim

NAME/TITLE	REDACTED	REDACTED
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ADDRESS
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PHONE REDACTED	DATE OF REPORT 5/10 yesterday	BIRTHDATE REDACTED	SEX M	RACE
-------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------	----------	------

### C. Call

OFFICIAL CONTACTED Detective REDACTED	PHONE REDACTED	DATE/TIME 49
--	-------------------	-----------------

### D. Other Parties

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)	ADDRESS
----------------------------	---------

PRESENT LOCATION OF
---------------------

NAME OF CHURCH OR SCHOOL Holmes Mission
--

ADDRESS AT TIME OF INCIDENT
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DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT	PLACE OF INCIDENT 1960-62	(Check One) Occurred <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observed <input type="checkbox"/>
-----------------------	------------------------------	--

TYPE OF SEXUAL ABUSE: fondling oral sex	8-10 years Touching - touch them	left after 163
---	-------------------------------------	-------------------

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION: Father did it downstairs. Sugar & bread.
--

### F. Perpetrator Information

Locate <del>SA</del> Fr. J. Coffield - Holmes Mission + ice cream friend
--

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

3 suicides

Call Monday 5/13

# SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE REPORT

## To be Completed by Reporting Party

### A. Case Identification

To be completed by Investigating CPA

Victim Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Report No./Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Report: \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Victim

NAME/TITLE REDACTED REDACTED

ADDRESS

PHONE REDACTED	DATE OF REPORT 5/9 5/10 yesterday	BIRTHDATE REDACTED	SEX M	RACE
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49

### C. Call

OFFICIAL CONTACTED Detective REDACTED	PHONE REDACTED	DATE/TIME
--	-------------------	-----------

### D. Other Parties

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)	ADDRESS
----------------------------	---------

PRESENT LOCATION OF

NAME OF CHURCH OR SCHOOL *Dolores Mission*

ADDRESS AT TIME OF INCIDENT

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT	PLACE OF INCIDENT 1960-62	(Check One) Occurred <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observed <input type="checkbox"/>
-----------------------	------------------------------	--

TYPE OF SEXUAL ABUSE: <i>8-10 years fondling oral sex</i>	<i>Touching - touch them</i>	<i>left after '63</i>
--	------------------------------	-----------------------

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:  
*Father did it downstairs. Sugar & bread.*

### F. Perpetrator Information

*locate [initials]  
Fr. J. Coffield - Dolores Mission  
& ice cream friend*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*3 suicides*

*Fr. John Coffield*

**Clergy Misconduct**  
**Suspected Child Abuse Report**

Case: <sup>REDACTED</sup> Coffield

Victim: REDACTED REDACTED  
REDACTED

Date of Birth: REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Initial call: 5/9/02

Referred by: REDACTED  
Received the call at Dolores Mission and gave the ACC number to REDACTED 5/9/02 Thursday

Incidents: REDACTED later verified that the alleged Perpetrator was at Dolores Mission during these years. 5/15/02 Tuesday

REDACTED REDACTED reported that he was molested by Fr. John Coffield at Dolores Mission between 1960-62. REDACTED was between the ages of 8 to 10 years old. He said there was fondling, touching of REDACTED asked to touch Father. There was also oral sex.

Father Coffield did it reportedly downstairs where the sugar and bread were kept. It stopped in 1963 after Fr. Coffield left Dolores Mission.

REDACTED is suicidal and would like counseling. REDACTED lives in REDACTED  
REDACTED

REDACTED reported the abuse to Detective REDACTED on 5/10/02.

REDACTED has called 5/14 and 5/15 REDACTED has spoken to him. He said that he wants help. He does not want Lawyers involved.



May 20, 2002

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

**Personal and Confidential**  
 Office of  
 Vicar for Clergy  
 (213) 637-7284

3424  
 Wilshire  
 Boulevard

Los Angeles  
 California  
 90010-2241

REDACTED

Diocese of Orange  
 P.O. Box 14195  
 Orange, CA 92863-1595

Dear REDACTED

Please find enclosed a copy of a report that came into our Archdiocesan toll free number in which Mr. REDACTED REDACTED claims to have suffered abuse from Monsignor John Coffield in the early 1960's when he had been assigned to Dolores Mission, Los Angeles.

Since Monsignor Coffield was a priest of this archdiocese at that time, we will be offering appropriate assistance to Mr. REDACTED

Given that Monsignor Coffield is currently incardinated in the Diocese of Orange, however, I wanted to be sure to bring this to your attention and to ask your assistance. I realize that he is elderly and retired.

Would you please be so kind as to assist me in the following:

1. Could you please arrange for someone to meet with Monsignor Coffield, present this allegation to him and obtain his response to the charges brought forward by Mr. REDACTED I would appreciate a copy of any response that Monsignor Coffield makes. Please be sure that Monsignor Coffield knows that Mr. REDACTED reported this matter to the Los Angeles Police Department.
2. Do you have any record of similar allegations made against Monsignor Coffield that might shed some light on the current claim? Please let me know.
3. Has Monsignor Coffield been engaged in any ministry in recent times? If so, what is the nature of that service?
4. Please let me know what action you take in accord with your policy (e.g., restrictions on ministry) in light of this allegation.

20528

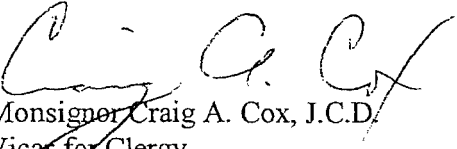


-2-

5. Since the complete file of Monsignor Coffield was forwarded to your office when the Diocese of Orange was created, we have no file on Monsignor Coffield. Could you please arrange to send me a copy of the materials in his file from the beginning of his priestly service until the point where the Diocese of Orange was created?

Thank you for your attention to these matters. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. May God bless you!

Yours in Christ,



Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.  
Vicar for Clergy

enclosure

cc: REDACTED<sup>REDACTED</sup>

20529

DIOCESE OF ORANGE

REDACTED



MEMORANDUM

TO: Reverend Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.  
Vicar for Clergy, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

FR: REDACTED

DT: Saturday, May 25, 2002

I have received the letter and attachments regarding Msgr. John Coffield (which arrived yesterday in my office). and have given them to Reverend REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED is the appropriate person in the Diocese of Orange for all priest/deacon personnel matters. You can reach him at the same address as on this letterhead.

Thank you.

C: REDACTED

RECEIVED  
MAY 29 2002  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_

20527

## DIOCESE OF ORANGE

REDACTED



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Reverend Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.  
Vicar for Clergy, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

FR: REDACTED

DT: Saturday, May 25, 2002

V

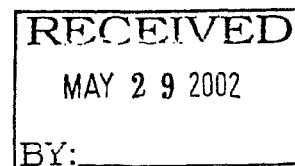
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I have received the letter and attachments regarding Msgr. John Coffield (which arrived yesterday in my office), and have given them to REDACTED REDACTED for the Diocese of Orange.

REDACTED is the appropriate person in the Diocese of Orange for all priest/deacon personnel matters. You can reach him at the same address as on this letterhead.

Thank you.

C: REDACTED



56121

May 29, 2002

A report of the meeting with Monsignor John Coffield:

REDACTED

met with Monsignor John Coffield on May 29, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. Monsignor Coffield is very hard of hearing.

We met in the room he rents in a private home. Monsignor recently had to give up his California Drivers License.

I let him read the complaint form that was forwarded from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

The first thing he said was, "I'm sure it is false"

We asked if he remember a <sup>REDACTEDREDACTED</sup> he stated "If I could see the person maybe I could remember something." "There was a man who came to a picnic (July 1992) that took place for adults who were part of the youth group from Mission Dolores back 1960's who said I was like a father to him." "Maybe it is him."

"Back in those days there were always a lot of people in and out of the rectory." "I can only think that he is hard up and looking for money."

"In that particular time kids who were in fights with their parents would stay over night in the rectory." I remember a kid who was brought to me because he was from across the border and had no place to stay, he lived for a timer in the rectory."

I asked if he lived with any other priests and he said "no."

Msgr. Coffield expressed disbelief in the part of the complaint that mention the bread and sugar closet.

"I met not too long ago with a group of men who were boy scout I use to camping with and I made the comment that if someone wanted to make a lot of money they could make up a story against me."

He returned to the subject of the gentleman man at the picnic. "I remember he had a drunken father --- this man still has a very trouble life, he is very confused."

Msgr. Coffield seemed fairly certain this was the same man.

I told Msgr. Coffield that the L.A. Police had been notified and that he would be contacted by them. <sup>REDACTED</sup> suggested that he have an attorney present when he meets with the police.

REDACTED

## Clergy Misconduct

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**Suspected Child Abuse Report**

Case: <sup>REDACTED</sup> **Coffield**

REDACTED

Date of Birth: REDACTED

Age: 49 years

Home phones: REDACTED

Reported: <sup>REDACTED</sup> reported that he had called Detective REDACTED Detective would send two detectives to get a report.

Telephone calls to Assistance Ministry: Multiple daily calls. Between 3-10 calls or messages to call back per day.

Caller behavior: Sometimes very persistent. Sometimes thoughts are very alert and coherent. Other times behavior and affect is disturbed as if under influence of a substance.

Story I: May 10, 2002

Very difficult to get information from <sup>REDACTED</sup> "It happened at Dolores Mission. What happened? The touching, fondling and oral sex... It happened down stairs where the bread and sugar were kept. Do you know the name of the priest? Yes. It was Fr. Coffield. How old were you. It happened between age 8 and 10" Given REDACTED number.

Many daily calls from <sup>REDACTED</sup> messages left to call him.

Story II: June 5, 2002

REDACTED said that he grew up in the projects in the Boyle Heights neighborhood. He went to the Second Street School. He attended "Catechism on Sunday mornings. The priest took him to the basement, downstairs. They helped people with food, bread, boxes, sugar and bread in bags. He(Fr. Coffield) would put me on his lap. There was a cross on the wall across from him". "He told me that if I didn't show up for Sunday school, he would tell my parents that I stole things. I tried suicide three times so that I could go to Hell and talk to him and see him and ask him why he put his penis in my mouth and why he put his finger up my anus."

I've gone from job to job. I have problems with authority. I have trouble trusting because this happened to me. I feel so much shame, guilt and fear.

20522

Place: Incident "in a building across from Dolores Mission that had a basement. We had Sunday school upstairs". Initially 5/9/02 had said it occurred in the basement of Dolores Mission where bread was stored.

Spiritual Damage: REDACTED has repeated in many daily conversations - "God is against me. Am I going to go to hell?"

Counseling: REDACTED said he sees a Psychiatrist, REDACTED at a Mental Health Facility in REDACTED He does not want more Counseling. He is willing to authorize a conversation with his therapist for further more frequent sessions if necessary. He said that he is seeing the therapist every 3 weeks.

Appointment: An interview appointment was set for Tuesday, May 28, 2002 at 11:00 a.m. at ACC at REDACTED request. REDACTED had made the appointment the week before and had said that he wanted \$750,000 in compensation. He was told this office did interviews and counseling. His written request would be passed on to the proper authority. On the day of the appointment, REDACTED did not come.

There were phone messages beginning in the morning that he had been suicidal over the weekend and was hospitalized and so was not coming 5/28. Then messages from his wife that she wanted our office to call and left a phone number. The number was called it was not a mental health facility. REDACTED continued to call without reference to the suicidal problem. A few days later REDACTED dismissed his not coming because he had been busy that day. I reminded REDACTED that I had not received the letter that he said he had sent.

Requests for Money May 16 – June 4, 2002:

- Initial request for money to pay phone bill and buy food.
- Later a request for money to help out with bills.
- Then wife wanted money and asked to put it in writing.
- Letter arrived on Monday, June 3, 2002. A request for \$750,000 for REDACTED in compensation and \$50,000 for children who are abused. Letter taken to [REDACTED] to be forwarded with all Survivor-victim financial requests.
- Tuesday, June 4, 2002, 6:10 p.m. REDACTED called and requested \$250 for his car that had broken down by side of the road that it was an emergency. REDACTED reminded REDACTED that her office only offered counseling help.

Media

First call:

REDACTED REDACTED called NBC affiliate in REDACTED with his story that he had been abused by Fr. Coffield at Dolores Mission. "This is REDACTED REDACTED called us and said that he had been abused by Fr. Coffield".

REDACTED

Was Dolores Mission a Catholic Church? Yes      said Fr. Coffield is alive is this true? Some other question and I said that I did not have a signed release from REDACTED to talk to them. Please call Media Relations, REDACTED and gave phone #.

Second call:  
KFI calling. Please call REDACTED

20524

DIOCESE OF ORANGE

REDACTED



June 13, 2002

Personal and Confidential

Reverend Monsignor Craig Cox, J.C.D.  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
3424 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

Dear Monsignor Cox,

REDACTED forwarded your letter received in our office May 24, 2002 to me, regarding allegations against Monsignor John Coffield.

In response to your questions:

- 1. REDACTED and I met with Monsignor Coffield on May 29, 2002. The report of that meeting is enclosed.
- 2. There are no similar allegations against Monsignor Coffield in his file.
- 3. Monsignor is a retired priest of the Diocese of Orange. Presently renting a room in a private home. He recently had to give up his drivers license so his ministry is very limited.
- 4. We put no restrictions on him, as stated above what he does is very minimal.
- 5. A copy of his file until the Diocese of Orange was formed is enclosed.

Thank you for all the work you are doing. Know of my prayers and support. If you need further information don't hesitate to contact my office.

REDACTED

20520

RECEIVED  
 JUN 17 2002  
 BY:



**To:** REDACTED  
**Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board**

**Re:** Case: REDACTED /Fr. Z

**Victim:** Boy 1960-62 age 8 to 10 years old  
**Birth:** REDACTED

**Steps completed since previous report:**

- 1.) REDACTED called the local parish, again, where incident occurred. She spoke to REDACTED who had taken the original call. The victim identified the priest (Fr. Z) by name and asked if this priest knew Fr. Z. Got full details of that phone conversation.
- 2.) REDACTED went to this victim's family to further explore the veracity of the story and to determine the pastoral response.

**Victim Story 8/21/02 remained unchanged:**

REDACTED lived in the projects and attended Religious Education on Sundays. REDACTED says that the abuse occurred before class in the basement across from the Church. He reports "being sexually abused by Fr. Z. It's stamped in my head."

REDACTED said, "Father asked for volunteers and then he always picked me to help get bread, sugar... weird stuff happened. He called me 'my little something...' He described genital touching and digital penetration. He said sometimes... I'd take off. I couldn't cry when I went up the back stairs carrying stuff as if nothing happened."

REDACTED reports being told to keep this secret. "If you want to be an altar boy you have to keep this secret. I'm doing what God wants". "If you tell anyone you'll burn in hell."

REDACTED speaks of "nightmares, battles between good and evil. These sensations keep happening in my mind. Something is trying to stay alive."

"I broke a promise to a Catholic Priest. I spoke about what happened". "I wanted to be part of the Church. I wanted to be close to God."

There has been some consistency in his basic story which has been repeated many times on the telephone: the place, the name of the priest, the description of the person, his religious desires and the threat of hell if he told anyone of the abuse. The abuse occurring with religious symbols predominating in the room, "there was a large cross on the wall". "God is not as holy as we might think".

Wife said, "I always knew of the sexual abuse. I just didn't know who".

56125

REDACTED has at times called the abusive priest, Fr. Ice Cream Man. In our interview in REDACTED home he also said that he was "abused by the Ice Cream Man mentioned phone 5/13/02 interview - happened down at the L.A. River."

Current Mental Functioning:  
REDACTED has a history of REDACTED  
REDACTED

REDACTED  
REDACTED  
REDACTED

Recommendation for the victims assistance:

While REDACTED has compromised brain function his story has a ring of authenticity.

1. Initial grooming and being told of "specialness".
2. Told to keep it secret. Consequences if breaking the secret.
3. Repetition of the same facts without significant deviation over a 5 month time frame. This person has no recent memory functioning so is not giving a "recovered memory" or a presently contrived story.
4. Spiritual traumatization in relationship with God.
5. Sexual abuse fused with God. "I'm doing what God wants."
6. Actual facts: initially sitting on lap, touching genitals and digital penetration.
7. Has always known priest's name and description of priest, hair color, height, size, remembered parish and description of the place.

We do not know if REDACTED is able to be helped. Also, we know that we do not have access to the kind of help REDACTED needs. He is in the [REDACTED]

Collateral victim: The victim's wife has 24 hour care of her husband who has to be supervised at all times. She is unable to work due to providing care. She is a woman of strong character. She impressed us as taking life on life's terms. She seems most able to receive help and profit from it. There are REDACTED children REDACTED in the home.

We recommend the wife have up to a year of therapy provided the protocol is followed.

56126




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## MEMORANDUM

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TO: Cardinal Roger Mahony REDACTED

FROM: REDACTED and Monsignor Craig A. Cox REDACTED

RE: ***Recommendation of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board  
Monsignor John Coffield (CMOB 001-01)***

DATE: 4 September 2002

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The CMOB held its meeting Wednesday, August 28. We offer the following recommendation with regard to Monsignor Coffield.

As you know, he is incardinated in the Diocese of Orange. The allegation concerns alleged misconduct from 1960-1962 at Dolores Mission Parish. Thus, if the alleged misconduct was perpetrated, it occurred while Monsignor Coffield was one of our priests in one of our parishes.

Since Monsignor Coffield is now under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Orange, however, when the allegation initially came in May of this year, it was reported to Orange. Monsignor Coffield denied any wrongdoing. The CMOB heard a report from REDACTED on the visit she and REDACTED had with the person lodging the complaint. The Board reached the consensus that the allegation "appears credible." Monsignor Coffield's denial also has credibility.

The CMOB recommends the following:

1. The Archdiocese should offer family therapy to the victim and his wife in accord with the recommendation of the REDACTED
2. The Archdiocese make a report to the Diocese of Orange and ask their Board to consider the accusation and the response of Monsignor Coffield, with the comment that the allegation "appears credible." We will ask the Diocese of Orange to report back to us on their determination.

*I concur -  
+ Roger Cardinal Mahony  
6 Sept 2002*

56124



# COPY

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

September 17, 2002

## CONFIDENTIAL

REDACTED

Diocese of Orange  
2811 East Villa Real Road  
Orange, CA 92867-1999

Dear REDACTED

I am writing to follow up my earlier correspondence regarding the complaint of sexual misconduct alleged against Monsignor John Coffield by REDACTED REDACTED

On August 21, 2002, REDACTED and REDACTED REDACTED conducted an interview with REDACTED. They also spoke with his wife. A copy of the summary of that meeting is enclosed.

As a result of that interview, our Assistance Ministry Office is extending therapeutic assistance to the family of Mr. REDACTED which was deemed the most effective way to assist him. This offer of assistance has been made as a free will gesture of pastoral concern and does not involve any admission on our part that the claims of Mr. REDACTED against Monsignor Coffield are true.

The initial complaint, the denial of Monsignor Coffield, and the summary of the interview with Mr. REDACTED were presented to our Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board (CMOB) on August 28, 2002. The consensus of our Board is that the allegation "appears credible."

The CMOB, recognizing that Monsignor Coffield is now under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Orange, determined that it was not within the scope of our authority to make any determination about a priest incardinated elsewhere. Our CMOB, therefore, recommended that we make a report to the Diocese of Orange, asking that your own review board consider the matter and make appropriate recommendations to Bishop Brown. Our Board has asked that you give us a report on your eventual determinations and disposition of the case.

This recommendation of the CMOB was communicated to Cardinal Mahony who concurred. I am attaching the memorandum of REDACTED and myself to the Cardinal for your review.

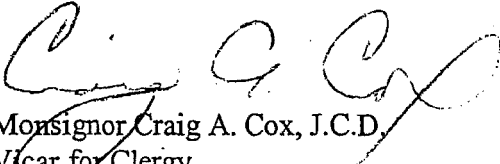
56122

Please feel free to contact me, REDACTED  
helpful to the work of your board.

if that would be

Thank you for your attention to this matter. May God continue to bless you!

Yours in Christ,



Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.  
Vicar for Clergy

attachments

cc: REDACTED



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

December 14, 2002

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REDACTED

Diocese of Orange  
2811 East Villa Real Road  
Orange, CA 92867-1999

Dear REDACTED


In response to the request you made over the phone, I am enclosing a copy of the materials we have in the confidential file of Monsignor John Coffield. I have chosen to include everything in it, even materials you would already have, for the sake of completeness.

Beyond this, both REDACTED REDACTED and REDACTED gave a verbal presentation to our Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board on this matter. To help you and your board, I recommend that you also speak to each on the telephone to garner their additional reflections.

I also have a request from our Archdiocesan Legal Counsel related to this matter. Apparently, there are inquiries about civil legal action in this matter. While we normally do not request complete copies of the file of priests who were incardinated in the Diocese of Orange upon its creation, in this case our attorneys would very much like to be able to review the complete file of Monsignor Coffield. If you would please be so kind as to have a copy of the complete file sent to me, I would very much appreciate it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. May God continue to bless you!

Yours in Christ,

  
Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.  
Vicar for Clergy

56119

enclosures

**ID** 1  
**CMOB #** 001  
**Case Name** Downstairs(John Coffield)  
**Active Case?**   
**Cleric Name** Coffield, John  
**Cleric Age** 88  
**Cleric Ethnicity** Anglo  
**Incardination** External  
**Date Of Ordination** 1941  
**Clergy Status** Deceased  
**Date Referred To Vicar** 7/24/2002  
**Claimant** Minor Male  
**Date Of Alleged Incident** 1960  
**Investigation Complete**   
**Investigator Name**  
**Date Investigation Initiated**  
**Date Investigation Completed**  
**Case Disposition** Unresolved/Deceased  
**Intervention**   
**Description** Retired [REDACTED], age 88, ordained in 1941, now living in Orange County, limited ministry. Mr. V is now 49, alleges Fr. X abused him at the age of 7-9 – mutual touching & oral sex. Strong denial. No other complaints. Hotline call – 5/9/02. Reported to police & press. Man has history of mental instability, therapy, medication & use of street drugs. [REDACTED] Therapist not advised of abuse until 5/23/02. Requested money. [REDACTED] to report on interview with Mr. V.

**Case Status**  
 July 24, 2002 Deferred; no financial aid would be offered to Mr. V.  
 August 14, 2002 Deferred until after [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] interview w/Mr. V.  
 August 28, 2002 A report should be made to the Diocese of Orange indicating the credibility of the allegation and requesting a report back as to what action, if any, is taken. Offer family counseling to the alleged victim and family unit to be paid for by the LA Archdiocese. Advise the family of other social and pastoral service programs that are available.  
 September 11, 2002 Recommendation approved by Cardinal.

November 06, 2002 REDACTED reports that the family is having difficulties & the wife has not shown up for 2 scheduled appointments; the therapist will no longer see her as a patient. She will continue to offer help to the alleged victim & his wife within reason.

December 11, 2002 [REDACTED] of Orange County Diocese has requested the file, which has been sent.

February 08, 2005 Msgr. Cox advised the Board that Fr. X (now identified as Fr. John Coffield) died recently at the age of 91.

March 09, 2005 Msgr. Cox stated that at the time of his death, Msgr. Coffield has continued to enjoy full faculties in his retirement, and that Msgr. Cox never received a response from the Diocese of Orange.

October 02, 2006 File reviewed. Case was referred to Diocese of Orange on 9/17/2002 for further investigation by its Board.  
No action taken by Diocese of Orange. Priest died in early 2005. No further CMOB action required.

*Follow Up*  
*Follow Up Date*  
*Legal Proceedings*  
*Sent To Rome?*  
*Canonical Trial*  
*Canonical Disposition*  
*Page*

*Date Sent To Rome*  
 *Canonical Trial Date*



**Vicar for Clergy Database**

## Clergy Assignment Record

**Rev John Vincent Coffield***Current Primary Assignment*

*Birth Date* 1/24/1914  
*Birth City* Indianapolis, Indiana, USA  
*Diaconate Ordination*  
*Priesthood Ordination* 6/7/1941  
*Diocese Name* Diocese of Orange  
*Date of Incardination* 6/7/1941  
*Religious Community*  
*Ritual Ascription* Latin  
*Ministry Status* Deceased  
*Seminary* St. John's Seminary, Camarillo  
*Ethnicity*

*Age**Deanery***Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training**

*Date Background Check*  
*Safeguard Training*

**Assignment History**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Beginning Date</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>
Deceased	2/2/2005	
Leave of Absence, All assignments upon return were in Diocese of Orange	1/2/1965	3/10/1969
Ascension Catholic Church, Los Angeles Pastor, Active Service, Exact end date not known	9/26/1961	1/1/1965
Dolores Mission, Los Angeles Pastor, Active Service	1/21/1959	9/25/1961
Dolores Mission, Los Angeles Administrator, Active Service	1/18/1955	1/20/1959
Nativity Catholic Church, El Monte Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	5/4/1943	1/17/1955
Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	11/6/1942	5/3/1943
St. Brendan Catholic Church, Los Angeles Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	6/26/1941	11/5/1942

## DIOCESE OF ORANGE

REDACTED



MARYWOOD CENTER  
 2811 E. VILLA REAL DRIVE  
 POST OFFICE BOX 14195  
 ORANGE, CALIFORNIA 92863-1595

REDACTED

August 25, 2004

Reverend Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.  
 Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
 Office of Vicar for Clergy  
 3424 Wilshire Blvd.  
 Los Angeles, CA 90010-2202

Dear Monsignor Cox,

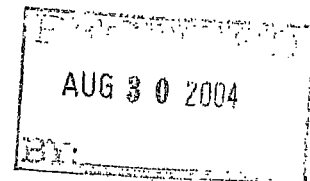
In response to your inquiry regarding Monsignor John Coffield during our conversation late last week, Monsignor Coffield is presently at quite an advanced age and has a very limited ministry in the Diocese of Orange. He resides in a private home; renting a room from an elderly woman.

With regard to his present status, because the Sexual Misconduct Oversight Review Board in Los Angeles could not give us a clear determination as to whether he should be on administrative leave or not, having indicated a yes and no response in their report, he was, therefore, not placed on administrative leave. I have included a copy of the report wherein your board said both yes and no; thereby, not giving us a definitive direction to take. As you may recall, when your board investigated this, REDACTED sent me a letter, which I have also enclosed, indicating that none of the things were as the alleged victim reported them.

I would be more than happy to receive a revised opinion, should your board elect to re-think their determination regarding the status of Monsignor Coffield. I hope this clarifies the situation.

Sincerely in Christ  
 REDACTED

Enclosures





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## MEMORANDUM

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TO: REDACTED  
FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox  
RE: Cases for CMOB Meeting of December 11, 2002  
DATE: 10 December 2002

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### CONFIDENTIAL

In response to your memorandum of December 3 about the cases currently open before the CMOB, let me provide the following information.

CMOB-001-01: The Board in the Diocese of Orange has requested copies of all our files on the matter for their deliberations. They have made no determination yet.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED



MEMORANDUM

TO: Cardinal Roger Mahony REDACTED

FROM: REDACTED Monsignor Craig A. Cox

RE: *Recommendation of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board  
Monsignor John Coffield (CMOB 001-01)*

DATE: 4 September 2002

The CMOB held its meeting Wednesday, August 28. We offer the following recommendation with regard to Monsignor Coffield.

As you know, he is incardinated in the Diocese of Orange. The allegation concerns alleged misconduct from 1960-1962 at Dolores Mission Parish. Thus, if the alleged misconduct was perpetrated, it occurred while Monsignor Coffield was one of our priests in one of our parishes.

Since Monsignor Coffield is now under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Orange, however, when the allegation initially came in May of this year, it was reported to Orange. Monsignor Coffield denied any wrongdoing. The CMOB heard a report from REDACTED on the visit she and REDACTED had with the person lodging the complaint. The Board reached the consensus that the allegation "appears credible." Monsignor Coffield's denial also has credibility.

The CMOB recommends the following:

1. The Archdiocese should offer family therapy to the victim and his wife in accord with the recommendation of REDACTED
2. The Archdiocese make a report to the Diocese of Orange and ask their Board to consider the accusation and the response of Monsignor Coffield, with the comment that the allegation "appears credible." We will ask the Diocese of Orange to report back to us on their determination.

*I concur -*  
*+ Roger Cardinal Mahony*  
*6 Sept 2002*



**COPY**

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

September 17, 2002

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REDACTED

Diocese of Orange  
2811 East Villa Real Road  
Orange, CA 92867-1999

REDACTED  
Dear

I am writing to follow up my earlier correspondence regarding the complaint of sexual misconduct alleged against Monsignor John Coffield by REDACTED

On August 21, 2002 REDACTED and REDACTED conducted an interview with REDACTED. They also spoke with his wife. A copy of the summary of that meeting is enclosed.

As a result of that interview, our Assistance Ministry Office is extending therapeutic assistance to the family of REDACTED which was deemed the most effective way to assist him. This offer of assistance has been made as a free will gesture of pastoral concern and does not involve any admission on our part that the claims of REDACTED against Monsignor Coffield are true.

The initial complaint, the denial of Monsignor Coffield, and the summary of the interview with REDACTED were presented to our Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board (CMOB) on August 28, 2002. The consensus of our Board is that the allegation "appears credible."

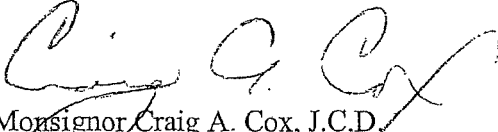
The CMOB, recognizing that Monsignor Coffield is now under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Orange, determined that it was not within the scope of our authority to make any determination about a priest incardinated elsewhere. Our CMOB, therefore, recommended that we make a report to the Diocese of Orange, asking that your own review board consider the matter and make appropriate recommendations to Bishop Brown. Our Board has asked that you give us a report on your eventual determinations and disposition of the case.

This recommendation of the CMOB was communicated to Cardinal Mahony who concurred. I am attaching the memorandum of REDACTED and myself to the Cardinal for your review.

Please feel free to contact me **REDACTED** if that would be helpful to the work of your board.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. May God continue to bless you!

Yours in Christ,

  
Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.  
Vicar for Clergy

attachments

**REDACTED**

cc:

To: REDACTED  
 Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board

Re: Case: REDACTED /Fr. Z

Victim: Boy 1960-62 age 8 to 10 years old  
 Birth: REDACTED

**Steps completed since previous report:**

- 1.) REDACTED called the local parish, again, where incident occurred. She spoke to Fr. B. who had taken the original call. The victim identified the priest (Fr. Z) by name and asked if this priest knew Fr. Z. Got full details of that phone conversation.
- 2.) REDACTED and REDACTED went to this victim's family to further explore the veracity of the story and to determine the pastoral response.

**Victim Story 8/21/02 remained unchanged:**

REDACTED lived in the projects and attended Religious Education on Sundays REDACTED says that the abuse occurred before class in the basement across from the Church. He reports "being sexually abused by Fr. Z. It's stamped in my head."

REDACTED said, "Father asked for volunteers and then he always picked me to help get bread, sugar... weird stuff happened. He called me 'my little something...' He described genital touching and digital penetration. He said sometimes... I'd take off. I couldn't cry when I went up the back stairs carrying stuff as if nothing happened."

REDACTED reports being told to keep this secret. "If you want to be an altar boy you have to keep this secret. I'm doing what God wants". "If you tell anyone you'll burn in hell."

REDACTED speaks of "nightmares, battles between good and evil. These sensations keep happening in my mind. Something is trying to stay alive."

"I broke a promise to a Catholic Priest. I spoke about what happened". "I wanted to be part of the Church. I wanted to be close to God."

There has been some consistency in his basic story which has been repeated many times on the telephone: the place, the name of the priest, the description of the person, his religious desires and the threat of hell if he told anyone of the abuse. The abuse occurring with religious symbols predominating in the room, "there was a large cross on the wall". "God is not as holy as we might think".

Wife said, "I always knew of the sexual abuse. I just didn't know who".

REDACTED

has at times called the abusive priest, Fr. Ice Cream Man. In our interview in \_\_\_\_\_'s home he also said that he was "abused by the Ice Cream Man mentioned phone 5/13/02 interview – happened down at the L.A. River."

Current Mental Functioning:

REDACTED has a history of REDACTED

REDACTED He has been non-compliant regarding following Psychiatric treatment plans.

REDACTED according to his wife. REDACTED remote memory has not been identified as severely damaged by his wife. REDACTED

REDACTED

Recommendation for the victims assistance:

While REDACTED has compromised brain function his story has a ring of authenticity.

1. Initial grooming and being told of "specialness".
2. Told to keep it secret. Consequences if breaking the secret.
3. Repetition of the same facts without significant deviation over a 5 month time frame. This person has no recent memory functioning so is not giving a "recovered memory" or a presently contrived story.
4. Spiritual traumatization in relationship with God.
5. Sexual abuse fused with God. "I'm doing what God wants."
6. Actual facts: initially sitting on lap, touching genitals and digital penetration.
7. Has always known priest's name and description of priest, hair color, height, size, remembered parish and description of the place.

We do not know if REDACTED is able to be helped. Also, we know that we do not have access to the kind of help REDACTED needs. He is in the [REDACTED]

Collateral victim: The victim's wife has 24 hour care of her husband who has to be supervised at all times. She is unable to work due to providing care. She is a woman of strong character. She impressed us as taking life on life's terms. She seems most able to receive help and profit from it. There are REDACTED children REDACTED in the home.

We recommend the wife have up to a year of therapy provided the protocol is followed.



August 13, 2002

**Father X – Downstairs (2002/22)**

Father X is now 88 years of age and living in retirement in Orange County with a very limited ministry due to his age. He was ordained in 1941 and became incardinated in the Diocese of Orange when that Diocese was formed. This priest is well known for a long history of activism for social justice and for reform of the Church. No other complaint of sexual misconduct has ever emerged against him either in Orange or Los Angeles.

A 49 year old man alleges that in approximately 1960-1962 Father X abused him when he was between the ages of 8-10 years at an inner city parish. He grew up in the projects. The nature of the claimed abuse included touching of the boy by Father X, requests that the boy touch Father, and oral sex.

The alleged victim reported the matter to the LAPD and to the media.

REDACTED and REDACTED interviewed Father X. He strongly denied ever abusing anyone whatsoever. He has no recollection of this man's name. This parish had a youth group and was an active parish. Father X expressed disbelief in the part describing the location of the alleged abuse.

The matter has been reported to the LAPD. The alleged victim has contacted the press.

The initial contact came to the hot line on May 9, 2002 and was followed by multiple daily calls. Sometimes the behavior was alert and other times it was disturbed as if under the influence of a substance. It was difficult getting information from the person, but often would ask for money. He gave his consent to speak with his therapist and examine his medical records.

The records indicate that the therapist was never told about any allegations of misconduct until May 23, 2002, a couple of weeks after calling the hot line. Also, the records indicated that there had been "no prior psych history" prior to brain surgery in 1998. There is a history of mental instability, therapy and medication, and in August-December, 2001 the therapist noted "using street drugs, then alcohol, crack cocaine, living on streets, in shelter, mismanage finances – rehab recommended." Often missed appointments for therapy.

The alleged victim asked for and received an appointment at ACC, but never showed, followed by calls about being suicidal and hospitalized. Later in that week he had no memory of this. On June 3, 2002 he sent a letter to REDACTED requesting \$750,000.00 for him and \$50,000.00 for other abused children.

Based on her review of the records and conversations with both the alleged victim and his wife, REDACTED concludes that his current psychological difficulties relate to other causes. The allegation against Father X is highly improbable.

August 13, 2002

This was introduced at the CMOB meeting of July 24, 2002, but there was no time to deliberate appropriately. CMOB asked that this matter be deferred to an upcoming meeting. CMOB agreed that in the interim no financial aid be extended.

---Since that time, the [REDACTED] of the Diocese of Orange has inquired about the matter.

---The decision by the [REDACTED] not to extend therapy or other assistance.