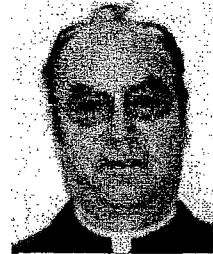


***REV. MANUEL SANCHEZ***

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

**Vicar for Clergy Database**

Clergy Assignment Record

**Rev Msgr Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros****(ao of 2009)**

<i>Current Primary Assignment</i>		<i>Age</i>	79
<i>Birth Date</i>	3/2/1930	<i>Deanery</i>	23
<i>Birth City</i>	Iznalloz, Granada, Spain		
<i>Diaconate Ordination</i>			
<i>Priesthood Ordination</i>	6/12/1954		
<i>Diocese Name</i>	Archdiocese of Los Angeles		
<i>Date of Incardination</i>	9/15/1976		
<i>Religious Community</i>			
<i>Ritual Ascription</i>	Latin		
<i>Ministry Status</i>	Retired with No Faculties		
<i>Seminary</i>	Diocesan Major Seminary of Granada		
<i>Ethnicity</i>	Spanish		

<u><i>Language(s)</i></u>	<u><i>Fluency</i></u>
Spanish	Native Language

**Fingerprint Verification and Safeguard Training**

*Date Background Check*  
*Safeguard Training*

**Assignment History**

<b><i>Assignment</i></b>	<b><i>Beginning Date</i></b>	<b><i>Completion Date</i></b>
Retired with No Faculties, Faculties removed by decree on 1/26/2007.	1/26/2007	
Living Privately	7/1/2000	
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pomona Pastor Emeritus, Retired	2/1/2000	7/1/2000
Sabbatical, Pontificia Universidad de Salamanka, Madrid	11/15/1995	5/15/1996
Prelate of His Holiness, Elevated	6/6/1995	
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pomona Pastor, Active Service	5/1/1980	1/31/2000
Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Pomona Administrator, Active Service	1/3/1977	4/30/1980
St. Helen Catholic Church, South Gate Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	10/1/1975	1/2/1977
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Los Nietos Associate Pastor (Parochial Vicar), Active Service	2/13/1975	9/30/1975

St. Paul High School, Santa Fe Springs Education-Teacher/Faculty, Active Service	7/1/1971	2/12/1975
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Los Nietos Resident, Resident	7/1/1971	2/12/1975

REDACTED

Thursday, July 6. 10 a.m.

REDACTED reported that their daughter, REDACTED who is now twenty-four, told them three or four months ago that at a youth retreat about four years ago, when she went to confession to Father Manuel Sanchez, he asked her to sit on his lap, and he touched her inappropriately during the confession. REDACTED is now in counseling, and she reported this matter to her parents as a result of her being in counseling. She now attends REDACTED

She also reported that on the same occasion, Father Manuel Sanchez also did the same thing to a girl named REDACTED who was seventeen at the time. REDACTED is now married and lives in REDACTED

There was just one incident. However, she has been reluctant to go to church since that time.

REDACTED

There were also incidents involving two seventh grade girls who attended the parish school. Father Manuel Sanchez asked each of them to sit on his lap during confession. This happened two years ago. Sister REDACTED, the school principal was aware of this incident. REDACTED gave me permission to talk to Sister REDACTED about this matter.

R REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED  
REDACTED REDACTED  
REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

They have not talked to any priests about this matter except to a priest who came from Spain last summer.

Everything in the parish is malfunctioning. The only thing Father Sanchez thinks about is money.

They do not know where the money goes. He has put in beautiful windows in the church, but he has charged the parish several times for them. He overcharges.

Father Sanchez only wants money.

REDACTED

REDACTED was aware REDACTED were coming to the Chancery Office.

REDACTED have all the information about what is going on in the parish.

REDACTED have been in the parish since 1982. They want the situation in the parish to corrected.

They feel they would sue if the Church were not involved.

They spoke with people from another parish were Father Manuel Sanchez served, and they found out that he was not well received in that parish either.

Father Sanchez treats the church like a business.

REDACTED

The parish seems to belong to the Sanchez family. All his family came and stayed for a month.

He seems to be squeezing the poor by asking \$150 for quinceneras.

REDACTED feels she has to lie because when people call up he asks her to say she is not there. If there is money involved, he is always there.

People have left the parish because of the way he has treated people.

Last year a priest came from Spain for the Encuentra Latina, and he could not stay in the rectory because Father Sanchez's brother was staying there. The community was angry about this.

Other ladies apart from his immediate family members have stayed in the rectory.

REDACTED was not sure if she had talked to Sister REDACTED about the incident with the seventh grade girls. She was sure Sister REDACTED knew about the incident. REDACTED did talk to her about what REDACTED had revealed to her about Father Sanchez.

REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED 's main concern is for Father Sanchez. They want him to get help and change. Their second priority is for the community. They would not like to see a scandal in the community.

People have been going to bishop Arzube about the situation there, but nothing happens. Father Manuel Sanchez has an organization that protects him.

REDACTED asked that this information not be given to Father Sanchez, and I promised that no information would be give without their consent. I also said that I would need to meet with their daughter REDACTED and with Sister REDACTED.

The last thing they would want would be to be excluded from the community.

*Thomas Coney*

Sister REDACTED

Friday, July 7. 11 a.m.

I met with Sister REDACTED

REDACTED had REDACTED children in school and now has REDACTED. The family is very strict--so strict that the children were not allowed to go to the school Disney night.

About two years ago, REDACTED came to Sister to say that some time previous to her visit, about Easter, Father Sanchez had asked each of her sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession and that he had fondled them.

Sister thinks she mentioned it to REDACTED REDACTED who was her supervisor at the time.

She did tell her Community.

Sister REDACTED, who belongs to the same community, was the interpreter for the interview. Presently she is in N.J. on a spiritual renewal course. She will return to Sacred Heart and will work with the REDACTED Program.

Sister REDACTED is a friend of the REDACTED

Currently there are five sister in the house--three in school and two in REDACTED.

Three of the sisters have left in the last three years because they were unable to work with Father Sanchez.

Sister will leave a year from September, and the Community will not be able to replace her.

She would not be surprised if the allegations were true. Father Manuel is impossible to work with. He insists that people be allies or enemies,

The staff meetings were very heated, and she agrees that Father Chris Ponnet would have been a bit less aggressive and heated.

Manuel is obsessed with the windows and getting the money for them.

He has no interest in the school whatsoever.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL  
1263 SO. HAMILTON BLVD.  
POMONA, CALIFORNIA 91766

Ho. REDACTED

July 7, 1989

Dear Monsignor Curry,

I take this opportunity to thank you for you time today and also your kind attention during my meeting with you.

I have two questions I would like you to answer. Do I say anything to the REDACTED family about what has come up about the confessional situation?

If Father Manuel asks me anything in the near future before he goes to Spain, what do I say?

Sincerely, REDACTED  
REDACTED

REDACTED REDACTED

P.S. The REDACTED address is:

REDACTED



Meeting with sr. REDACTED , July 11, 1989

Sr. REDACTED , the principal of Sacred Heart School came to see me and we discussed the allegation that Father had molested two seventh-grade children in the context of Confession.

The family in question had REDACTED children in the school and now has REDACTED, as of June 1987. About two years ago, the mother came to Sr. REDACTED to say that Father, some months previous at about Easter time, had asked the two girls to sit on his lap during Confession. She thinks she told REDACTED, who was then her supervisor. She told the community. Sr. REDACTED REDACTED ; was the parish sister and was the interpreter for the interview. She is in New Jersey on a spiritual renewal, but she will be at Sacred Heart with the REDACTED program in gang ministry later on in the summer. Sr. REDACTED was very friendly with the REDACTED.

There are five sisters in the house, three for the school and two for the REDACTED program. Three sisters have gone in the last three years because they could not work with Father Manuel. Sister will leave a year from September, and the community has no one to replace her. She would not be surprised if the allegations were true. Father Manuel is impossible to work with. He turns people into allies or enemies. She thinks Father Chris Ponnet could have been a little less heated at the staff meetings they had. Father Manuel is obsessed with the windows and with the money he gets for them. He has no interest in the school.

SEE ATTACHED FOR  
INTERVIEW WITH  
SR. REDACTED AND  
SR. REDACTED

REDACTED came to see me at my office. Sr. REDACTED is principal of the school and Sr. REDACTED works in the parish in the REDACTED program. She used to be the parish sister. The girls who accused Father Sanchez were from the REDACTED family. The parent came to see Sr. in June 1987. The incident supposedly took place about Easter.

Recently, the two REDACTED girls returned to the school to say that their cousin, REDACTED, aged 13, had run away with a 21-year-old man. Mrs. REDACTED accused the girls of lying about her daughter. The REDACTED family now has taken all their children out of the school. All this happened in September 1989.

Sr. recommended I contact REDACTED. At our early meeting, Sr. Anthony had mentioned that the REDACTED family was very strict in the sense that they would not even allow their children to participate in the Disneyland outing for the school children. However, the two girls in question were rebellious in that they had boyfriends who would be waiting for them outside the school gates and were quite troublesome at school.

Sr. was most concerned about having enough to finish the kindergarten and the reading lab given by the REDACTED family and Mr. REDACTED Sr. REDACTED noted that Father Sanchez tends to turn away from people when he feels they are threatening his power. They were very concerned that the phones were not answered and emergencies were not being taken care of.

SEE ATTACHED  
FOR INTERVIEW  
WITH REDACTED  
AND

MEMORANDUM

July 13, 1989

**TO:** Archbishop Mahony  
**FROM:** Monsignor Thomas Curry  
**RE:** Sacred Heart, Pomona

The situation regarding Father Manuel Sanchez is distressing and puzzling.

REDACTED

I met with Sister REDACTED, the principal of the school, and she confirmed that two years ago a mother had come to her to complain that Father Sanchez had asked her daughters to sit on his lap during confession. For several reasons, none of which seemed to clear to me, she did not report the matter at the time.

REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED  
REDACTED

REDACTED -----

REDACTED I spoke with REDACTED REDACTED  
who was the school supervisor at the time the molestation  
of the two schoolgirls supposedly took place, and she too  
doubted the incident. She was aware of many difficulties  
regarding the school, but she also thought Sister REDACTED  
was dealing with many of her own personal problems.

REDACTED REDACTED

At this stage, taking the situation as a whole, I have  
decided to suspend judgment while I pursue and investigate  
the matter further. In my estimation, Father Sanchez does  
not pose any immediate threat to parishioners, and  
therefore I do not see a need to remove him from the  
parish. However, I do need to continue to try to clarify  
the situation.

*I concur - please keep me  
informed.*

*+ RMM*

*7-15-89*

TUESDAY 9/26 11AM  
REDACTED

COPY



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
1531 WEST NINTH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015-1194  
(213) 251-3200

OFFICE OF VICAR FOR CLERGY  
(213) 251-3284

August 7, 1989

Sister REDACTED, Principal  
Sacred Heart School  
1263 South Hamilton Blvd  
Pomona, CA 91766

Dear Sister REDACTED

Many thanks for your letter of July 7 giving me the address of REDACTED. For several reasons, I have not contacted her, but am following up gradually on the matters we discussed.

Father Sanchez is on vacation during August, and I am leaving until September 1.

On my return I would very much like to meet with Sister REDACTED REDACTED, and with you, if you are available, and I will be in touch with you early in September.

I very much appreciate your kindness to me and your assistance.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry  
Vicar for Clergy

REDACTED

Father Manuel Sanchez

September 27, 1989

REDACTED and I met with Father Manuel Sanchez today for about an hour. We presented to him the two situations involving allegations of improper behavior on his part--the allegation by two schoolgirls that he asked them to sit on his lap during confession and REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED

Father Sanchez vehemently denied any impropriety on his part. I told him I had not investigated the allegations about the two schoolgirls, that the matter had come to my attention and that I had asked Sister REDACTED to see me. REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED

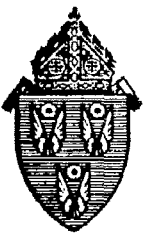
REDACTED

REDACTED

We asked Father to see Dr. REDACTED to help him with the trauma of these allegations in his life, and he readily agreed. REDACTED REDACTED

We agreed that Father would see Dr. REDACTED, and that I would be in touch with him shortly.

COPY



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November 20, 1989

Dr. REDACTED  
REDACTED

Dear Doctor REDACTED

I received the attached letter, and I am meeting with Father Manuel this Wednesday morning to discuss it.

I will be in touch with you soon.

Peace.

(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry  
Vicar for Clergy

REDACTED

Enclosure

Manuel  
Sanchez  
Quintero



June 1, 1989

Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Curry  
Vicar for Clergy  
1531 West Ninth St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90015-1194

Dear Msgr. Curry:

Greetings to you and my best wishes for your Ministry to the Clergy.

My name is REDACTED and I am presently the Youth Minister at my parish of Sacred Heart in Pomona.

First of all Msrgr. Curry I wish to ask that this letter be kept confidential for your eyes alone because I do not wish to cause anyone unnecessary distress.

I am having a very difficult time understanding the situation here at Sacred Heart and I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you privately. I chose to speak with you because you seem like the only objective person to share my concerns with.

Fr. Manuel Sanchez and Fr. Chris Ponnet do not know of this letter, nor of my request. I would like it to remain this way.

The following is where I can be reached:

REDACTED

Thank you for your time and may God's grace be with you.  
REDACTED

*C file*



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
1531 WEST NINTH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015-1194  
(213) 251-3200

OFFICE OF VICAR FOR CLERGY  
(213) 251-3284

June 27, 1989

REDACTED

Dear Ms. REDACTED:

Thank you for your kind letter of June 1, 1989.

May I most respectfully invite you to write to me with regard to the difficulties you are experiencing at Sacred Heart.

I assure you that I will respect the confidentiality of this matter and that I will respond to your letter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry  
Vicar for Clergy

July 5, 1989

Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Curry  
Vicar of Clergy  
1531 West Ninth St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90015-1194

Dear Msgr. Curry:

The Peace of Christ be with you, and thank you for your response on June 27th, 1989.

I was somewhat disappointed, because I did not get the meeting date and time that I requested.

In your letter you encouraged me to write down specific events which have caused my concern. In addition to this, you stated that it would be kept confidential. I thank you for this, because keeping my letters confidential has given me some peace of mind.

I have chosen not to be specific at this time, and rather would like for you to reconsider giving me the opportunity to meet with you for the following two reasons.

- 1) Another parish leader from my community shared his similar concerns with the Regional Bishop and the confidentiality of the concern was not respected. A copy of the letter sent was given to the Pastor, and nothing resulted except hurt feelings, and more frustration.
- 2) I will be leaving for a 3 week vacation from July 8th to the 31st and, I would not be available to defend my statements.

Now I will give you a (hopefully brief) summation of my relationship with the Pastor, Fr. Manuel Sanchez Ontiverros. I have known him since the age of thirteen and began to work for him as a part-time receptionist at the age of sixteen. I stopped working in the rectory six and a half years later when I became part of the parish staff with the status of the Youth Minister. I am presently 23 years old and Fr. Manuel has been a good friend, counsellor, and a father figure for most of my life. I truly love the man and I believe that my concern for his well-being at all levels comes from that love.

I strongly urge you to consider my concern as well as anyone else from this parish of Sacred Heart, because I feel that if Fr. Manuel's needs are not met soon then there may be a bigger problem within the community than

REDACTED

Meeting with REDACTED July 11, 1989

REDACTED the principal of Sacred Heart School came to see me and we discussed the allegation that Father had molested two seventh-grade children in the context of Confession.

The family in question had five children in the school and now has two, as of June 1987. About two years ago, the mother came to Sr. Anthony to say that Father, some months previous at about Easter time, had asked the two girls to sit on his lap during Confession. She thinks she told REDACTED, who was then her supervisor. She told the community. REDACTED REDACTED was the parish sister and was the interpreter for the interview. She is in New Jersey on a spiritual renewal, but she will be at Sacred Heart with the SAYA program in gang ministry later on in the summer. REDACTED was very friendly with the REDACTED.

There are five sisters in the house, three for the school and two for the SAYA program. Three sisters have gone in the last three years because they could not work with Father Manuel. Sister will leave a year from September, and the community has no one to replace her. She would not be surprised if the allegations were true. Father Manuel is impossible to work with. He turns people into allies or enemies. She thinks Father Chris Ponnet could have been a little less heated at the staff meetings they had. Father Manuel is obsessed with the windows and with the money he gets for them. He has no interest in the school.

SEE ATTACHED FOR  
INTERVIEW WITH  
REDACTED AND

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Recently, the two REDACTED girls returned to the school to say that their cousin, REDACTED, aged 13, had run away with a 21-year-old man. Mrs. REDACTED accused the girls of lying about her daughter. The REDACTED family now has taken all their children out of the school. All this happened in September 1989.

REDACTED recommended I contact REDACTED. At our early meeting, REDACTED had mentioned that the REDACTED family was very strict in the sense that they would not even allow their children to participate in the Disneyland outing for the school children. However, the two girls in question were rebellious in that they had boyfriends who would be waiting for them outside the school gates and were quite troublesome at school.

Sr. was most concerned about having enough to finish the kindergarten and the reading lab given by the REDACTED family and Mr. REDACTED. Sr. REDACTED noted that Father Sanchez tends to turn away from people when he feels they are threatening his power. They were very concerned that the phones were not answered and emergencies were not being taken care of.

SEE ATTACHED  
FOR INTERVIEW  
WITH REDACTED  
AND

Conversation with Father Chris Ponnet, July 6, 1989

Some weeks ago, the REDACTED had talked to him about what they were going to see me about. Mrs. REDACTED came to Chris when she heard from her daughter that molestation had taken place. Mrs. REDACTED is a receptionist and she talked to Father Chris about it one evening. She said their daughter had stopped coming to church and they had become aware of the allegation in the last few months. At the time she brought it to him in confidence and he was overwhelmed that she had talked to him. He thought she would be happy he was leaving. When he came [to the parish], Mrs. REDACTED was in charge of the adult Sunday CCD. While she was away, he and the other CCD Director made some radical changes in the program and she found that she was out when she came back. So he was surprised that she would confide in him. He has heard rumors, but there was nothing to substantiate them. Someone at first Confession said they were uncomfortable with Father Manuel. REDACTED never saw anything. He has heard a few things about the lady in the parish, i.e., REDACTED. She is around a lot. She is in charge of the sacristy. Father Chris's concern is that Father Ignacio Sanchez told her not to be reading at the Spanish Mass. She was hired to run the Amnesty program. The Youth Minister may have some more insight into this.

Father Manuel tends to spend a couple of hours in her office.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED REDACTED was about 17 at the time.

There was another incident with two seventh-grade girls about two years ago. St. Anthony, the principal, knows about this. They claim that Father asked the two seventh-grade girls to sit on his lap during Confession. Mrs. REDACTED has talked to Sr. REDACTED about this.

They also raise the issue of REDACTED, who used to clean the church. Everyone knows that she is the mujer del padre. The organization Apoyo Familiar en Cristo knew the problem with REDACTED REDACTED and REDACTED know because REDACTED, the husband of REDACTED, called them to say that he would kill himself. Father Manuel gave tapes to the REDACTED to show that REDACTED was pursuing him and that she was a crazy woman. REDACTED is now secretary of the Amnesty class. She has a desk, phone, etc. She has a private phone number. Their main concern is that Father Manuel can be saved, but cannot be saved while she is close to him. Almost everybody in the community knows about this problem. They have not talked to any priest, except some priest from Spain last summer.

Everything in the parish is non-functioning. Now he only talks about money, money, money. They do not know where the money from the Festival goes. He has put in windows--beautiful--but he has charged it to the parish several times. He overcharges because he keeps charging for things. He only wants money.

Mrs. REDACTED works as a Receptionist on Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday from 9 to 3:30. Their daughter knows they were coming to see me. They have been in the parish since 1982 and they want the situation to be corrected. They could sue for \$100,000 if this were not the Church. They spoke to people from another parish and the people told them Father Manuel did not do well there. He treats the church like a business. They pushed for a Spanish Mass in St. Joseph, but his brother said no. The parish seems to belong to the Sanchez brothers and the family. All his family came there for a month one

year. He seems to be squeezing the poor. Charges \$150 for a quincienera.

As receptionist, Mrs. REDACTED says she has to lie because he says he is not there. But if there is money involved, he is always there. People have left because of the way he has treated them. He treats people badly. He invited the priest from Spain for Encuentro Latino and the priest could not get a room in the rectory because his brother was there. He had to drive to lead the Encuentro and the community was mad about this. The family stays in the rectory, and one or two ladies stay there who were not of his family. Mrs. REDACTED does not remember when she found out about the seventh graders. She told Sr. REDACTED about her daughter. She is a friend of Sr. REDACTED. Later she said she could not remember if she had talked to Sr. REDACTED and she does not recall who told her about the seventh graders.

The parents talked to their daughter about the faith, since she was not going to go to church. About one o'clock in the morning some time ago, she told her mother about this incident.

They also brought up the named of a woman called REDACTED. This is the last name of a woman who is the wife of Father Manuel's accountant. Someone told REDACTED, who is a friend of Mrs. REDACTED, that Father Manuel touched Mrs. REDACTED improperly. Apparently, Mrs. REDACTED told the woman this.

Their main concern is that he can change and that he needs help. Their second priority is the community. They would not like to see a scandal in the community. Mrs. REDACTED was not sure about talking to Sr. REDACTED about the seventh grade girls, but she told her about her daughter roughly two months ago.

People have been going to Bishop Arzube, but this has rebounded on them. They are concerned that Father Manuel has an organization that protects him. The last thing they want is to be excluded from the community.



Mr. and Mrs. REDACTED

Thursday, July 6. 10 a.m.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

She also reported that on the same occasion, Father Manuel Sanchez also did the same thing to a girl named REDACTED who was seventeen at the time. REDACTED is now married and lives in Modesto.

REDACTED

REDACTED

There were also incidents involving two seventh grade girls who attended the parish school. Father Manuel Sanchez asked each of them to sit on his lap during confession. This happened two years ago. Sister REDACTED the school principal was aware of this incident. Mrs. REDACTED gave me permission to talk to Sister REDACTED about this matter.

REDACTED cleans the church. Everyone knows she is the mujer del padre. REDACTED and REDACTED who are in charge of the Apoyo Familiar de Christo know of this problem. REDACTED's husband, found out about this relationship and called the REDACTED; and said he was contemplating suicide.

When this matter was brought to Father Manuel Sanche's attention, he gave tapes of telephone conversations to the REDACTED; to show that REDACTED was pursuing him and to prove that she was crazy.

REDACTED is now secretary to the Amnesty Program. She has an office, desk, and phone, etc. She also has Father Sanchez's private phone number.

Mr. and Mrs. REDACTED feel Father Sanchez can be saved but not with REDACTED around.

They have not talked to any priests about this matter except to a priest who came from Spain last summer.

Everything in the parish is malfunctioning. The only thing Father Sanchez thinks about is money.

They do not know where the money goes. He has put in beautiful windows in the church, but he has charged the parish several times for them. He overcharges.

Father Sanchez only wants money.

Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> works in the parish office three times each week, on Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday from 9-3:30.

REDACTED was aware Mr. and Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> were coming to the Chancery Office.

REDACTED and REDACTED have all the information about what is going on in the parish.

Mr. and Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> have been in the parish since 1982. They want the situation in the parish to corrected.

They feel they would sue if the Church were not involved.

They spoke with people from another parish were Father Manuel Sanchez served, and they found out that he was not well received in that parish either.

Father Sanchez treats the church like a business.

They asked him to push for a Spanish mass in St. Joseph's, but his brother, Father REDACTED made him say no to this.

The parish seems to belong to the Sanchez family. All his family came and stayed for a month.

He seems to be squeezing the poor by asking \$150 for quinceneras.

Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> feels she has to lie because when people call up he asks her to say she is not there. If there is money involved, he is always there.

People have left the parish because of the way he has treated people.

Last year a priest came from Spain for the Encuentra Latina, and he could not stay in the rectory because Father Sanchez's brother was staying there. The community was angry about this.

Other ladies apart from his immediate family members have stayed in the rectory.

Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> was not sure if she had talked to Sister REDACTED about the incident with the seventh grade girls. She was sure Sister <sup>REDACTED</sup> knew about the incident. Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> did talk to her about what REDACTED had revealed to her about Father Sanchez.

REDACTED

Mr. and Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> main concern is for Father Sanchez. They want him to get help and change. Their second priority is for the community. They would not like to see a scandal in the community.

People have been going to bishop Arzube about the situation there, but nothing happens. Father Manuel Sanchez has an organization that protects him.

Mr. and Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> asked that this information not be given to Father Sanchez, and I promised that no information would be give without their consent. I also said that I would need to meet with their daughter <sup>REDACTED</sup> and with Sister <sup>REDACTED</sup>.

The last thing they would want would be to be excluded from the community.

*Thomas Curry*

Sister REDACTED

Friday, July 7. 11 a.m.

I met with Sister REDACTED

Mrs. REDACTED had five children in school and now has two. The family is very strict--so strict that the children were not allowed to go to the school Disney night.

About two years ago, Mrs. REDACTED came to Sister to say that some time previous to her visit, about Easter, Father Sanchez had asked each of her sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession and that he had fondled them.

Sister thinks she mentioned it to REDACTED who was her supervisor at the time.

She did tell her Community.

Sister REDACTED, who belongs to the same community, was the interpreter for the interview. Presently she is in N.J. on a spiritual renewal course. She will return to Sacred Heart and will work with the SAYA Program.

Sister REDACTED is a friend of the REDACTED.

Currently there are five sister in the house--three in school and two in SAYA.

Three of the sisters have left in the last three years because they were unable to work with Father Sanchez.

Sister will leave a year from September, and the Community will not be able to replace her.

She would not be surprised if the allegations were true. Father Manuel is impossible to work with. He insists that people be allies or enemies.

The staff meetings were very heated, and she agrees that Father Chris Ponnet would have been a bit less aggressive and heated.

Manuel is obsessed with the windows and getting the money for them.

He has no interest in the school whatsoever.

Father Chris Ponnet

July 6, 1989 (Telephone Conversation)

Father <sup>REDACTED</sup> had left a message on my tape to say that he wished to speak to me before my appointment with the <sup>REDACTED</sup>. I called him after the appointment.

Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> had seen him some weeks ago to tell him that her daughter had told her that a molestation had taken place, and that her daughter had stopped coming to church.

Chris was overwhelmed that Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> had talked to him, as he thought she would be happy that he was leaving. During the year while Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> had been away, he had make changes to the CCD program that excluded her from it, and on her return she felt she had been thrown out. She was in charge of the adult CCD program, and the decision <sup>REDACTED</sup> was made not to have it meet on Sunday morning. He was surprised Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> would confide in him.

He had heard rumors, but there was nothing to substantiate them. Someone at First Confessions had mentioned being uncomfortable with him, but he knew nothing more. He never saw anything.

REDACTED has been around a lot and he has heard some rumors about her. She has now been hired to run the Amnesty Program. The Youth minister might have more to say on this. (REDACTED is the Youth minister and has asked for an appointment. I asked her to write to me.)

On Wednesday, July 26, Father REDACTED and I met with REDACTED  
and Mrs REDACTED.

REDACTED

REDACTED

The same thing happened to her friend who is younger. The friend is now married, and REDACTED has not contacted her about this. She is Mexican, and REDACTED thinks this would hurt her marriage if this came to her husband's attention, as he would believe that more happened. "Mexican men want their women to be very clean."

REDACTED

REDACTED

SACRED HEART SCHOOL  
1263 SO. HAMILTON BLVD.  
POMONA, CALIFORNIA 91766

REDACTED

July 7, 1989

Dear Monsignor Curry,

I take this opportunity to thank you for you time today and also your kind attention during my meeting with you.

I have two questions I would like you to answer. Do I say anything to the REDACTED family about what has come up about the confessional situation? If Father Manuel asks me anything in the near future before he goes to Spain, what do I say?

Sincerely,  
REDACTED

P.S. REDACTED address is:  
REDACTED

MEMORANDUM

July 13, 1989

TO: Archbishop Mahony  
FROM: Monsignor Thomas Curry  
RE: Sacred Heart, Pomona

The situation regarding Father Manuel Sanchez is distressing and puzzling.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED They also claimed that he did the same thing to two sixth grade schoolgirls about two years ago and that the school principal knew of this incident. REDACTED  
REDACTED

I met with Sister REDACTED, the principal of the school, and she confirmed that two years ago a mother had come to her to complain that Father Sanchez had asked her daughters to sit on his lap during confession. For several reasons, none of which seemed to clear to me, she did not report the matter at the time.

REDACTED

REDACTED After discussing the matter with Sister REDACTED, I decided not to contact the parent of the two schoolgirls yet. The incident allegedly took place two years ago, and the parent has not brought the matter up since. Before contacting her, I want to talk to another Felician sister who was the interpreter for the interview two years ago. She will be available next week.

REDACTED

I checked with Father Chris Ponnet, and while he was aware of the REDACTED concerns, he had never seen any evidence of sexual impropriety. Today I discussed the matter at



length with REDACTED (who spent five years with Manuel Sanchez), and while he, like Chris Ponnet, agrees that Manuel may have difficulties managing the parish, he never saw any signs of impropriety. I spoke with REDACTED who was the school supervisor at the time the molestation of the two schoolgirls supposedly took place, and she too doubted the incident. She was aware of many difficulties regarding the school, but she also thought Sister REDACTED was dealing with many of her own personal problems.

It seems to me that if what Mr. and Mrs <sup>REDACTED</sup> allege were factual, especially the allegation that Father Sanchez has been involved with several women, a priest in the parish could not but have some indications of a problem.

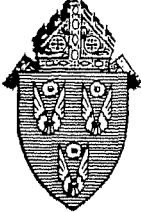
At this stage, taking the situation as a whole, I have decided to suspend judgment while I pursue and investigate the matter further. In my estimation, Father Sanchez does not pose any immediate threat to parishioners, and therefore I do not see a need to remove him from the parish. However, I do need to continue to try to clarify the situation.

*I concur - please keep me informed.*

*+ R M M*

*7-15-89*

DRAFT OF LETTER



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
1531 WEST NINTH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015-1194  
(213) 251-3200

OFFICE OF VICAR FOR CLERGY  
(213) 251-3284

July 13, 1989

Ms. REDACTED<sup>XXXX</sup>

Many thanks for your letter of July 5, 1989. I appreciate your willingness to write to me.

On your return, please call if you wish and I will certainly speak to you. I will be in the office until August 8 and then will be away until September 1.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry  
Vicar for Clergy

On Wednesday, July 26, Father REDACTED and I met with REDACTED and Mrs REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED . The same thing happened to her friend who is younger. The friend is now married, and REDACTED has not contacted her about this. She is REDACTED, and REDACTED thinks this would hurt her marriage if this came to her husband's attention, as he would believe that more happened. "REDACTED men want their women to be very clean."

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

*Manuel Sanchez*

On Wednesday, July 26, Father REDACTED and I met with REDACTED and Mrs REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED

The same thing happened to her friend who is younger. The friend is now married, and REDACTED has not contacted her about this. She is REDACTED, and REDACTED thinks this would hurt her marriage if this came to her husband's attention, as he would believe that more happened. "REDACTED men want their women to be very clean."

This incident has damaged her faith in the church. She saw the Church as her second family.

REDACTED

REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED

*Blas J. C...*

REDACTED

19

Dear Ms. REDACTED

Following up on our meeting earlier this summer, I asked Father Sanchez to contact a therapist whom I trust and admire, and Father has found him most helpful. However, he has no memory whatsoever of the incident you mentioned to Father REDACTED and ~~X~~ at our meeting, and he is puzzled and distraught by it.

At the suggestion of the therapist, I am writing to see if you would be willing to meet with Father Sanchez at your convenience. The purpose of the meeting would not be for confrontation or to embarrass or accuse anyone, but rather for clarification. For this reason, I would suggest that the therapist be present and that Father REDACTED and I attend, since we both spoke to you earlier. If you would like to have either or both of your parents present, that would also be entirely agreeable to all.

I know this is a painful issue for all concerned, and I certainly do not wish to prolong the matter. However, a meeting might be useful in helping to bring clarity to all parties. I would appreciate it if you could write me or call me at your convenience.

With thanks for your consideration of this request and wishing you God's blessings in your life, I remain

*Ms. [unclear]*

*non do I us and I want to make it clear that this is an invitation if it meets your wishes.*

REDACTED

*I also want to make it clear that this is very much your choice on whether you wish to attend such a meeting*

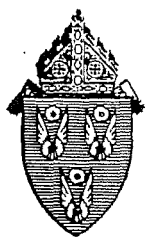
REDACTED

*Can you check with me on this*

Bcc to REDACTED

REDACTED

TUESDAY 9/26 11AM  
SR. REDACTED COPY



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
1531 WEST NINTH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015-1194  
(213) 251-3200

OFFICE OF VICAR FOR CLERGY  
(213) 251-3284

August 7, 1989

Sister REDACTED  
Sacred Heart School  
1263 South Hamilton Blvd  
Pomona, CA 91766

Dear Sister REDACTED :

Many thanks for your letter of July 7 giving me the address of Mrs. REDACTED. For several reasons, I have not contacted her, but am following up gradually on the matters we discussed.

Father Sanchez is on vacation during August, and I am leaving until September 1.

On my return I would very much like to meet with Sister REDACTED REDACTED, and with you, if you are available, and I will be in touch with you early in September.

I very much appreciate your kindness to me and your assistance.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry  
Vicar for Clergy

REDACTED

Father Manuel Sanchez

September 27, 1989

Father REDACTED and I met with Father Manuel Sanchez today for about an hour. We presented to him the two situations involving allegations of improper behavior on his part--the allegation by two schoolgirls that he asked them to sit on his lap during confession and the allegation by REDACTED REDACTED

Father Sanchez vehemently denied any impropriety on his part. I told him I had not investigated the allegations about the two schoolgirls, that the matter had come to my attention and that I had asked Sister REDACTED to see me. He asked about the name of the person making the second allegation and we gave that to him. He knew REDACTED ED He also said that her parents (he knew Mrs. REDACTED was not REDACTED mother) were very active in the parish and stated they were very good friends of his.

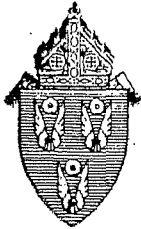
REDACTED

REDACTED

We asked Father to see Dr. REDACTED to help him with the trauma of these allegations in his life, and he readily agreed. Father on several occasions mentioned that REDACTED

REDACTED

We agreed that Father would see Dr. REDACTED and that I would be in touch with him shortly.



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
1531 WEST NINTH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015-1194  
(213) 251-3200

COF II

OFFICE OF VICAR FOR CLERGY  
(213) 251-3284

November 2, 1989

REDACTED

Dear REDACTED :

Following up on our meeting earlier this summer, I asked Father Manuel Sanchez to contact a therapist whom I trust and admire. Father did so and has found him most helpful. However, Father has no memory whatsoever of the incident you mentioned to Father REDACTED and me at our meeting, and he is puzzled and distraught by it.

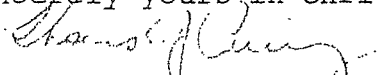
At the suggestion of the therapist, I am writing to see if you would be willing to meet with Father Sanchez at your convenience. The purpose of this meeting would not be for confrontation or to embarrass or accuse anyone, and I would suggest that the therapist be present and also that Father REDACTED and I attend, since we both spoke to you earlier. If you would like to have either or both of your parents present, also, that would be entirely agreeable.

The purpose of the meeting would be for clarification only, and I would appreciate it if you could write me or call me at your convenience. I also want to make it very clear that whether you wish you come to such a meeting is very much your choice.

I know this is a painful issue for all concerned and certainly do not wish to prolong the matter, but I do think such a meeting could be useful in helping to bring clarity to all parties.

With thanks for your consideration of this request, and wishing you God's blessings in your life, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry  
Vicar for Clergy



MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 7, 1989

FROM: Monsignor Curry

TO: File - Manuel Sanchez

RE: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONFIDENTIAL**

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

November 8, 1989

Rev. Msgr. Thomas Curry  
Vicar of Clergy  
1531 West Ninth St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90015-1194

Rev. Manuel Sanchez O.  
Pastor of Sacred Heart Church  
1215 S. Hamilton Blvd.  
Pomona, CA 91766

Dear Msgr. Curry and Fr. Sanchez:

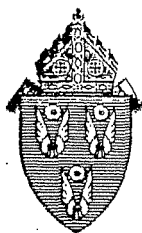
The Peace of Christ be with you both.  
REDACTED

REDACTED

y

\*A copy of this letter has been sent to Msgr. Thomas J. Curry  
and Rev. Manuel Sanchez O.

COPY



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
1531 WEST NINTH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015-1194  
(213) 251-3200

OFFICE OF VICAR FOR CLERGY  
(213) 251-3284

November 20, 1989

Dr. REDACTED  
REDACTED

Dear Doctor REDACTED

I received the attached letter, and I am meeting with Father Manuel this Wednesday morning to discuss it.

I will be in touch with you soon.

Peace.

(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry  
Vicar for Clergy

REDACTED

Enclosure

REDACTED

SACRED HEART CHURCH

1215 South Hamilton Boulevard  
POMONA, CALIFORNIA 91766

1/22/82

REDACTED

Mr. Barclay  
C. J. G.

COPY



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
1531 WEST NINTH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015-1194  
(213) 251-3200

OFFICE OF VICAR FOR CLERGY  
(213) 251-3284

November 29, 1989

Rev. Manuel Sanchez  
Sacred Heart Church  
1215 South Hamilton Blvd.  
Pomona, CA 91766

Dear Father Manuel:

Many thanks for meeting with Father REDACTED and me last Wednesday. I realize the session was a difficult one for all of us, and not least for you; however, I did feel it was very productive.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

Rev. Manuel Sanchez

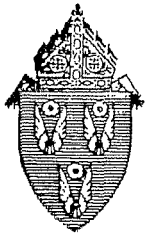
-2

REDACTED

S

(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry  
Vicar for Clergy

cc: Archbishop Mahony  
REDACTED



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
1531 WEST NINTH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015-1194  
(213) 251-3200

COPY

OFFICE OF VICAR FOR CLERGY  
(213) 251-3284

November 30, 1989

Ms. REDACTED  
REDACTED

Dear Ms. REDACTED:

Thank you for your letter of November 8, 1989 regarding Father Manuel Sanchez. Since you provided him with a copy, Father REDACTED and I met with him on November 22, 1989.

I am sure you will understand that my obligation to confidentiality precludes me from discussing the contents of our meeting, but I do believe it was both helpful, positive, and productive for all concerned.

I would like to commend you for your courage and forthrightness in writing your letter. Oftentimes when people have a difficulty, they remain silent. While none of us likes to be the subject of a critical letter, I do think we would all prefer to be told what others feel about us, rather than have them talking behind our backs.

Please know that I will be most concerned to do everything I can for the welfare of Sacred Heart Parish and the people who serve it.

Wishing you God's blessings, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry  
Vicar for Clergy



MEMORANDUM

November 30, 1989

**TO:** Archbishop Mahony  
**FROM:** Monsignor Thomas Curr  
**RE:** Father Manuel Sanchez

REDACTED

When REDACTED and I met with him, I simply kept confronting him until he he heard me finally, and we did make some progress. He relates very well to Dr. REDACTED and I am hopeful that he can be helpful to Manuel.

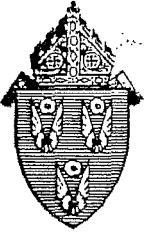
While there are definite problems in the parish, I do think he does much good work. This parish has a history of unstable administration since Father REDACTED the founding pastor, retired in 1972. I would like to work with Manuel to see if we can improve his ministry there.

*I concur - please continue  
along these lines.*

*Thanks!*

*+ RMM*

*12-1-89*



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
1531 WEST NINTH STREET  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90015-1194  
(213) 251-3200

COPY

OFFICE OF VICAR FOR CLERGY  
(213) 251-3284

REDACTED

December 5, 1989

Dr. REDACTED  
REDACTED

347 3067  
3765

Dear Dr. REDACTED:

Enclosed is copy of a letter I recently wrote to Father Manuel Sanchez, and also copy of a letter both he and I received from REDACTED

As the letter to Father Sanchez states, Father REDACTED and I had a long conversation with him, and while it was a difficult meeting, I think it was also a productive one. I very much hope he will continue to work with you on the matters we have raised with him over the course of several meetings.

Since I have begun to look into this matter, there have been allegations that Father Manuel acted improperly in Confession with two eighth-grade children some years ago, and we had an allegation from REDACTED s REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED because of the uncertainty and difficulties surrounding these allegations, I simply have no way of verifying their truth or falsehood, and I would prefer to focus on the other issues that have also surfaced, all of which deal with Father Manuel's management style and ability to communicate with others.

My principal contacts have been with the REDACTED family, who made the original complaint; with the staff of the school; with Father Chris Ponnet; and with Father Sanchez himself. I am most sincere in my comments to Father Sanchez that there are many good things happening in Sacred Heart Parish, and that it is indeed a well-functioning and busy parish.

However, from all my contacts both with him and others, I do see a need for Father Manuel to communicate better with people. He can be so focused on his own concerns that people can leave a conversation with him feeling utterly frustrated and defeated. I tend to suspect that much of the trouble he is

Dr. REDACTED

-2

experiencing at present arises out of this sense of frustration and defeat that others feel in talking to him.

I would like to meet with you in the near future, and will call you soon to see if we can set up a time when you and I, and perhaps Father REDACTED also, can meet for lunch and some discussion.

Looking forward, then, to seeing you soon, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev. Msgr.) Thomas J. Curry  
Vicar for Clergy

REDACTED

Enclosures

RECEIVED  
FEB 9 2007  
BY:

Msgr. Manuel Sanchez O.  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
1215 South Hamilton Blvd.  
Pomona, Ca. 91766

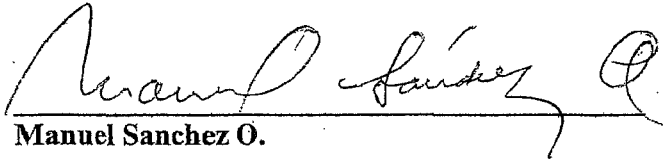
Rev. Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales  
Vicar for Clergy

February 8, 2001

Dear Gabriel:

I am sending you some papers that in my opinion could help me to be out of the chaos I am in now. Should the Archdiocese know all these things, I would hope that they would not condemn me as they did. Please be free to show these papers to His Eminence Cardinal Roger Mahony.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Manuel Sanchez O.

**Deposition of Msgr. Manuel Sanchez**

After serving the Church as a priest for 53 years, some false accusations have been made against me that have the ability to destroy my life and reputation. I think that I have been treated unjustly and unfairly by my Archbishop and the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board. Twenty or so years ago, Msgr. Curry, at that time Vicar for Clergy, informed me of certain allegations against me made by a REDACTED I was told only a portion of her allegations and prohibited by Msgr. Curry from contacting her. Never was I informed of the whole content of her claims against me by the Chancery. Now the Chancery is condemning me without giving me a fair opportunity to defend myself. I have been deprived of all my privileges of exercising and practicing as a Catholic priest "urbi et orbe," anywhere in the world.

Twenty years ago, the above charges against me were reviewed by The Vicar for Clergy and the Archbishop; and apparently, they considered that these accusations against me were completely irrelevant. I wanted to confront my accuser, REDACTED at that time; however, she disappeared from my parish, and I was advised by the Vicar for Clergy not to try to contact her.

See Document #1 and Document #2. I didn't know about those two documents which had been written 20 years ago until my lawyer, Mr. REDACTED recently turned over copies to me. Should the Chancery have advised me of all these allegations against at the time they were made, I would have had the opportunity to defend myself. These allegations are completely false and heinous. The copies of two of those documents that are included in this deposition will be analyzed later.

In order to take seriously any accusation, you have to know the credibility of the person from whom the charges are coming.. Mrs. REDACTED in Document #1, said so many lies about me and my ministry that that I have no doubt that she was afraid that if I found out about them, the truth would have come to light. She convinced the Vicar for Clergy not to show her testimony to me. To me, it should be clear to everyone that her stories were built upon sand. If the Vicar for Clergy believed her, he should have convinced her to make these allegations in my presence. Among other things, Mrs. REDACTED had accused me of REDACTED

REDACTED I testified at that time, as well as now, that I never asked any girl or woman to sit on my lap in or outside of the confessional. I emphasize that should the Vicar for Clergy have believed any of the accusations included in Document 1 or 2, he should have insisted that Mrs. REDACTED testify in front of me and not grant her desire to keep her allegations secret. Because of this action on the part of the Vicar for Clergy, I assumed at that time that the case had been satisfied.

Was it appropriate for Detective REDACTED, to present this case of Mrs. REDACTED without analyzing her credibility and knowing the circumstances in which the accusations took place?

Let me innumerate some of the incredible things told by Mrs. REDACTED, to Msgr. Curry. She claimed that she was working three days a week in the parish from 9AM to 7:30 PM; this is not true. She never worked there at all. She said that I was opposed to Spanish Masses at St. Joseph Parish in Pomona. I would have been most happy to accommodate her, but I had nothing to do with that parish whatsoever. My opinion is that Mrs. REDACTED was very angry at me because I prohibited her from the inappropriate methods and extravagances she wanted to display in the prayer group: for example, having all the participants fall down during prayers when she claimed to be using "special powers."

She claimed that I wanted only money from the people and I was a bad administrator. Did anyone from the Chancery go and check out the parish and the addition of the new buildings which I constructed during the time that I was Pastor without asking for any financial help whatsoever from the Diocese?

REDACTED was limitedly involved in the parochial school, and she claimed that she was a very close friend of Sister REDACTED, Principal of Sacred Heart School. The testimony of Sister REDACTED, regarding the alleged accusation of the girls in the school was dismissed by Sister REDACTED, the School Supervisor at that time, who investigated the charges and found them lacking any credibility. Also, Father Chris Ponnnet and Father REDACTED, both Assistants at Sacred Heart, also came to the same conclusion. Should any of the accusations by the girls have been found to have any veracity, each one of the afore mentioned persons would have had the obligation to notify me.

The parents and the principal were against me because I did not sufficiently support the school, according to them. Having under twenty students from the community in the parochial school and more than 1,500 in the CCD Program for Public School children, I had to care for both proportionately. I was not giving all the money to the school because I was constructing rooms to accommodate all of the students, as well as, the seven hundred parents that were receiving a Catholic education as it is the will of The Holy See.

The remainder of Mrs. REDACTED accusations can be proven counterfactual.

I built nine offices and seven meeting halls, one with the capacity for three hundred people, without asking for one cent from the Diocese. Mrs. REDACTED and her husband claim that I was not well-received in the other parishes where I served. Could she prove that I did a poor job in Los Nietos Parish in Los Angeles and Saint Helen's Parish in South Gate? Actually, I have served the community of Sacred Heart for thirty years. I love that community, and I have all the indications and a whole wall

filled with commendations to indicate that the community has always respected and loved me in return.

Now, let's come to the present time and put my case up to date. I have been accused by this man, REDACTED, that I brutally sodomized him over 24 years ago in the sacristy here in Sacred Heart Church. He claims that this incident occurred when I was completely vested just before going to say the Mass. Obviously, no one believed this wild tale. Logistically, it would have been quite impossible to have been alone with him in that place. There are three doors leading into this room which are invariably open to the public, and the sacristy is always filled with altar servers, readers and Ministers of the Eucharist.

On March 27, 2006, Mr. REDACTED came to the church very anxious to manifest and to try to revive his case against me. Almost two years had passed since he made his allegation. When he came to the sacristy, he didn't recognize me nor did I recognize him. As a matter of fact, he asked me at that time if I was Father Sanchez. He obviously wanted to reinforce his "cause." He brought with him fewer than ten people who, according to REDACTED REDACTED, had been paid \$100.00 each for demonstrating with him. She knew REDACTED when she was working for the school, and she has a son the same age as REDACTED who knew him when they were in parochial school together. His name is REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED and REDACTED agree that REDACTED was a troublemaker. REDACTED confronted him on March 27<sup>th</sup>. She later told me that she said to him, "How do you dare say that about Father Sanchez? I know you, and I know that Father Sanchez is not capable of molesting anybody." My son, REDACTED, knows you, as well." REDACTED is willing to testify on my behalf is necessary.

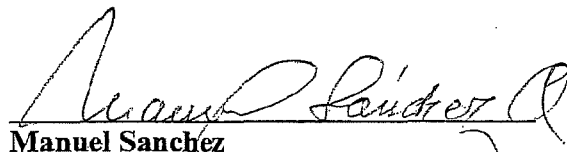
Along with the people who came with Mr. REDACTED were several of the girls who had attended Sacred Heart School with him. They claim that I asked them to sit on my lap in the confessional some twenty-four years ago. I demanded that Msgr. Cox, Vicar for Clergy at that time, hire a detective to investigate and clarify this accusation immediately. The Chancery hired REDACTED for this assignment. Ten months passed before Mr. REDACTED was able to obtain any information from these girls. He informed me by telephone that they refused to cooperate with him. At that point, his opinion was that they had no case against me. In my naiveté, I insisted that he continue to try to contact them and clear up this matter. Should I have not been certain and secure in my innocence, I would not have insisted on several occasions that Mr. REDACTED, continue his investigation.

REDACTED was one of the girls who was in Sacred Heart School at the same time with the girls who accused me. They had asked her to join them in the accusation against me. She vehemently refused to do so. She reported to me in person that the reputation of these girls was highly suspect. REDACTED offered to get together a group of other former female classmates who were also in school with Mr. REDACTED to testify that I never asked any of them inside or outside the confessional to sit in my lap.

On those occasions when I was accused by Mr. REDACTED, the Chancery Office suggested that I might wish to go to Spain and "rest" for a while. I preferred to stay and defend my honor and my reputation. My feelings remain the same with the accusations made against me by the women friends of Mr. REDACTED

What can I do to defend myself against these false accusations which have completely robbed me of my dignity as a priest and as a man? I have been denied my privileges here and throughout the world. I have been treated as though I am guilty without having the possibility of defending myself. As a priest, I have spent my entire life serving the people. What will my community of Sacred Heart, where I have spent thirty years, think of me? When I go back to Spain, what am I supposed to say to my family and fellow priests?

I cannot imagine how my punishment can be justified in the eyes of the Church without any verification whatsoever.

  
Manuel Sanchez

February 8, 2007



Doc. # 1

Father Sanchez only wants money.

Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> works in the parish office three times each week, on Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday from 9-3:30.

REDACTED was aware Mr. and Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> were coming to the Chancery Office.

REDACTED and REDACTED have all the information about what is going on in the parish.

Mr. and Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> have been in the parish since 1982. They want the situation in the parish to corrected.

They feel they would sue if the Church were not involved.

They spoke with people from another parish were Father Manuel Sanchez served, and they found out that he was not well received in that parish either.

Father Sanchez treats the church like a business.

They asked him to push for a Spanish mass in St. Joseph's, but his brother, Father REDACTED made him say no to this.

The parish seems to belong to the Sanchez family. All his family came and stayed for a month.

He seems to be squeezing the poor by asking \$150 for quinceneras.

Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> feels she has to lie because when people call up he asks her to say she is not there. If there is money involved, he is always there.

People have left the parish because of the way he has treated people.

Last year a priest came from Spain for the Encuentra Latina, and he could not stay in the rectory because Father Sanchez's brother was staying there. The community was angry about this.

Other ladies apart from his immediate family members have stayed in the rectory.

Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> was not sure if she had talked to Sister <sup>REDACTED</sup> about the incident with the seventh grade girls. She was sure Sister <sup>REDACTED</sup> knew about the incident. Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> did talk to her about what <sup>REDACTED</sup> had revealed to her about Father Sanchez.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

Mr. and Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> main concern is for Father Sanchez. They want him to get help and change. Their second priority is for the community. They would not like to see a scandal in the community.

People have been going to bishop Arzube about the situation there, but nothing happens. Father Manuel Sanchez has an organization that protects him.

Mr. and Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> asked that this information not be given to Father Sanchez, and I promised that no information would be give without their consent. I also said that I would need to meet with REDACTED REDACTED and with Sister REDACTED

The last thing they would want would be to be excluded from the community.

*Thomas C. ...*

Doc #2

MEMORANDUMJuly 13, 1989

TO: Archbishop Mahony  
 FROM: Monsignor Thomas Curry  
 RE: Sacred Heart, Pomona

The situation regarding Father Manuel Sanchez is distressing and puzzling.

This past week a Mr. and Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> from Sacred Heart met with me and claimed <sup>REDACTED</sup> <sup>REDACTED</sup> <sup>REDACTED</sup>

<sup>REDACTED</sup>  
<sup>REDACTED</sup>  
 REDACTED

They also claimed that he did the same thing to two sixth grade schoolgirls about two years ago and that the school principal knew of this incident. They complained that he was behaving inappropriately with several women, and they made numerous complaints about the management of the parish.

I met with Sister <sup>REDACTED</sup> the principal of the school, and she confirmed that two years ago a mother had come to her to complain that Father Sanchez had asked her daughters to sit on his lap during confession. For several reasons, none of which seemed to clear to me, she did not report the matter at the time.

I have written to Mr. and Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> and asked them to have <sup>REDACTED</sup> contact me, and assured her that I would be willing to meet with her at her convenience and in the presence of family member if she wished. After discussing the matter with Sister <sup>REDACTED</sup>, I decided not to contact the parent of the two schoolgirls yet. The incident allegedly took place two years ago, and the parent has not brought the matter up since. Before contacting her, I want to talk to another Felician sister who was the interpreter for the interview two years ago. She will be available next week.

I am very concerned and puzzled. Mr. and Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> made a very serious allegation, but they made so many others charges that it is difficult to sort fact from gossip. They seemed far more upset about Father Sanchez's management style, his financial management, and the now famous windows, than about what they allege happened to <sup>REDACTED</sup>

I checked with Father Chris Ponnet, and while he was aware of the <sup>REDACTED</sup> concerns, he had never seen any evidence of sexual impropriety. Today I discussed the matter at

30840

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length with REDACTED (who spent five years with Manuel Sanchez), and while he, like Chris Ponnet, agrees that Manuel may have difficulties managing the parish, he never saw any signs of impropriety. I spoke with REDACTED who was the school supervisor at the time the molestation of the two schoolgirls supposedly took place, and she too doubted the incident. She was aware of many difficulties regarding the school, but she also thought Sister Anthony was dealing with many of her own personal problems.

It seems to me that if what Mr. and Mrs REDACTED allege were factual, especially the allegation that Father Sanchez has REDACTED a priest in the parish could not but have some indications of a problem.

At this stage, taking the situation as a whole, I have decided to suspend judgment while I pursue and investigate the matter further. In my estimation, Father Sanchez does not pose any immediate threat to parishioners, and therefore I do not see a need to remove him from the parish. However, I do need to continue to try to clarify the situation.

*I concur - please keep me informed.*

*+ R M M*

*7-15-89*

To whom it may concern:

February 6, 2007

We, REDACTED, testify that we have known Father Manuel Sanchez for the last 28 years. We are well known in Sacred Heart in Pomona, as we are the founders of grupo "Apoyo Familiar Cristiano" in that Parish. This is an organization that helps the married couples to have a better relationship through better communication. WE were very inspired by the tireless efforts of Father Sanchez to form catechism classes for the parents of the CCD children. More than 700 parents were attending these instruction classes when we moved to El Paso, Texas a few years ago.

Four of our children were attending the parochial school at Sacred Heart during the same period as were the girls who accused Father Sanchez of molesting them. My daughters will testify that Father never invited them or anyone they knew inside or outside of the confessional to sit on his lap. They cannot imagine how those girls can make such outlandish statements.

During the same period as these girls were in school, our son REDACTED was serving as an altar boy for more than seven years. He will testify that he never witnessed any misappropriate conduct with any one of the altar boys, certainly including himself.

My family knew Father Sanchez very well as we got together several times a week to work on the various religious programs of the community.

REDACTED was only temporarily involved with the parochial school. She was a very close friend of Sister REDACTED the principal of Sacred Heart School. Father Sanchez told us that the principal changed the master key of the school classrooms to prevent him from using these facilities for the different groups of the parish community. He was forced to call Sister REDACTED provincial to be able to have use of the key. We knew, at that time, that the principal, the PTC and the parents of the kids of the school didn't like Father Sanchez because of his various building projects for the benefit of the rest of the community.

We can attest to the fact that REDACTED was never working as a secretary of the parish as she claimed. She was involved with the Prayer Group and was reprimanded several times by the Pastor because she didn't follow the rules of the Archdiocese. Mrs. REDACTED was also involved in the program for adult education and was discharged from that job by Father Chris Ponnet who maintained that she was not doing her job properly.

We are aware of her entire testimony, and we are sure that it has absolutely no credibility. She also stated that REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

If all her statements were true, why did she ask the Vicar for Clergy not to inform Father Sanchez of her testimony? If Mrs.

REDACTED was so confident of her accusations, why didn't she take her complaints directly to Father Sanchez? REDACTED and her entire family disappeared from the community from the moment she made these accusations, and no one was able to be in touch with her from that time on.

My wife and I had a close relationship with Father Chris Ponnet, Father REDACTED and Father REDACTED Father REDACTED was five years in the parish. None of these priests nor any of the parishioners ever made any claims of misconduct about Father Sanchez to the best of our knowledge.

If necessary, we are ready to travel from El Paso to Los Angeles to swear that these statements are true.

We can be contacted at the following address:

REDACTED

REDACTED (firmado)

REDACTED REDACTED (firmado)

**This is a list of the women who will testify on my behalf.**

REDACTED

REDACTED

.....

**(Work)**

.....

.....

.....

.....

**These women will swear that they were in the parochial school at the same time as REDACTED and his friends, the girls who have accused me. They are certain that I never asked them or anyone they knew to sit on my lap for any purpose whatsoever inside or outside the confessional.**

---

REDACTED

**was an altar server for more than eight years in Sacred Heart Church at the same time as Mr. REDACTED claimed to be in the school. He will testify that he never saw any inappropriate behavior between Father Sanchez and any of the boys serving in the church. He is ready to testify to this statement by telephone or in person. His telephone number is REDACTED**

# CONFIDENTIAL

## Clergy Misconduct

---

Complainant: REDACTED

Reported: April 23, 2003  
Message from Fr. REDACTED

Place of Incident: Sacred Heart Church approx. 1978-81  
Pomona, CA

Allegation Against: "My Mother said his name was Fr. Sanchez"  
Described as a "Mexican man" - Could not describe as young or old.

REDACTED : described himself "I was very young in grades 2 to 4<sup>th</sup>. I was about 7 to 10 years old. My Mom was a teacher and my Dad was a Civil Engineer. I was too scared to tell my parents. My Dad would have ripped his head off. I always knew where it happened (Sacred Heart Church, Pomona). It was in the back room where you took the left over bread and wine. I always had to have attention.

### Abuse Described:

The actual abuse was "he would come up from behind...he would grab me and I grab him...he would put his thing inside me" (Do you mean his penis? ) Yes. In summertime we had on shorts and he had on robes...I was very scared,. I was very scared...even now when I go to a men's restroom...I look at other men's penis. I argue with myself inside...I have urges inside. I don't desire it.

### Other data:

REDACTED, said that he "was kicked out of Sacred Heart in grade 5". I went to public school. I turned into a gang member. I went to jail in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I've been out of jail for 5 years. I hated anything to do with authority. I've tried to kill myself.

I'm not driving. I have five years probation for Fraud (in jail for). I have sentencing for spousal abuse coming up. I have to do Anger Mangement. I have two little girls and a little boy. I work a lot.

### Counseling Request

1. REDACTED is required to have anger management.
2. He has done drugs. He hasn't used for two years. Does not know 12 step programs.
3. He is very anxious on the phone. Difficult to gather information.



4. He is not able to drive. Counselor will need to be in proximity to his home.
5. Suicidal ideation in the past. Possible attempts.
6. Reports Post Traumatic Stress and sexual molestation.
7. Fears publicity.
8. Wants to know if other victims by this priest. Will get back to him. At this time do not know of any. Police also would tell you if there are others. If you know anyone encourage them to come forward.

REDACTED

*Michael Sanchez*

Clergy Misconduct

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Reported: April 23, 2003  
Message from Fr. REDACTED

Place of Incident: Sacred Heart Church approx. 1978-81  
Pomona, CA

Allegation Against: "My Mother said his name was Fr. Sanchez"  
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7. Fears publicity.
8. Wants to know if other victims by this priest. Will get back to him. At this time do not know of any. Police also would tell you if there are others. If you know anyone encourage them to come forward.



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

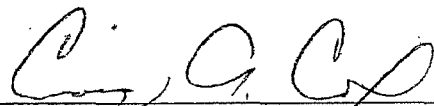
DE C R E E

Information has been presented claiming that Monsignor Manuel Sanchez may have committed a delict against canon 1395, in accord with the provisions of canon 1717 and under my authority as Vicar for Clergy, I hereby decree the opening of a canonical preliminary investigation.

I hereby designate Reverend REDACTED, C.M., J.C.L., as canonical auditor to assist in conducting the investigation. He has the authority to subdelegate this responsibility and involve other investigations to assist in this investigation.

In the course of conducting this investigation, the auditors are reminded of their duty to respect the rights and reputation of all involved and to respect the canonical requirements of secrecy attached to such an investigation.

Given this 12<sup>th</sup> day of May in the Year of Our Lord 2003 at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in California.

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

*need CLOSING  
decree  
dated 12/10/03*

REDACTED

Archdiocesan Seal



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

May 23, 2003

Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
REDACTED

Dear Monsignor Sanchez:

I would much prefer to pass along this news in person rather than by means of a letter. Given that you are residing in Spain during your retirement, it is necessary that I write.

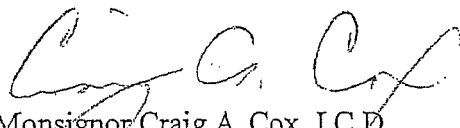
We have received a complaint from a Mr. REDACTED alleging that in approximately the years 1978-1981, you engaged in misconduct with him. He claims to have been between the ages of 7 to 10 years old during this period. Obviously, this is a very serious charge.

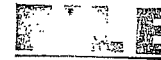
I would very much like the opportunity to communicate the information presented by Mr. REDACTED specifically and directly, and to give you the opportunity to respond. Ideally, it would be best for us to meet here in Los Angeles. It may be that you are planning to visit soon, in which case we can schedule an interview. If you are not going to be here in the near future, I can arrange to have an official from the Archdiocese of Granada meet with you to explain the nature of the allegation and to interview you about it.

Would you please be so kind as to telephone me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss the best way to proceed.

Again, I regret that it was necessary to contact you by mail rather than to see you in person. You are in my prayers.

Yours in Christ,

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



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

June 16, 2003

Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
Scared Heart Church  
1215 South Hamilton Boulevard  
Pomona, CA 91766

Dear Manuel:

You asked for a response to your letter of June 11, 2003. I realize that I can only vaguely appreciate the tremendous anxiety that this recent accusation has caused for you. You are not alone in this kind of agony. In such trying circumstances, I wish that it were possible for me to drop all of my other responsibilities and attend solely to you and to the other priests who have been accused of misconduct. That would be the ideal, but it is an impossible ideal. Please know that the delays reflect my human limitations, not any lack of interest or concern.

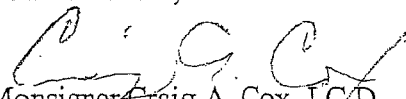
Understandably, you have a tremendous sense of urgency and wish to clear your good name. I understand that. In this matter, however, acting speedily is not as important as acting wisely. We have not been able to schedule the meeting to take your formal response as quickly as both you and I wished because we needed to have both Father REDACTED and myself present. Again, I apologize because I know this delay contributed to your anxiety.

I also wish that I could have dropped everything else when you arrived on Monday June 9, but I was just leaving my office for a meeting with the Cardinal and 40 provincials and major superiors of religious orders. I was responsible to help run that meeting. I could not abandon that responsibility to see you at the time. I regret that my lack of availability at that moment contributed to your anxiety.

The recommendation that you might consider meeting with one of our therapists was in no way an implication of guilt. Rather, it was a pastoral effort to support you. An accusation of misconduct is terribly traumatic for anyone. We offer the assistance of a therapist to all of our priests and deacons accused to offer them a tool for coping with the stress and trauma of an accusation. That was the sole purpose of the invitation to visit with a counselor. Many of our accused priests have done so and found it tremendously helpful to them. I renew that invitation.

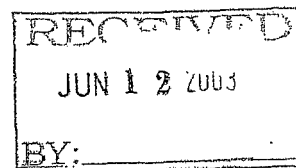
Manuel, I feel very powerless in these circumstances. I do my best, and I am well aware that my best is terribly inadequate in this time of crisis. I ask that you forgive me for any way I have not served you well. You and all those priests and deacons who have been accused are in my prayers.

Yours in Christ,

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

Pastoral Regions: Our Lady of the Angels San Fernando San Gabriel San Pedro Santa Barbara

Msgr. Manuel Sanchez O.  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
1215 South Hamilton Boulevard  
Pomona, California 91766



Dear Msgr. Cox:

June 11, 2003

I sincerely hope that you will find a few minutes in your busy time schedule to read and respond to this letter. It would not be honest on my part if I didn't show you my grave disappointment and my deep resentment with the way that you are treating my defamation case.

You must remember that several times I have shown my admiration for you and the courage that is involved being able to accept a job like yours in the Archdiocese that entails so much responsibility. I know that you are dealing with very delicate matters; nevertheless, I feel that I am entitled to my own personal attention as a priest.

With the confidential letter that you sent me in Granada and the conversation I had with you in Camarillo, we were in agreement that this was a very sensitive and serious matter that should be taken care of immediately from both you and me. You can be sure that I took it very seriously to the point that I could hardly sleep the following nights. I want to face the situation and deal with it as soon as possible. I get the impression that you don't have the same attitude toward this very sensitive matter. Should I be in Granada with my family, I would return immediately to face and solve this problem.

IN PLAIN SIMPLE ENGLISH, THESE ARE MY COMPLAINTS.

1. It has been very hard for me to talk to you, and several times these appointments have been cancelled by you.
2. It is obvious that you do not have the same urgent attitude toward solving my dilemma with the false accusations with which I have been charged.
3. I directed my priest brother in Granada to open the confidential letter that you sent there, and he informed me that its contents were potentially very precarious to my reputation. I tried to share

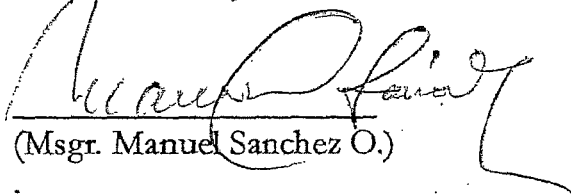
that with you immediately, and I got the impression that you agreed with me.

- 4. I proceeded to attempt to talk to you, and finally we made an appointment for Wednesday the 4th at 11:00 AM which you cancelled.
- 5. You said that we would meet the following week in your office. However, at the cathedral on Sunday the 8th, you told me that it was URGENT that we meet on Monday the 9th but no time was offered.
- 6. This past Monday, I had to cancel my promise to a long time and very dear friend who needed my presence for a very serious operation in the hospital in order to attend the meeting with you in the Chancery.
- 7. Because I did not hear from you, I called your secretary and gave her my cell phone number and then preceded to your office on Monday morning carrying a deposition to be ready for my meeting with you. Your secretary informed me that you would not be able to receive me as you were too busy with the Cardinal. Apparently, you have many other serious problems to deal with the Archbishop when you didn't even a minute to talk with me.
- 8. I was instructed to leave my deposition. I was not able to obtain a letter from my accuser or any reference as to the substance of the accusation when I asked your secretary to obtain it from you.
- 9. When I called on Tuesday the 10th, I was told that there had been a suggestion from your office that I should seek therapy for my distress. It occurs to me that therapy carries the suggestion of guilt. Than further angers me.

I made it very clear to you how upset I was and how much I desired to deal with that problem immediately. Frankly, the support and the encouragement I have needed from you has not been forthcoming. You have made me feel abandoned.

In spite of the fact that you made me believe that this was the most crucial of predicaments, you have shown little interest in solving this problem. Every day, I search the newspapers for a reference or a photograph of myself with the accusation of an abusive priest.

Yours in Christ,



(Msgr. Manuel Sanchez O.)





CONFIDENTIAL

## MEMORANDUM

Office of the  
Vicar for Canonical Services  
(213) 637-7888

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

**TO:** Cardinal Mahony REDACTED  
**FROM:** REDACTED  
**SUBJECT:** Preliminary Investigation – Mgr. Manuel Sanchez  
**DATE:** 27 June 2003

On 23 April 2003 Sr. REDACTED received a report from Fr. REDACTED (Sacred Heart in Pomona) of an allegation of child sexual abuse committed by a “Father Sanchez” against the complainant, REDACTED. The abuse allegedly took place in the sacristy of Sacred Heart over a period of several weekends when REDACTED was about 10 years old (placing it in the early 1980’s).

After Sr. REDACTED obtained basic information about the complainant and the allegation, I traveled with Dr. REDACTED to Sacred Heart Parish, where we interviewed complainant on 1 May. He told what seemed to be a plausible story, even though many details were rather vague. The complainant’s emotional lability (my word, not Dr. REDACTED, I mean the ease and rapidity with which he moved from courage to worry to anger to hope to threats, etc.) and his volubility precluded attempts to clarify certain details that seemed important to me, particularly in regard to the time of year and day of the alleged incidents, and to their progression.

Another particular concern of mine was that he had to learn the name of his abuser from his mother. While he first told her about ten years ago that he had been sexually abused, he said that he blamed it on someone else since it would have broken her heart to learn that the abuser was a priest of the parish. Having been expelled from the parish school around 5<sup>th</sup> grade (for disruptive behavior in response to the abuse, as he sees it), he stopped going to church and became heavily involved in gang activity. He has served roughly ten years cumulatively in jail and prison. It is only in the past year or so that he started coming back to church, and it was then that he asked his mother who the priest of the parish was when he was in the parish school.

I had assembled a group of nine photos of Hispanic priests including one of Msgr. Manuel Sanchez from the Tidings archives that made him look younger. REDACTED did end up selecting his photo.

It was not until 17 June 2003 that Msgr. Sanchez, Msgr. Craig Cox and I could schedule a common time for an interview. Manuel categorically denied any inappropriate activity with any child, including the complainant, whose name he did not recognize. It would be fair to say that Manuel was flabbergasted at the allegation. He offered to obtain old parish bulletins that would provide the names of associate pastors and guest priests in residence during the pertinent time

period, and provided the name of the school principal, who still lives in the Archdiocese. He was very cooperative in the interview, and I had no more reason to doubt his sincerity than I did initially in the case of the complainant.

Subsequently, I obtained the parish school records of the complainant and his older brother for the two years that they attended, namely September 1980 through June 1982. I interviewed by telephone both Felician Sisters who were the school principal, each for a different year. I traveled again to the parish earlier this week to inspect the physical plant more closely and to talk with those who could give me the kind of details that would corroborate or not the information I had from both the complainant and the accused.

As matters stand now, I have formulated the following opinions:

- 1) That the alleged abuse occurred cannot be ruled out, but neither is there convincing evidence that it did occur.
- 2) If the alleged abuse did occur, it is more likely that a certain guest priest from Mexico was the perpetrator.

My reasons for the first opinion are basically that (1) while the Mass schedule and physical layout would have created some opportunity for a perpetrator to act, it would not have been a "safe" time and place so to act, and (2) I now have reasons to suspect the credibility of the complainant. I have learned from Sr. REDACTED that so far, he is still trying to "bargain" about the psychological help we can provide him, and supposedly one of the offenses he was charged with was fraud. He has apparently told her that when he tried to report the abuse to the police, it took him several hours before anyone became interested enough to take the report. I certainly place no credence in the identification of Msgr. Sanchez' photo, since I now know that Manuel continues to reside and say Mass there, so that the complainant would have had plenty of opportunity to observe him (his younger photo does not look that different from his current one). In fact, if REDACTED did see Manuel about the parish, then his identification of the photos seems more like part of a con job. In any event, REDACTED would have to be pressed more on several of the details of his account. Finally, as REDACTED has already told us that he lied once (to his mother) about the identity of the perpetrator and has also admitted to his father being physically abusive toward all his family (even to the point of criminal conviction), it is entirely possible he is still identifying the wrong person.

My reasons for the second opinion are that (1) the summer of 1981 seems the most likely time for the abuse to have occurred, (2) Father REDACTED was the only Hispanic priest at the parish for the two full summer months, and (3) if either of the REDACTED was guilty, why have there been no allegations from anyone else about either?

In conclusion, I recommend that this case be shelved as inconclusive until such time as more information is forthcoming. A follow up interview of the complainant would be in order, but I think that should wait until he indicates that he wants to press the case. In the meantime, it would probably not be a bad move if Msgr. Sanchez's lawyer hired a private investigator.

Copy: Msgr. Craig Cox, Vicar for Clergy

*I recommend that the case go to CMOB next for review and recommendation - Thanks! + Rmky 6-29-03*

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT  
NON-MANDATORY REPORTING FORM

*MANUAL  
SANCHEZ  
C-FALL*

Date of this report to Public Authority: July 23, 2003  
Name of Public Authority: Pomona Police Department - FAX (909) 620-2259  
Date of this Report to Archdiocese: April 23, 2003  
Complainant: REDACTED  
Current Address:

Telephone:

Date of Birth:

Alleged Perpetrator  
Name: "My mother said his name was Fr. Sanchez."

Name of possible witnesses: None given.

Reported Date of Incident: 1978-1981

Reported Circumstances of Incident(s):  
Victim reported incidents happened was in the back room where you took the left over bread and wine at Sacred Heart Church, Pomona. Occurred in 1978-1981, grades 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, later victim reported, "I was age 8. It lasted six months."

Reported Type of Abuse or Neglect:  
"He would come up from behind. He would grab me and I grab him. He would put his thing inside me." (Do you mean penis?) "Yes."

Comments:  
REDACTED reported that he had gone to the police station in Pomona to report his abuse but gave no date.

Submitted by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles:  
REDACTED



---

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

REDACTED

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

---

REDACTED

July 23, 2003

Chief Fred Sanchez  
Pomona Police Department  
490 W. Mission Blvd  
Pomona, CA 91766

**Re: Non-Mandatory Report of Alleged Abuse**

Dear Chief Sanchez:

Attached is a report concerning allegations of abuse received from an alleged victim and asserted to have occurred in Pomona, California. This Form of Report is being submitted pursuant to our reporting policies for any allegations of abuse involving current adults who indicate they were minors at the time of the alleged abuse and reflects a newly adopted report format. We would appreciate any comments you might have on this form itself.

As noted in the attached, the complainant reported that he has already reported the matter to your Department.

If you have any questions, please contact me. I have just undertaken full-time responsibilities as General Counsel and look forward to a continuing positive and professional relationship with the various agencies concerning these issues.

Very truly yours,  
REDACTED

Enclosure

bcc: Rev. Msgr. Craig Cox, Vicar for Clergy  
REDACTED

*Net Fax*

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* TRANSMIT MESSAGE CONFIRMATION REPORT \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

NAME :  
TEL :  
DATE : 07/23/03 16:23

TRANSMIT REDACTED			DURATION	PAGE	SESS	RESULT
TYPE: MEMORY TX	MODE	E-144	00'59	03	651	OK

3424 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90010  
Phone # (213) 637-7598 FAX # (213) 637-8508



**Archdiocese  
of Los Angeles  
LEGAL COUNSEL**

MEMORANDUM

**Fax**

**To:** Chief Fred Sanchez/Pomona P.D.  
(909) 620-2259

**From:** REDACTED

**Fax:**

**Pages including** 3  
**Cover page:**

**Phone:**

**Date:** July 23, 2003

**Re:**

**CC:**

- Urgent     For Review     Please Comment     Please Reply     Please Recycle

\* Comments:

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

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---

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

REDACTED

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

---

REDACTED

July 23, 2003

Chief Fred Sanchez  
Pomona Police Department  
490 W. Mission Blvd  
Pomona, CA 91766

Re: **Non-Mandatory Report of Alleged Abuse**

Dear Chief Sanchez:

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If you have any questions, please contact me. I have just undertaken full-time responsibilities as General Counsel and look forward to a continuing positive and professional relationship with the various agencies concerning these issues.

Very truly yours,

REDACTED

Enclosure

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT  
NON-MANDATORY REPORTING FORM

Date of this report to Public Authority: July 23, 2003  
Name of Public Authority: Pomona Police Department -REDACTED  
Date of this Report to Archdiocese: April 23, 2003  
Complainant: REDACTED  
Current Address:

Telephone:

Date of Birth:

Alleged Perpetrator Name: "My mother said his name was Fr. Sanchez."

Name of possible witnesses: None given.

Reported Date of Incident: 1978-1981

Reported Circumstances of Incident(s):  
Victim reported incidents happened was in the back room where you took the left over bread and wine at Sacred Heart Church, Pomona. Occurred in 1978-1981, grades 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, later victim reported, "I was age 8. It lasted six months."

Reported Type of Abuse or Neglect:  
"He would come up from behind. He would grab me and I grab him. He would put his thing inside me." (Do you mean penis?) "Yes."

Comments:  
REDACTED reported that he had gone to the police station in Pomona to report his abuse but gave no date.

Submitted by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles:  
REDACTED



## Clergy Misconduct

---

Complainant: REDACTED

Reported: April 23, 2003  
Message from Fr. REDACTED

Place of Incident: Sacred Heart Church approx. 1978-81  
Pomona, CA

Allegation Against: "My Mother said his name was Fr. Sanchez"  
Described as a "Mexican man" – Could not describe as young or old.

REDACTED described himself "I was very young in grades 2 to 4<sup>th</sup>. I was about 7 to 10 years old. My Mom was a teacher and my Dad was a Civil Engineer. I was too scared to tell my parents. My Dad would have ripped his head off. I always knew where it happened(Sacred Heart Church, Pomona). It was in the back room where you took the left over bread and wine. I always had to have attention.

### Abuse Described:

The actual abuse was "he would come up from behind...he would grab me and I grab him...he would put his thing inside me" (Do you mean his penis?) Yes. In summertime we had on shorts and he had on robes...I was very scared,. I was very scared...even now when I go to a men's restroom...I look at other men's penis. I argue with myself inside...I have urges inside. I don't desire it.

### Other data:

REDACTED said that he "was kicked out of Sacred Heart in grade 5". I went to public school. I turned into a gang member. I went to jail in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I've been out of jail for 5 years. I hated anything to do with authority. I've tried to kill myself.

I'm not driving. I have five years probation for Fraud (in jail for). I have sentencing for spousal abuse coming up. I have to do Anger Mangement. I have two little girls and a little boy. I work a lot.

### Counseling Request

1. REDACTED is required to have anger management.
2. He has done drugs. He hasn't used for two years. Does not know 12 step programs.
3. He is very anxious on the phone. Difficult to gather information.

4. He is not able to drive. Counselor will need to be in proximity to his home.
5. Suicidal ideation in the past. Possible attempts.
6. Reports Post Traumatic Stress and sexual molestation.
7. Fears publicity.
8. Wants to know if other victims by this priest. Will get back to him. At this time do not know of any. Police also would tell you if there are others. If you know anyone encourage them to come forward.

REDACTED

*Phone interview  
April 24, 2003*

Therapist for REDACTED

- 1. 6/6/03 Dr. REDACTED called REDACTED with Name/number of Dr. REDACTED  
REDACTED
- 2. 6/18/03 Dr. REDACTED called REDACTED with Name/number providence Hospital  
for tattoo removal.
- 3. 6/25/03 Dr. REDACTED called with names of therapist - Dr. REDACTED in  
Pomona REDACTED
- 4. 7/9/03 Dr. REDACTED called with names of therapists - Dr. REDACTED  
REDACTED
- 5. 7/8/03 Sr. REDACTED spoke with REDACTED about therapists.
- 6. 7/15/03 Sr. spoke with Dr. REDACTED He is willing to see REDACTED
- 7. 7/17/03 Sr. called REDACTED. No return call.
- 8. 7/18/03 Sr. called left message no return call.
- 9. 7/22/03 Sr. called REDACTED left message no return call.
- 10. 7/23/03 Sr. called Told REDACTED Dr. REDACTED is willing to  
see him. REDACTED said he would call and make appointment.

9/19/03 T/C Home TELEPHONE NO LONGER IN SERVICE  
T/C WORK REDACTED SECRETARY TOOK MESSAGE.  
REDACTED

10/22/03 spoke with the archdiocese  
Investigator ( REDACTED ) who spoke with  
Mr. REDACTED  
Mr. stated that he was  
now represented by an attorney  
therefore interview was terminated.  
REDACTED

May 1, 2003

RE: REDACTED  
Pho  
Pag

Subject in his late twenties, married with children and was quite sincere and distraught. Related abuse for approx 6 months when he was 8 yrs of age.

History of family domestic violence father was violent towards all of the family. He beat REDACTED with a belt. He physically abused his wife and was arrested and spent time in Jail. Father was alcoholic. Parents are now divorced.

Subject related a life of violence, gang membership, incarceration CYA and prison (10yrs) as an adult.

He identified father S. as his abuser. He has been suicidal in the past. He slashed (deeply) his right wrist, and states he has placed a gun in his mouth.

Action Plan:

1. Assist REDACTED with counseling.  
Area: Pomona
2. He is very concerned for his younger brother ( REDACTED 25) who is an abuser of drugs and wishes our assistance although he acknowledges that his brother has resisted help and has stolen from REDACTED when he ( REDACTED) was in the home of REDACTED
3. He wishes to confront Father S. to ask him "why?"
4. Our office will contact Catholic Psychological Services in Pomona for recommendations for mental health services.

*In person interview by*  
 REDACTED & Mr. REDACTED  
 REDACTED  
 These are Mr. REDACTED notes

# 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 *MR* REDACTED

ADDRESS REDACTED

PHONE REDACTED	DATE OF REPORT <i>5/9/03</i>	BIRTHDATE REDACTED	SEX <i>M</i>	RACE <i>Hisp</i>
-------------------	---------------------------------	-----------------------	-----------------	---------------------

*WORK*

C. Call

OFFICIAL CONTACTED *REDACTED* PHONE REDACTED ; DATE/TIME

Detective Barracough

D. Other Parties

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

PRESENT LOCATION OF

NAME OF CHURCH OR SCHOOL *SACRED HEART Church POMONA*

ADDRESS AT TIME OF INCIDENT

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT <i>(6:40)</i> <i>± 1978-81</i>	PLACE OF INCIDENT <i>CHURCH</i>	(Check One) Occurred <input type="checkbox"/> Observed <input type="checkbox"/>
---------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------

TYPE OF SEXUAL ABUSE:  
*Priest would grab (Priest) sexual area.*

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

F. Perpetrator Information

REDACTED

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

*5/9/03*

*PSY 7116*

REDACTED

1. Unknown date of his reporting to Pomona Police.
2. He reported to Dr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> and Sr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> in separate conversations that he had waited at the police department for several hours. The police were not interested in his report and made him wait.
3. <sup>REDACTED</sup> said in phone call that before 6/18/03 he had contacted Pomona and L.A.P.D. about his abuse. He was annoyed that he had had to wait that he had been contacted by <sup>REDACTED</sup> office as a potential for

FILE OR CASE # \_\_\_\_\_

SURVIVOR THERAPY RECORD

SURVIVOR REDACTED THERAPIST Dr. REDACTED Ph.D

DATE INITIAL MEMO AND TREATMENT PLAN SENT: July 24, 2003

DATE INITIAL TREATMENT PLAN AND RELEASE RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

START THERAPIST PROGRESS REPORTS DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PROGRESS REPORT #1 REQUEST SENT \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

PROGRESS REPORT #2 REQUEST SENT \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

PROGRESS REPORT #3 REQUEST SENT \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

PROGRESS REPORT #4 REQUEST SENT \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

PROGRESS REPORT #5 REQUEST SENT \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

PROGRESS REPORT #6 REQUEST SENT \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

FINAL SUMMARY REQUEST SENT \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

SURVIVOR EVALUATION REQUEST SENT \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

Therapist Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

REDACTED

**COPY**

**OFFICE OF ASSISTANCE MINISTRY**

**TO:** Dr. REDACTED Ph. D.

**FROM:** Sister REDACTED, SHCJ, MS  
Coordinator

**RE:** REDACTED

**DATE:** July 24, 2003

---

Thank you for agreeing to provide service to the above-named individual. I am enclosing the following: Archdiocesan Guidelines for Pastoral Outreach to Victim-Survivors of Clergy Sexual Misconduct, Survivors of Clergy Abuse Initial Treatment Plan, Patient Release Form, and the Psychotherapeutic Service Provider Information Form.

So that my Office can monitor the progress of those we refer for counseling, we ask that you please cooperate with the following:

1. **Initial Treatment Plan:**

Please complete and return the attached form by the third visit. It has been designed for efficient time management. Remember to include a copy of your Release of Information form for our records.

2. **Progress Reports:**

We require you to complete progress reports *every four months*. My Office will send you a short form for this purpose when it is time for a progress report.

3. **Final Summary Report:**

This form will be sent to you when you notify my Office you are planning to terminate treatment.

4. **Confidentiality:**

We understand the importance of confidentiality if you are to develop and maintain a healthy alliance with your patients. However, I do ask that you:



**COPY**

July 23, 2003  
REDACTED

Dear REDACTED

This is to follow up our conversation about the therapists in your area who are available to see you for therapy.

Dr. REDACTED  
REDACTED

Dr.  
REDACTED

Dr.  
REDACTED

Dr. REDACTED is willing to see you even though his tape says that he is not taking new patients until September. He has agreed to see you for therapy starting now if you so wish.

The tattoo removal is done at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills. Call Sister REDACTED at Department for Tattoo Removal Clinic REDACTED

Please have the therapist you choose call me for verification of their license and to make a contract with us to pay for your therapy.

If you have any questions about therapy please call me.

Sincerely yours,

Sr. REDACTED

Enclosure: Tattoo Article

Therapist for REDACTED

1. 6/6/03 Dr. REDACTED called REDACTED with Name/number of Dr. REDACTED  
REDACTED
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9. 7/22/03 Sr. called REDACTED left message no return call.
10. 7/23/03 Sr. called Told REDACTED Dr. REDACTED is willing to  
see him. REDACTED said he would call and make appointment.
11. 7/23/03 Sr. REDACTED called Dr. REDACTED office about scheduling an  
appointment with REDACTED
12. 7/23/03 Sr. wrote to Dr. REDACTED about making appointment with  
REDACTED
13. 7/23/03 Sr. REDACTED put in writing Dr. REDACTED Dr. REDACTED and Dr.  
REDACTED numbers and Providence Hospital number.



REDACTED

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

November 7, 2003

Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
REDACTED

Dear Monsignor Sanchez:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 6, 2003. I regret that Mr. REDACTED did not serve you well. Others have indicated happiness with his assistance. You are in very good hands with Mr. REDACTED

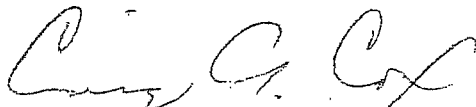
Enclosed is a copy of our Archdiocesan policy on legal fees. Should you need a loan, I will be happy to assist you in securing one. It is vital for the interest of an accused priest that the lawyer not be paid by the Archdiocese. If the Archdiocese pays, the attorney is our lawyer, and the Archdiocese is the client. If that is the case, there can be conflicts of interest which do not serve the accused priests well.

Should you need a loan to secure the services of Mr. REDACTED and should you be exonerated as you fully expect to be, there is a provision by which the loan can be forgiven.

Finally, it is nearing the time when Mr. REDACTED can most productively interview you. You have previously indicated not only an openness, but a strong desire for such an interview. I would hope that after your consultation with Mr. REDACTED you will be able to make yourself available for such an interview.

I am well aware this has been an extremely difficult time for you. And I also know how frustrated you are that we have not been able to you bring this matter to a full closure. You are in my prayers that the Holy Spirit strengthen you in this time of such a heavy cross.

Yours in Christ,

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

enclosure

cc: Mr. REDACTED

Policy on Assistance for Priests with Legal Fees

January 21, 2003

If a priest is under criminal investigation or charged with violation of criminal laws, the cost of the legal assistance that he needs is his personal responsibility.

Criminal Defense Subsequent to an Arrest or Indictment:

When a priest has been arrested or indicted for a criminal offense, if he is unable to fund his defense using personal resources, he is expected to make use of the services of a public defender.

Representation During a Criminal Investigation:

If a priest becomes aware that he is under criminal investigation but has not yet been arrested or indicted, the services of a public defender are not available to him. In situations where his own resources are inadequate to fund representation by a criminal attorney while under investigation, the Archdiocese will consider a request for a loan to the priest up to a cap of \$75,000. To apply for such a loan, the priest must provide financial documentation verifying his inability to fund this representation with his own resources. The application will be reviewed by the Moderator of the Curia, the Vicar for Clergy and the Chief Financial Officer and a group of three pastors. If approved, the loan will be extended provided at the same interest rate used to provide loans to parishes and other Archdiocesan entities.

The preceding policy applies solely to incardinated priests. The responsibility of assisting priests belonging to religious orders or societies of apostolic life or those incardinated in other dioceses belong to their own superiors or bishops.

Msgr. Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros  
REDACTED

November 6, 2003

Dear Msgr. Cox:

I went to see Mr. REDACTED, one of the lawyers that was recommended by the Archdiocese to handle sensitive legal assistance to the priests. I was highly disappointed by the neglect with which he treated my case.

Not being able to talk to you, I called Msgr. Gonzales to inquire of the possibility of consulting another attorney. Msgr. Gonzales said there was no problem in contacting Mr. REDACTED whose name also appears on the recommended list given to me

Yesterday, I met with him at 2:00 PM at his office at REDACTED in Los Angeles. I was very impressed by his manner and the way that he handled my case.

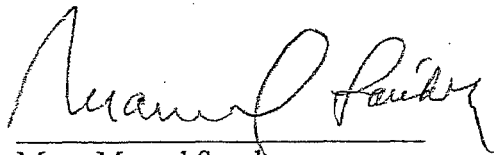
At the end of the meeting, the question arose as to who would pay his fee. I had no money and no checks with me. I had always had the impression that these legal fees would be paid by the Archdiocese. Mr. REDACTED suggested that I should request a loan for \$5,000.00 from the Archdiocese for his retainer.

I sincerely hope that there will be no problem whatsoever in obtaining this money. I do not expect to have to consider this a loan, as no one will ever be able to judge me guilty of such a heinous crime. After serving the Church for almost fifty years, I think that it would be appropriate that this matter be taken care of by the Church and not by me.

May I depend upon your taking care of sending this fee to Mr. REDACTED, or what do you expect as my responsibility in making certain that he receives this money immediately?

I would appreciate your prompt response to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Msgr. Manuel Sanchez

RECEIVED  
NOV 10 2003  
BY:

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Complainant: REDACTED

Case: REDACTED Sanchez

REDACTED called on 11/11/03 at 9:30 a.m. He was very angry. He said that he had received a letter from the Archdiocese about getting a lawyer (ref. REDACTED letter 10/30/03 Proceeding No. 4286). See attached copy.

Initially REDACTED was pleasant and talked of going back to Church. He said he was going to go to Assumption Parish in Claremont to pray. He framed his words around his relationship with God.

I thought he was another survivor with a similar name. He told me not to call him REDACTED My name is REDACTED He seemed labile, crying while talking. Very angry and attacking continually talking.

He said that "you haven't done anything to help me". "I asked you to get my brothers tattoos removed. I asked you to get treatment for my brother. You haven't done anything to help me".

REDACTED we tried to help you. We got you many therapists who would work with you. You did not go. We got you the phone # and name of a hospital to get the tattoos removed.

REDACTED continued yelling angrily repeating the above. Conversation was not possible. He said he was going to talk with REDACTED. It was impossible to speak with REDACTED so the phone was laid aside and he continued shouting in rage.

After the conversation with REDACTED  
I had a short conversation with REDACTED to process what had transpired.

I called Assumption Parish and asked for the Pastor. He was away and there were no priests at the Rectory. I felt there was a duty to warn since REDACTED was so angry and had said he was going to that Parish. The Pastor called when he returned the next day. REDACTED had not gone to the Parish Rectory.

REDACTED

October 30, 2003

REDACTED

Re: The Clergy Cases I  
Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4286

Dear Mr. REDACTED

We represent the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. We understand that you informed the Archdiocese that you were the victim of childhood sexual abuse. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

We take these allegations very seriously and would encourage you to undergo counseling provided without cost to you. If you wish counseling, please contact Sister REDACTED of the victim assistance ministry at REDACTED

If you intend to pursue legal action against the Archdiocese, you should consult promptly with an attorney.

-Sincerely,  
REDACTED

338143

Mr. REDACTED  
Page 2  
October 30, 2003

REDACTED

bcc






---

## MEMORANDUM

---

TO: Cardinal Roger M. Mahony

FROM: REDACTED

RE: *Recommendation of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board  
Monsignor Manuel Sanchez (CMOB 064-01)*

DATE: November 12, 2003

-----

The Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board discussed the case of Monsignor Manuel Sanchez on October 22, 2003. Msgr. Sanchez is a retired Hispanic pastor emeritus, age 73, who was ordained in 1954 and incardinated in the Los Angeles Archdiocese in 1976.

In April, 2003 Sr. REDACTED received a call from a concerned priest relating that a 32 year old man told him he had been abused by Msgr. Sanchez in 1981-82 at the age of 7-10 years when he was an altar boy. He said that Msgr. Sanchez would approach the boy from behind while in the sacristy and caress his face, press his body against the boy, expose himself and have the boy hold his penis. He said that the boy told him that Msgr. Sanchez attempted anal intercourse but was stopped by him. The boy said that this occurred on weekends over a period of 7-8 weeks. Msgr. Sanchez was confronted and strongly denies the allegations and wants to meet personally with the complainant.

Prior complaints had been made about Msgr. Sanchez in 1989. At that time it was alleged that he had asked several teenage girls to sit on his lap during confession and that he then fondled or touched them inappropriately. There were also concerns that Msgr. Sanchez was having an affair with an adult member of his parish staff. Msgr. Sanchez was confronted about these accusations at the time and strongly denied them. There were also a number of other problems at the parish. Msgr. Curry and Fr. REDACTED spoke to the people involved and concluded that nothing of significance really happened. No psychological assessment of Msgr. Sanchez was made and no action was taken at the time.

Msgr. Cox directed REDACTED the investigator hired by the Archdiocese, to investigate the allegations. Mr. REDACTED made an interim report to the Board at its October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. He stated that his review of the C-File showed that counseling had been offered to the young man through Dr. REDACTED and Sister REDACTED and that he had been interviewed by Father REDACTED and Dr. REDACTED. Mr. REDACTED spoke to the young man by telephone on October 15, 2003. He was immediately informed by the young man that he was represented by counsel and Mr. REDACTED did not pursue the conversation further.

Msgr. Sanchez has retained attorney REDACTED to represent him and is eager to cooperate. He is not living at the parish and is not involved in parish activities.

*Memorandum Regarding Monsignor Manuel Sanchez*  
*November 12, 2003*  
*Page 2*

Recommendation: It was the consensus of the Board that Msgr. Sanchez undergo a psychological assessment, that his activities be restricted – i.e., that he not be involved in public ministry – pending the results of the assessment, and that Mr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> investigate the matter further and report his finding to the Board. It was also the consensus of the Board that there is no need to notify the parish until the Board considers the case further.

cc: Msgr. Craig A. Cox

*I understand that additional investigation may develop further information useful to the Board. I prefer to wait until the Board has been able to consider any further information.*

*+ Roger Carl Mahoy*  
*20 Nov. 2003*

*Msgr. Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros*  
REDACTED

November 14, 2003

Monsignor Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.  
Office of the Vicar for Clergy  
3424 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90010-2202

Dear Monsignor Cox:

Thank you very much for your prompt response to my letter of November 6, 2003.

Yes! As you mentioned, I need a loan from the Archdiocese for \$5,000.00 to pay Mr. REDACTED for taking care of my case. According to a general agreement, he will provide no legal services until the initial retainer of \$3,500.00 has been paid in full to him. I do not have such an amount of money at this time, but I want very much that this case be treated in the most appropriate manner and without any delay.

REDACTED has given me a very good impression. I think that I am in good hands as you said in your letter.

Following your advice, I called Mr. REDACTED to find out his opinion about being interviewed by Mr. REDACTED. He said it was not necessary for me to repeat the deposition that I made on June 9, 2003. I signed this deposition in your presence, and I reaffirm that I told the truth.

I would like to note that, according to my accuser, his mother told him that a "Mexican priest" was his molester. No one has ever confused me with that nationality; I am a Spaniard born in Spain.

Would it be possible for your office to send me a check at the above address for the \$5,000.00 as I have promised Mr. REDACTED that he will receive the initial retainer for \$3,500.00 this coming week? I thank you for your kind cooperation.

Sincerely in Christ,

---

(Msgr. Manuel Sanchez)

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

December 1, 2003

Msgr. Craig Cox  
Vicar for Clergy  
3424 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2241

RE: Msgr. Manual Sanchez

Dear Msgr. Cox:

This letter is in response to our recent conversation regarding my client, Manual Sanchez. As you are aware Msgr. Sanchez has articulated great concern in writing to you with regard to accusations of misconduct. He has expressly denied any wrongdoing. It is his desire to meet with you or any representative of the archdiocese to put to rest these allegations.

Despite his clear wish to meet and discuss these matters, I have explained to him that such a meeting is not possible until I have been provided the information contained in his confidential file. Only after I have had a reasonable opportunity to acquaint myself with this matter can we schedule an interview.

Please provide a copy of his confidential file to my office at your earliest opportunity. In the interim, you may continue to rely upon his previous written denials. Once the archdiocese completes an independent investigation I am convinced that this good man's reputation will prevail and the concerns will prove to be unfounded.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

REDACTED

REDACTED

CC: Msgr. Manual Sanchez

DEC 3 - 2003



C-File

**COPY**

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

December 22, 2003

Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
REDACTED

Dear Monsignor Sanchez:

This is to acknowledge your letter of December 21, 2003. I did receive your earlier letter and am processing the loan application. Please be patient. When the check for your loan is issued, I will send it to Mr. REDACTED since you will be in Spain. It would be helpful if you could arrange with Mr. REDACTED an authorization to have that check deposited to your account since you will be not be present to sign it.

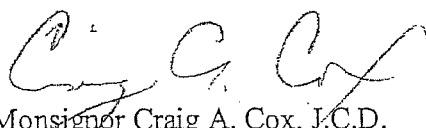
Indeed, my time in the last few weeks has been devoted almost entirely to legal matters. This affects the allegation against you as well as similar allegations against many other priests. I know that you feel your case is not being given sufficient attention. All I can do is assure you is that this work with our attorneys does impact the allegations against you, and that in addition I have done a fair amount of independent work on your case. That work has not yet come to fruition, but I have kept work on your case on the front burner.

I regret that it will not be possible to resolve all of the problems related to the accusation made against you before you leave on December 28. The State Legislature extended the statute of limitations for civil claims through December 31, 2003. Not until several days after that deadline will we know whether the man in question has indeed followed through and filed a lawsuit. Similarly, until that deadline passes we will not know whether any publicity will emerge concerning his claim.

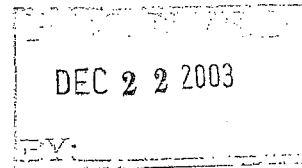
Manuel, I can only dimly imagine how hard this is for you. I certainly understand your desire to have this laid to rest post haste. If our roles were reversed, I would feel the same urgency. I simply ask that you please be patient.

I presume you will be at the same address in Spain that I used to write to you earlier. If there is any change of address or phone, please let my office know. Peace be with you!

Yours in Christ,

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

**Msgr. Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros**  
 REDACTED



**Rev. Msgr. Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.**  
 Office of the Vicar for Clergy  
 3224 Wilshire Boulevard  
 Los Angeles, Ca. 90010-2202

**December 21, 2003**

**Dear Monsignor Cox,**

**Here is the bill from Mr. REDACTED for his services rendered in my case for the molestation accusations against me.**

**I cannot understand how it is possible with the amount of work that he did for me. The only thing that I know for sure is the time that I spent with him which is as follows:**

- 1. One call to him to ask if he would like to take my case. Duration two minutes.**
- 2. Only one visit to his office. Duration approximately one hour.**
- 3. Two telephone calls each lasting ten minutes. I am sure that one of them was, among other things, to tell me that he was sending me his bill to forward to the Chancery.**

**In the letter that you sent to me in Spain, you informed me that one very grave allegation was against me. As you well know, I took this matter very seriously from the beginning, and I will not rest until I see the end of this accusation. Last week, Mr. REDACTED told me that he would inform you to put an end to all this matter. He said that it was about time to lay this episode to rest.**

**I will go to Spain December 28th, and I would like to resolve all these problems before leaving. I sincerely hope that you will have five minutes to read this letter and send me the total amount of Mr. REDACTED bill that is for \$13,046.12 which includes the \$3,500.00 that I had to borrow to meet his request for a down payment. I am well aware of the policy of the Chancery Office that should I be convicted of this allegation, I must stand the entire cost of the legal fees.**

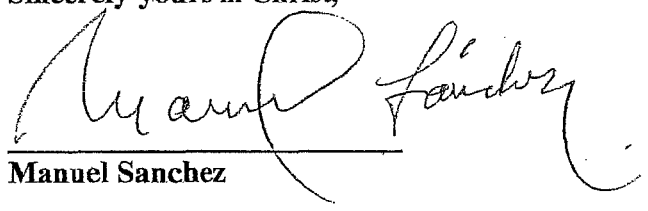
**Please allow me to quote your letter of November 7, 2003. "Should you need a loan, I will be happy to assist you in securing one. Should you need a loan to secure the service of Mr. REDACTED and should you be exonerated as you fully expect to be, there is a provision by which the loan can be forgiven." Based on that, I was asking to secure a loan from the Chancery in my letter of November 14, 2003.**

You have never responded to that letter and I am not even sure that you received it. In addition to this letter, I left two messages with your secretary asking you to get in touch with me. I heard nothing from you. I left a third message with your secretary in which I asked her to write a note for you asking if you received my letter of November 14th and if you intended to respond to it. In case you didn't receive it, I am sending you a copy of that letter. I am assuming that your secretary called these messages to your attention.

Probably, you have been so very busy with other more important cases that you could not spare one minute to communicate with me either directly or through one of your secretaries. Only you know how much stress you are under dealing with so many cases of sexual molestation by the priests of the Archdioceses. You have my admiration and prayers for the stresses of your very difficult and delicate job. Nevertheless, after serving as a priest in this area for thirty-two years, I feel that my case deserves a little more attention from the Archdiocese.

I wish you the best of the Christmas holidays.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Manuel Sanchez




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## MEMORANDUM

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TO: Cardinal Roger Mahony

FROM: REDACTED

RE: *Recommendation of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board  
Monsignor Manuel Sanchez (CMOB 064-01)*

DATE: 22 December 2003

---

The Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board discussed the case of Monsignor Manuel Sanchez on December 10, 2003. We sent you an earlier memorandum on this case dated November 12, 2003. As noted therein, the complaint involves the alleged molestation of a young boy in the sacristy at Sacred Heart Parish in Pomona in 1981-82.

REDACTED, the retired FBI investigator retained by the Archdiocese, conducted a very thorough investigation. His report is attached. While it is not my intent to attach the investigator's report as a matter of course, in this case I did want you to see an example of Mr. REDACTED work. As the report indicates, Mr. REDACTED interviewed a number of people -- laity, religious and priests. We asked him to investigate not only the new complaint of abuse of a minor boy, but also other complaints that had been raised against Monsignor Sanchez for misconduct or boundary violations with minors and with an adult in past years.

Mr. REDACTED does not find any evidence of anything other than boundary violations with regard to the previous complaints related to the contact Monsignor Sanchez had with minor girls. There is evidence that he was a highly affectionate person and that at times he may have expressed this affection innocently but without understanding how it might be uncomfortable or offensive to others. With regard to the past allegation of an inappropriate relationship with an adult woman, this allegation has greater credibility, although there is no certainty as to exactly what may have happened. After discussion, the members of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board are satisfied that there was no need to do any further investigation related to that particular issue.

Mr. REDACTED report details the information he obtained concerning the new allegation of misconduct with a minor boy. From this information, it appears that the alleged misconduct is highly improbable. There are elements of the charge that are not consistent or that strain credibility. The alleged abusive activity supposedly took place in the sacristy on Sundays. However, the investigation reveals that there are many people present in or passing through the sacristy on Sundays. In view of this, it is very unlikely that a perpetrator would engage in the activity being complained of for fear of being caught in the act.

After a thorough discussion, the CMOB found that there is insufficient evidence to establish the truth of the allegation and recommend that the file be closed unless new relevant information is received. Monsignor Sanchez is retired and the Board does not recommend the removal of faculties or any restriction placed on his ability to help out occasionally in his retirement.



*Memorandum Regarding Monsignor Manuel Sanchez*  
*Page 2*

However, the Board does recommend that the Vicar for Clergy meet with Monsignor Sanchez and discuss the concerns about fully and completely respecting ministerial boundaries, put him under obedience to fully abide by Archdiocese regulations on maintaining proper boundaries, and warn him that any future violation of such boundaries will result in a prohibition of public ministry.

Thank you.

cc: Msgr. Craig A. Cox

Attachment

*I concur fully in all your  
recommendations,  
+ Roger Land, PhD  
23 December 2003*

REDACTED

January 21, 2004

REDACTED

Re: Clergy Cases I

Dear <sup>REDACTED</sup>

The following priests are still in active ministry:

REDACTED

Manuel Sanchez

We would appreciate it if we could receive your client's claimants questionnaires for the above mentioned priests as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
REDACTED

REDACTED

JAN 23 2004

**Statement for Weekend Masses at Sacred Heart, Pomona  
January 31 – February 1, 2004  
Regarding Monsignor Manuel Sanchez**

I am Monsignor Alexander Salazar, Vice Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Our Archbishop, Cardinal Roger Mahony, has asked that I make an important announcement here at Sacred Heart Parish this weekend.

As you know from news reports, many lawsuits were filed in the month of December that allege sexual abuse of minors on the part of different priests, brothers, nuns and laypersons working for the Church. These filings are public records, available to the media and to any other person who wishes to obtain the information.

You probably are not aware that your Pastor Emeritus, Monsignor Manuel Sanchez, was named as a defendant in ones of these lawsuits. We expect that there will be news reports referring to Monsignor Sanchez and this lawsuit in the coming weeks. We wanted you to learn this information from us first rather than through secular news sources.

The alleged incidents relate to approximately 1981 when Monsignor Sanchez was serving as Pastor here at Sacred Heart. When the complainant contacted us in April 2003, we arranged for him to be interviewed immediately. When informed of the complaint, Monsignor Sanchez firmly denied any sexually abusive conduct with the person who complained or with any minor.

Using the services of a professional investigator, a former FBI agent, a very thorough investigation was undertaken. The results of that investigation were presented to our Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board. That Board consists of thirteen persons, eleven of whom are lay people. The Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board has reviewed the case and concluded that the evidence did not support the charges. The Board recommended that there be no restrictions placed on the ability of Monsignor Sanchez to continue ministering at Sacred Heart or in any other place during his retirement.

Cardinal Mahony is committed to assuring that children and young people are safe. He has firmly pledged that, when it is determined that a priest has engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor, he will be permanently removed from ministry. That pledge has been implemented. The fact that a lawsuit has been filed, however, does not mean that Monsignor Sanchez has acted in an abusive fashion. All people, priests included, must be presumed innocent until there is proof to the contrary. At the same time, the Church takes allegations of this sort seriously -- precisely because we want to uncover the full truth and then act in accord with the truth. After all, Jesus himself stated that it is the truth that sets us free. Therefore, we will continue to seek all available information.

We also will continue to keep you informed of developments. Finally, I ask that you please pray for everyone involved -- people who have been harmed by sexual abuse, for Monsignor Sanchez and for priests, and those conducting the investigations. Thank you for your kind attention. May God bless you!

**Declaración para las misas del fin de semana**  
**Iglesia de Sagrado Corazón de Jesús en Pomona**  
**31 de enero – 1 de febrero, 2004**  
**Respecto al Monseñor Manuel Sánchez**

Me llamo Monseñor Alexander Salazar, Vise-Canciller de la Arquidiócesis de Los Ángeles. Nuestro Arzobispo el señor Cardenal Rogelio Mahony me ha pedido dar un anuncio importante aquí en la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón este fin de semana.

Quizás ya se han dado cuenta a través de noticias en los medios de comunicación que muchas demandas se presentaron en el mes de diciembre alegando que algunos sacerdotes, religiosos y religiosas y laicos que trabajan por la Iglesia han abusado de menores de edad. Estas demandas existen en forma de documentos públicos, disponibles a los medios de comunicación y a cualquier otra persona que desee obtener dicha información.

Probablemente no estén ustedes enterados que su Pastor emérito, el Monseñor Manuel Sánchez, ha sido nombrado como demandado en una de las demandas. Se espera que haya varios reportes en las noticias con respecto al Monseñor Sánchez y las demandas en las próximas semanas. Queremos que ustedes reciban esta información de nuestra parte y no por medio de las fuentes seculares de noticias.

Este supuesto incidente se remonta al año 1981, aproximadamente, cuando el Monseñor Sánchez servía como Pastor aquí en el Sagrado Corazón. Cuando el demandante se comunicó con nosotros en el mes de abril del 2002, acordamos para una entrevista con él inmediatamente. Cuando le informamos al Monseñor Sánchez de la acusación, él firmemente negó en lo absoluto cualquier mala conducta sexual con la persona que lo acusaba y con persona menor alguna.

A través de los servicios de un investigador profesional, un ex agente del FBI, una investigación de fondo se logró. Los resultados de esa investigación fueron presentados a nuestra Comisión de Supervisión de Casos de Mala Conducta del Clero. La Comisión consiste de trece personas, de los cuales once son laicos. La misma Comisión estudió el caso y determinó que la evidencia no soporta la acusación. La Comisión recomendó que no haya limitación alguna sobre la capacidad del Monseñor Sánchez como ministro tanto en la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón, como en otro lugar alguno durante su jubilación.

El Cardenal Mahony se ha comprometido a cuidar que los niños y jóvenes estén seguros. Él ha prometido firmemente que, cuando se haya determinado que un sacerdote ha participado en mala conducta sexual con un menor, ese sacerdote será removido permanentemente del ministerio. Esa promesa ha sido implementada. Sin embargo, el simple hecho que se presenta una demanda no significa que el Msgr. Sánchez ha actuado de manera abusiva. Toda persona, inclusive un sacerdote, debe ser considerada inocente hasta que se presente prueba al contrario. A la vez, la Iglesia toma y recibe cualquier acusación en serio – precisamente porque queremos hacer todo para descubrir la plan verdad y responder de acuerdo con la verdad. Después de todo, sabemos que Jesús mismo declaró que es la verdad que nos hará libres. Por lo tanto, continuamos en búsqueda de toda información a nuestro alcance.

Además seguiremos manteniendo al día a esta comunidad con respecto a este asunto. Por último, les suplico que recen por todas personas involucradas – por quienes fueron dañadas por el abuso sexual, por los sacerdotes, y por los que conducen las diferentes investigaciones. Les agradezco amablemente su bondadosa atención. ¡Que Dios los bendiga!



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

TO: Presbyterate of the Archdiocese

FROM: Monsignor Craig A. Cox, Vicar for Clergy

RE: Priests in Active Service Named in Lawsuits

DATE: 1 February 2004

My brothers,

As you know, many lawsuits were filed in the month of December alleging sexual abuse of minors on the part of priests, brothers, religious and others working for the Church. These filings are public records, available to the media and to any other person who wishes to obtain the information. Being named in a lawsuit, however, is not of itself proof of misconduct. Therefore, among those named are a number of priests who, for many different and weighty reasons, continue in their assignments and remain in good standing.

After intense consultations that involved these priests, the Council of Priests, as well as others, we concluded that the best course of action was for us to inform the parishioners of the parishes where these priests continue to serve that their priest had been named in a lawsuit. We concluded that being open and bringing accurate information directly to our parishioners was wise and necessary. This was a painful decision, especially for the priests involved.

Therefore, I wanted to inform you that over the last several weekends, announcements were made in the parishes where these priests continue to serve. At this difficult moment, and with the consent of those listed, I want to communicate to you the names of these brother priests. They are: Father REDACTED  
REDACTE

and Monsignor Manuel Sanchez.

I ask that you please keep them in your prayers as they deal with the allegations made in these lawsuits. Clearly, supporting one another in our Presbyterate is not at odds with having a profound empathy for those who were harmed by the evil of sexual abuse, especially those who were abused by a priest. Thus, I ask that you keep all victims of sexual abuse in your daily prayer. Thank you.

Msgr. Manuel Sanchez O.  
REDACTED

RECEIVED  
MAR 24 2004  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_

REDACTED

The Rev. Msgr. Craig Cox  
Vicar for Clergy  
3424 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, Ca, 90010-2241

March 23, 2004

Dear Msgr. Cox:

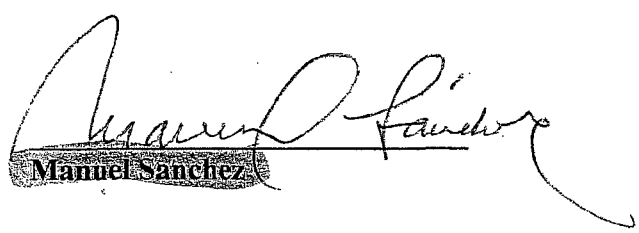
Here are the comments that I sent to REDACTED after reading the accusations concerning my case. I would greatly appreciate your personal reflection regarding this letter. So far, Mr. REDACTED has given me no feedback on this scenario which I consider to be of the utmost relevance. My opinion is that these comments also would be useful to you in further understanding my case. With this information, I proved that my accuser evidently confused me with someone else.

I didn't hear from you about two subjects which are very important to me. I wrote a letter to you concerning the payment that the lawyer expects from me, and I have received no reply from you as of this time. My second concern, which has not been responded to in any manner, is my grievance against the Catholic Directory for not including my photograph as a fifty-year jubilant with the group of Archdiocesan priests who are celebrating this momentous event.

I would like to know if you received either of these letters. Perhaps, they have been lost in a sea of paperwork. I was told by the editor of The Catholic Directory that your office was responsible for not including me.

I sincerely hope that you can spare some of your very valuable time for me.

Yours in Christ,

  
Manuel Sanchez

Dear Mr. <sup>REDACTED</sup>: These are some of my comments to this document.

I sent a note to Msgr. Cox asking for the money that I owe you. I hope that he will respond to me soon with a positive answer. I'll call you soon.

Sincerely,

---

**(Manuel Sanchez)**  
March 11, 2004

**COMMENT TO THE SUPERIOR COURT ACQUISITION  
AGAINST MANUEL SANCHEZ**

**Page 1** I do not belong to any religious order. According to my Curriculum Vitae, I came from Granada, Spain in 1071, and I am and always have been a secular priest, not a religious one.

**Page 4 - b.** January 1962, I was in Spain teaching in the Minor Seminary. I never was I assigned to a Catholic Seminary in Washington, D.C.

**Page 4 - c.** I was never transferred to Japan to be a missionary for the Claretians or any diocese. In 1971, I was teaching Spanish in Saint Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs with my residence in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Los Nietos, California.

**Page 5:** Everything is false. Never was I molesting any child or being advised about any wrong doing by the Chancery or private citizens with students. Since I went to Pomona, California in 1977 until the present time, I have never worked in any other parish. The Archdiocese never advised me or let met know about any malpractice in my ministry. I am innocent of any charges of child molesting.

My accuser is either telling lies or has confused me with another priest. I don't remember him as being an altar boy because I always had a lady in charge of the altar boys.

**Page 6.** This horrendous accusation of which he has accused me never took place. If he is sincere, he has confused me with another priest.  
8 - 1

11 I don't know if he is sincere in accusing me. I insist that I never ever did anything inappropriate to any child in my whole life. If my accuser is in his right mind, he certainly confused me with another person.

13 It is completely wrong; nothing like that ever took place in my life.

Page 7. Defendants couldn't know because nothing like that ever took place  
14 at least to my knowledge from me or from anyone else I know.

17 I agree that the Defendants had a duty to protect the minor plaintiff and all the children, and I was aware of that advise and took it seriously.

Page 8. No one knew about the sexual abuse of the plaintiff by me because it  
19 never took place to begin with. Other minor "victims" of the perpetrator?...where are they? No one has any knowledge of them except the plaintiff apparently.

Page 9 I certainly agree and they did.  
22

23 The perpetrator's dangerous and explosive tendencies.....why is it that no one knew about that..... the perpetrator included.

Page 10 I deny categorically that there is any truth or merit to this statement.  
27

29 - 34 I deny all these accusations as completely false and malicious.

Page 11 When did the plaintiff the fraud of the Defendants? Why didn't he  
36 speak out before?

38 The "prowling perpetrator" sought out the vulnerable and inexperienced plaintiff? When? Where? Was the plaintiff so naive and untrained by his mother that he was incapable of looking for help from such a monster?

Page 12 How could the Defendants exercise their fiduciary duty toward something  
40 they knew nothing of or that did not exist?

47 The plaintiff had not been able to help other minors from fraud. What fraud? Why did he not name at any time minors that might be molested by this "perpetrator" and thus protect them from this agony?



- Page 15 Defendants harbored, concealed and aided the perpetrator after the  
61 perpetrator had committed a felony. What felony? Where is the proof  
of that irresponsible statement?
- Page 15 There was no known report of any suspected sexual abuse of a minor.  
66
- Page 16 Defendants couldn't know because the plaintiff is making a false  
67 statement.
- Page 20 I deny categorically such a vicious statement.  
1 - 13
- 115 FALSE 100%! VICIOUS!
- Page 22 I was never transferred to any other parish or school. The plaintiff  
127 is not well informed. I never molested any child in my entire life.
- 128 They didn't move me at all.
- 129 Equally false! I was always in Pomona, and no one has ever proven  
that I was molesting a child.
- 130 No reason why I should not continue my normal life as a priest when  
I am innocent of all the allegations. Sooner or later the truth will prevail.
- 132 COMPLETELY FALSE! No child has been molested by me.
- 136 The plaintiff is wrongly informed about all my life and my ministry.  
He doesn't know me at all. I had always the same employer...the  
Archdiocese of Los Angeles.
- Page 24 FALSE! I HAVE NEVER BELONGED TO ANY RELIGIOUS ORDER.  
137 I have never worked outside Pomona since 1977.
- 142 TOTALLY FALSE!
- Page 25 TOTALLY FALSE!  
143
- 144 FALSE!



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop  
(213) 637-7288

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

December 8, 2004

His Eminence  
Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
Piazza del S. Uffizio, 11  
00120 Vatican City

Your Eminence:

Over the last several weeks, in accord with the provisions of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, I have forwarded a number of cases to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in which there is at least a "semblance of truth" to allegations of sexual abuse of minors lodged against some of our priests.

These sad cases, however, do not reflect the entire reality of our experience here in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. There are a number of our priests accused of sexual abuse who, after a thorough investigation in accord with canon 1717, have been vindicated. In these cases, both our Archdiocesan Review Board and the those conducting the preliminary investigation concur that the evidence either totally exonerates the priest or does not substantiate the claim.

Therefore, in order to provide a more complete picture of our experience, by means of this letter I wish to inform you and the members of the Congregation of these cases in which the search for truth has led to the vindication of the priests' good name.

REDACTED

-2-

~~Monsignor Manuel Sanchez~~, accused of misconduct in 1978-1981, investigation determined that there was insufficient evidence to establish the truth of the allegation.

Announcements communicating these findings have been made in the parishes of four of the five priests, and an appropriate way to communicate the finding for the fifth priest remains to be finalized.

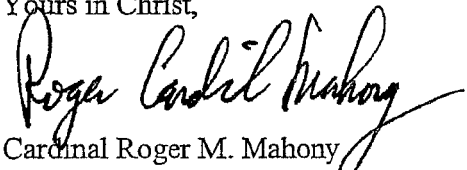
I trust this will be helpful for you and the members of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Furthermore, should you receive any inquiries about these cases, some of which have received attention in the media, you will have this information on file.

Please note that, despite being cleared by our canonical investigation, civil lawsuits for damages still are filed against some of these priests. Our attorneys will use the exonerating information in defense of these claims as necessary.

Finally, several other preliminary investigations which are currently tending toward the exoneration of the priests are still underway. I will be sure to report to you developments in these cases as well.

Please be assured of my prayers. I remain,

Yours in Christ,

+   
Cardinal Roger M. Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles in California



**Archdiocese of Los Angeles**

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

December 13, 2004

**Personal and Confidential**

Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
Sacred Heart Parish  
1215 S. Hamilton Boulevard  
Pomona, CA 91766-2850

Dear Monsignor Sanchez:

Please know that you continue to be in my prayers during this very difficult time. It is times like these we know the wisdom of St. Paul when he experienced his powerlessness but found the grace of God in his weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). So may the grace of Christ fill you and strengthen you in this time of trial.

As you know, we are endeavoring to reach equitable settlements to the many lawsuits filed against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. As you may not know, as part of the settlement process in southern California, the judge has required that the Archdiocese as well (as other dioceses and religious orders) prepare "proffers" or summaries of the contents of most of the accused priests' clergy and confidential files. The Archdiocese recently completed the process of having the proffers it prepared reviewed and verified by the judge.

Cardinal Mahony is now consulting with his advisors, especially our Presbyteral Council, on the wisdom of making these proffers available for review by our Catholic people. Currently, it is his intent to proceed with making this information available in some form, especially since some victims have indicated that the release of this kind of information can be helpful to their healing process. Release of such information also responds to the call from so many of our Catholic people for greater openness about how complaints of sexual misconduct with minors have been handled. Thus, our sense is that there will be great value in taking the initiative now to release these documents ourselves, allowing us to do so in a constructive context and with appropriate explanation.

The Cardinal has asked that I write to each person for whom we have prepared proffers and to enclose for your review a copy of the proffer related to you. As you can see, for the most part the proffer includes information on your dates of birth and ordination as well as your assignment history. When applicable, the proffer also includes information on when any kind of sexual misconduct was reported to Archdiocesan authorities. This relates to the critical legal question of "notice." It also sketches the actions taken by officials of the Archdiocese in response to any complaints.

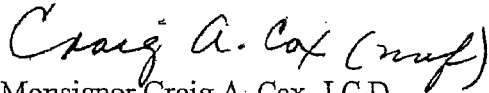
*Letter to Priest Regarding Proffers*  
*Page 2 of 2*

Out of respect for your rights, the Cardinal did not want to release this proffer without first communicating our thinking to you and allowing you to review the proffer. Certainly, if any of the information in our files is erroneous, we would very much appreciate receiving corrected information from you.

Also, if you have any comments or questions, please feel free to phone Mr. REDACTED one of the attorneys most familiar with the proffers, at REDACTED. You are also welcome to phone me on December 20, 21, or 22 at REDACTED. I am not available from December 14-19 due to duties that take me outside the Archdiocese.

Again, please know that you are in my prayers, especially during this Advent season of hope. May these wonderful days of the liturgical year be a time of healing and renewal for us all!

Yours in Christ,



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

enclosure

## PROFFER RE FATHER MANUEL SANCHEZ ONTIVEROS

Date	Description
3/2/30	Born in Granada, Spain.
6/12/54	Ordained in Granada, Spain.
7/1/71	Teaching assignment at St. Paul High School, Santa Fe Springs. In Residence at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Los Nietos, with faculties of an Associate Pastor.
2/13/75	Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Los Nietos.
10/1/75	Associate Pastor at St. Helen Church, South Gate.
9/15/76	Incardinated into the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.
1/3/77	Administrator at Sacred Heart Parish, Pomona.
5/1/80	Pastor at Sacred Heart Parish, Pomona.
2/1/00	Retires.



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

September 14, 2005

**Personal and Confidential**

Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
c/o Sacred Heart Parish  
1215 South Hamilton Boulevard  
Pomona, CA 91766

Dear Monsignor Sanchez:

I am writing to give you advance notice of a major article that we expect to be published in the Los Angeles Times in the coming days or weeks. We do not know the full extent of what the article or articles will cover, but we have strong indications that it will feature a discussion of "priests accused who remain in ministry." It is even possible that this dimension of the story will be run as a "sidebar" complete with pictures of the priests still serving and listing their current assignments.

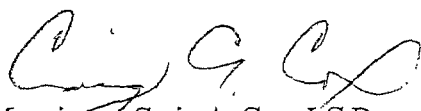
The Cardinal and I wanted you to be aware that the reporter working on the story inquired about you, so that you would have this advance notice in the event this story does refer to you.

Obviously, I am sure that this possibility you may be receiving further publicity is unwelcome news. Please know that my office stands ready to provide any support you may need at this time. If you believe you would benefit from some sessions with a counselor or referral to a spiritual director, please do not hesitate to let me know. I will soon be sending news of another day of recollection being offered for those who have been publicly accused, and your participation in that is most welcome.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions

I will keep you in my prayers, along with all the others who have been harmed by abuse and accusations of abuse. May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ the great High Priest be with you at this difficult time!

Yours in Christ,

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



FILE COPY

REDACTED

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

October 7, 2005

REDACTED

Dear REDACTED

Recently Cardinal Mahony received authorization from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith authorizing him to conduct a penal trial in the matter of certain allegations against REDACTED, a priest of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, regarding misconduct covered under Canon 1395, §2, and *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela*, Article 4.

In Cardinal Mahony's absence, I am authorized to request your assistance in obtaining the services of three canon lawyers to form a panel of judges for the trial. If it is at all possible, it would be very helpful if at least one member of the panel, to serve as Praeses, could be from one of the westernmost States, excluding those living within the Province of Los Angeles.

I thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in these regrettable matters. May the Lord continue to bless you in your ministry at the Bishops' Conference.

Sincerely in Christ,  
REDACTED

Copy: Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop



\*\* JOB STATUS REPORT \*\*

AS OF MAR 24 2006 13:40

PAGE 01

ARCHDIOCESE OF LA

JOB #445

DATE	TIME	TO/FROM	MODE	MIN/SEC	PGS	STATUS
001	3/24	13:38	REDACTED	01' 21"	002	OK



**FAX COVER PAGE**

ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
 3424 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD  
 LOS ANGELES, CA 90010-2241 U.S.A.  
 FAX No. (213) 637-6607

TO Msgr. Manuel Sanchez FROM Msgr. Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.

FAX NO. 310-377-9978 PAGES two --including cover

PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE Friday, March 24, 2006

RE \_\_\_\_\_ CC \_\_\_\_\_

URGENT  FOR REVIEW  PLEASE COMMENT  PLEASE REPLY

COMMENTS:

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**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE**

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From Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
Sacred Heart Parish, Pomona  
310 541 - 6267  
REDACTED

March 24, 2006

I would like to read a brief statement to you; it is highly emotional for me.

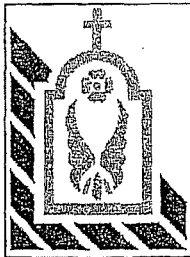
As most of you may know, two years ago, I was accused of one case of child molestation by a young man that supposedly happened more than twenty-four years ago in the Sacristy of this parish immediately before the Mass. The charge is 100% untrue. It is well known to everybody that the Archdiocese will not allow any priest to continue exercising his ministry if there is any doubt as to the veracity of such an accusation. The Chancery Office immediately investigated the charges against me through a detective and could find no foundation whatsoever for the charge. For this reason, I have continued to serve as a priest. Nevertheless, this charge has not yet been erased from my record. That has caused great sorrow to me and to my family in Spain. As you can imagine, this has been a nightmare.

Last Sunday immediately before coming to the altar to serve the Mass, I was approached in the Sacristy by my accuser. After he asked me if I was Father Sanchez, he became very aggressive and abusive in the presence of the altar boys and girls and the Eucharistic Ministers. He said that he would come to Sacred Heart Church every Sunday to distribute flyers of his accusation.

My position has not altered. I am not guilty of such a heinous crime. The motivation of this young man for his allegation is not yet clear. It is a matter to be dealt with by my lawyer and the Archdioceses.

I repeat to you with God as my witness that I do not know this young man, and I am completely innocent of this claim of totally immoral and repugnant behavior. If I am here with you instead of being in Spain, it is because I want to defend myself and the Church against so many unjust accusations that have been maliciously directed against the priests who are unable to defend themselves against the infamous crime of child molestation.

May God bless all of you.



FAX COVER PAGE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
3424 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90010-2241 U.S.A.  
FAX No. (213) 637-6607

TO Msgr. Manuel Sanchez FROM Msgr. Craig A. Cox, J.C.D.  
FAX NO. REDACTED PAGES two --including cover  
PHONE NO. DATE Friday, March 24, 2006  
RE CC

URGENT  FOR REVIEW  PLEASE COMMENT  PLEASE REPLY

COMMENTS:

Multiple horizontal lines for handwritten comments.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE  
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I would like to read a brief statement to you.

As most of you may know, I was accused of one case of child molestation by a man who claimed that I abused him twenty-four years ago. That charge is 100% untrue. When the accusation was made, the Archdiocese immediately responded and assigned a former Special Agent of the FBI to investigate the allegation. The results of that investigation were reported to the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board, made up primarily of lay persons. The Board concluded that the evidence did not support the charges and that I would be able to continue serving in priestly ministry without any restrictions. On the weekend of February 1, 2004, an announcement was made here at the parish informing you of that conclusion.

Last Sunday, I was approached in the sacristy by my accuser, a person whom I did not know. He asked if I was Father Sanchez and I indicated that I was. There, shortly before Mass was to begin and in the presence of the altar servers and Eucharistic ministers, he very strongly accused me. He also said that he would come to Sacred Heart Church every weekend to distribute flyers of his accusation.

I repeat to you, with God as my witness, that I am completely innocent of this claim of totally immoral and repugnant behavior. Being the object of a false accusation is a cause of great sorrow to me and my family in Spain. Yet in today's world, despite being cleared by a careful investigation, there is little a priest can do to defend himself. While I am highly emotional, I am at peace because I know the truth and my conscience is clear.

Some priests did abuse children, and that is reprehensible. Therefore, I also ask your prayers for those who were harmed by abuse, whether from a priest or anyone else. If my accuser returns, please treat him with Christian charity and let Father <sup>REDACTED</sup> know of his presence. I love this parish community. Being able to continue serving you in my retirement is a grace. I ask your prayers for me and I assure you of my love and prayer for you. May God bless all of you!

Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
March 25-26, 2006

Close Window

Send To Printer

MANUEL SANCHEZ

Article Display Date:

## Man alleges priest raped him

26 years later,

By Jannise Johnson, Staff Writer  
Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

POMONA - When a Pomona boy needed help 26 years ago dealing with emotional problems brought on by a physically abusive father, he did what many would do: seek the help of a priest.

That decision, he said, drastically altered his life for the worse.

Mark Gallegos, 34, passed out fliers and spoke to members of the media as well as parishioners Sunday morning at Sacred Heart Church, 1215 S. Hamilton Blvd. Gallegos said he hoped those attending Mass would get his message: The church does little to nothing to help survivors of priest abuse.

"I think these priests think they are above the law," Gallegos said.

Gallegos alleges he was raped when he was 8-years-old by the Rev. Manuel Sanchez.

Sanchez still works at the church and interacts with children, Gallegos said.

The rape, he said, occurred sometime after he went to Sanchez for help about alleged physical abuse by his father.

"He raped me in my gown," he said of the attack. "I ran out bleeding and ran to a (nearby) park crying."

Gallegos said he then confided in a nun, but she allegedly beat him with a paddle and called him a liar.

Feeling he had nowhere left to go, Gallegos said his life began to slide away from him little by little.

He ran away from home several times, went to juvenile hall before he was 13 and eventually joined one of Pomona's most notorious street gangs.

Gallegos was joined Sunday morning by a handful of friends and family members, including his wife, Patricia, and two of their three children.

Mary Grant, regional director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), also attended to show support for Gallegos.

Carolina Guevara, spokeswoman for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, said an independent panel reviewed allegations two years ago made by Gallegos against Sanchez.

After finding no credible evidence to support the claims, Sanchez was allowed to return to work at Sacred Heart Church, Guevara said.

"We do very thorough investigations because we are concerned about the safety of our children," Guevara said.

Gallegos said he is more at peace with the alleged abuse, after he confronted Sanchez March 19 in the sacristy of the church. Sanchez reacted emotionally to the accusation, Gallegos said.

"He started crying," Gallegos said. "He put his head down and walked away. He set me free by not denying it."

However, Sanchez read a brief statement declaring his innocence during a Sunday service.

In the statement he denounced the accusations as "100 percent untrue."

"I repeat to you, with God as my witness, that I am completely innocent of this claim of totally immoral and repugnant behavior," the

statement said.

Galiegos filed a civil lawsuit in 2003 that alleges church officials conspired to cover-up abuse by Sanchez, according to a statement by SNAP. The lawsuit is pending.

Jannise Johnson can be reached by e-mail at [jannise.johnson@rcala.com](mailto:jannise.johnson@rcala.com) or by phone at (909) 483-9318.



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of the  
Vicar for Canonical Services  
Phone: (213) 637-7888  
Fax: (213) 637-6888

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

**DE C R E E**

New information has come forward indicating that Monsignor Manuel Sanchez may have committed a delict against canon 1395. An earlier preliminary investigation begun on 12 May 2003 and concluded on 10 December 2003 failed to uncover sufficient evidence to sustain a similar allegation involving a different victim. Now two new claimants have come forward. Therefore, in accord with the provisions of canon 1717, in accord with REDACTED for Canonical Services, I hereby decree the opening of a new canonical preliminary investigation.

I hereby designate Mr. REDACTED as auditor to conduct the investigation. He has the authority to subdelegate this responsibility and to involve other investigators to assist in this investigation. In the course of conducting this investigation, the auditors are reminded of their duty to respect the rights and reputation of all involved and to respect the canonical requirements of secrecy attached to such an investigation.

Given this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April in the Year of Our Lord 2006 at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in California.

REDACTED

ARCHDIOCESAN SEAL

REDACTED

Ecclesiastical Notary

FROM : Sacred Heart Church Pomona FAX NO. REDACTED 10 2006 10:32AM P2  
Help us reach the wounded and protect kids, Fr. Manuel Sanchez Molested Us Too

Dear Parishioners:

As abuse victims of your parish priest, Father Manuel Sanchez, we are deeply saddened to be here today. We don't want to disrupt your Sunday mass, but it's urgent that you know that more victims have come forward who say Father Manuel Sanchez molested them as children. We believe that children are needlessly being placed at risk of abuse at your parish by Father Manuel Sanchez who is still working here.

Father Manuel Sanchez abused both of us here at your parish. We don't want to see one more child suffer the horror of being sexually abused by Father Manuel Sanchez and other trusted authority figures.

Two weeks ago, a man REDACTED visited Sacred Heart Parish and handed out leaflets warning parishioners here that Father Manuel Sanchez raped when he was an eight year old boy. REDACTED told a nun, REDACTED at Sacred Heart School that Father Sanchez was abusing him. But instead of reporting the crimes to police, the nun beat REDACTED and accused the 8-year old boy of lying.

Because of REDACTED courage, we have found the strength to come forward knowing that we are not alone to be blamed for the abuse we suffered at the hands of this Pedophile predatory priest. We now no longer have to suffer in shame and silence despite church officials who covered-up Father Manuel Sanchez's crimes.

**We beg you to help us heal and protect kids by calling Cardinal Roger Mahony and demand that he:**

- immediately remove Father Manuel Sanchez from ministry
- turn over Father Manuel Sanchez's personal file to prosecutors, and
- go to every parish where Sanchez worked and publicly urge victims and witnesses to call police, not church officials.

We also urge you to talk to former parishioners and parish staff now living elsewhere. This is especially important because sometimes abuse victims or their families move away after experiencing abuse. Victims should be notified that they aren't isolated cases. Witnesses, wherever they now reside, should be assured that their information could help law enforcement protect kids.

Sincerely,  
REDACTED

Sadly, Cardinal Roger Mahony's refusal to remove Father Manuel Sanchez and reach out to victims proves once again that he cannot be trusted to safeguard children or help victims heal from molesters working in his archdiocese.

Somewhere in this parish is a little boy or girl being molested by an uncle, teacher, coach or step-father. When these children see adults they trust and respect supporting a known or accused child molester in their church, they will stay trapped in shame, silence and isolation.

**If you or someone you know is a victim of clergy abuse**

Please know that you are not alone and that help is available. Contact the LAPD clergy abuse hotline @ 313-847-5358 and also S.N.A.P (Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests) (626) 419-2930 or grantsnap@earthlink.net website: SNAPnetwork.org

\*\*\*\*\* ALSO THE NEW SEXUAL ABUSE HOTLINE OF \*\*\*\*\*

**H.E.L.P** (Helping Everyone Lost by Pedophiles)  
(909) 559-5742 or E-mail: markgallegos\_help@msn.com



AYUDANOS A ACERCARNOS A LOS HERIDOS Y A PROTEGER A LOS NIÑOS  
EL PADRE MANUEL SANCHEZ ABUZO DE NOSOTROS TAMBIEN

Queridos Feligreses:

Como Victimas de abuso de un padre de esta parroquia, Padre MANUEL SANCHEZ estamos muy tristes de estar aquí hoy día, no queremos interrumpir su misa del domingo, pero es urgente que ustedes sepan que hay mas victimas que han sido molestados por el padre Mnuel Sanchez cuando eramos niños.

Nosotros creemos que los niños estan siendo expuestos a ser abusados por el Padre Manuel Sanchez que todavía trabaja en esta Iglesia Fr.MANUEL SANCHEZ abuso de nosotras dos aquí en tu Iglesia. Nosotras no queremos ver que otro niño sea abusado por el padre Sanchez y otras figuras en quienes confiamos.

Hace dos semanas, un hombre llamado REDACTED visito la Iglesia Sagrado Corazón y expueso ha otros feligreses que el Padre Manuel Sanchez abuso de el cuando el era un niño de 8 años. En ese entonces REDACTED le dijo a la hermana REDACTED en la Iglesia Sangrado Corazón que Fr. Manuel Sanchez abuso de el. Pero en vez de reportar el crimen a la Polcia la monja le grito y le dijo que hera un mentiroso.

Debido al valor de REDACTED queremos a hacer conocer que nosotros no nos sentimos culpables de haber sufrido el abuso de manos de este Padre Deprerador. Nosotras ahora ya no tenemos que sufrir nuestra desonra en silencio a pesar de que las autoridades de la Iglesia encumbren los crímenes del Padre Sanchez Por decadas. Nosotras les rogamos que nos ayuden a curar las heridas y a proteger a los niños llamando al Cardenal Roger Mahony y exigiendo que:

- 1 El Padre Sanchez sea Expulsado inmediatamente del Ministerio
- 2 Revisar los archivos personales de Sanchez para seguir un proceso legal y
- 3 De ir a cada Iglesia donde el Padre Sanchez trabajo y publicar insistiendo que las victimas y testigos llamen a la Polcia y no a las personas que trabajan en la Iglesia.

Tambien les pedimos hablar con anteriores feligreses y otros trabajadores de la iglcia que ahora viven en otros lugares. Esto es especialmente importante por que a veces las victimas de abuso y los familiares se van a vivir lejos después de ser abusados. Las victimas deben de ser notificados de que ellos no son casos aislados. testigos donde sea que residan deben de estar seguros que su información ayudara a la aplicación de la fuerza de ley protegiendo a los niños.

Tristemente, El Cardenal Mahoni rechaza a que el padre Sanchez sea expulsado de la iglesia y de localizar a mas victimas lo que prueva una vez mas que el no es confiable para salvaguardar a los niños o ayudar a las victimas a recuperarse de los desgnerados que trabajan en su Arquidiócesis.

En algun lugar de esta parroquia hay un pequeño niño a niña que esta siendo molestado por un tío, profesor, entrenador o padrasto. cuando estos niños ven a adultos en quien ellos creen y respetan apoyando a alguien acusado de abusar niños en la iglesia, entonces ellos se sentirán atrapados en la vergüenza, silencio, desolación.

Sincerly  
REDACTED

FROM : Sacred Heart Church Pomona REDACTED

P 10 2006 10:32AM P1

**SENDING REPORT**

Apr. 10 2006 10:00AM

NO.	OTHER FACSIMILE	START TIME	USAGE TIME	MODE	PAGES	RESULT	*CODE
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\*CODE = FOR SERVICE CENTER USE ONLY

**SENDING REPORT**

Apr. 10 2006 10:05AM

NO.	OTHER FACSIMILE	START TIME	USAGE TIME	MODE	PAGES	RESULT	*CODE
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\*CODE = FOR SERVICE CENTER USE ONLY

**SENDING REPORT**

Apr. 10 2006 10:22AM

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01	INTUITY..FAX	Apr. 10 10:18AM	04'01	SND	05	COMMUNICATION ERROR	(43)

\*CODE = FOR SERVICE CENTER USE ONLY

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Hello!  
 Because we seem to be having  
 so many problems sending all  
 the pages, I am only sending  
 those you are missing.

Please call if you  
 have any questions.  
 Thank you!  
 REDACTED

2131637-6704 Post-it Fax Note 787	Date 4/10/06 # of pages 7
To Msgr. Cox	REDACTED
cc: Mr. for Cleary	Co Sacred Heart
(213) 637-7284	Phone # (909) 622-4553
(213) 637-6289	Fax # (909) 623-0841
* Resent - 2nd Attempt 10am	

**Phone Calls Received on  
Tuesday, April 11, 2006**

Msgr. Sanchez would like to speak to you concerning his current legal situation. His attorney is out of town for three weeks, and Msgr. Sanchez does not want to "muddy" the waters of this situation. He is very frustrated and worried about what is going to happen next. (He called on Monday as well to see if Msgr. Gonzales would at least call him back and received no word.) His cell phone number is REDACTED *PRIVATE*

REDACTED



MEMORANDUM

TO: Cardinal Roger M. Mahony

FROM: REDACTED

RE: Recommendation of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board  
Monsignor Manuel Sanchez (CMOB 064-01)

DATE: November 28, 2006

The Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board returned to the case of Monsignor Manuel Sanchez on October 25, 2006 and November 15, 2006. I've attached copies of two previous memos concerning Monsignor Sanchez, dated November 12, 2003 and December 22, 2003.

Msgr. Sanchez is now 76 years of age and lives in retirement in Palos Verdes. His faculties have not been removed and he says Mass from time to time at Sacred Heart Church in Pomona and possibly in other parishes.

Fliers were distributed at Sacred Heart on Sunday, March 26, 2006. They were signed by two women, REDACTED who claimed they were abused by Monsignor Sanchez when they were minors. REDACTED the plaintiff in the Superior Court case filed in 2003 and the person whose complaint was investigated by REDACTED and considered by the Board in November and December of 2003 (as stated in the memos referred to above), was referred to in the flyer and was present and assisted in passing out the fliers. REDACTED of SNAP was also present. Further, Mr. REDACTED confronted Monsignor Sanchez the week before, on March 19, 2006, and accused him of molesting him when he was eight years old. Mr. REDACTED claimed that Monsignor Sanchez reacted emotionally to the accusation and started crying – that he put his head down and walked away without denying the charges. A witness to the confrontation denies that this occurred. The accusations of Mr. REDACTED and the demonstration at Sacred Heart Church on March 26 were reported in the local press.

A new canonical preliminary investigation was opened and REDACTED was designated as auditor to conduct the investigation. He reported to the Board on October 25, 2006 and November 15, 2006. He stated that he had made several attempts to interview the two women but had been unsuccessful in obtaining their cooperation thus far. However, he obtained the names of some other women who may have been fondled by Monsignor Sanchez when they were

Memorandum Regarding Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
November 28, 2006  
Page 2

minors. Mr. REDACTED is pursuing his investigation to interview Ms. REDACTED and Ms. REDACTED and to identify, locate and interview the other women and will keep the Board advised of the progress of his investigation.

In addition to the two new accusations and the possibility of others, a review of the file discloses that additional information has been provided about the claims of Mr. REDACTED since the Board considered his case in 2003. REDACTED Mr. REDACTED attorney, submitted a mediation brief which sets out the allegations in greater detail. When the case was presented to the Board, it was believed that all of the incidents complained of occurred in the sacristy on Sundays and that this was highly improbable due to the many people present in or passing through the sacristy at that time. The brief, however, states that the abuse took place in the sacristy and other places on church grounds and that the alleged rape occurred in a separate room where the wine is kept along with a lot of chairs. This account is more plausible.

Mr. REDACTED claim was first reported to Fr. REDACTED at Sacred Heart. Mr. REDACTED was interviewed by Fr. REDACTED and Dr. REDACTED shortly thereafter on May 1, 2003. Mr. REDACTED sought to interview him in October, 2003, but did not proceed after he learned that Mr. REDACTED was represented by counsel. As yet, Mr. REDACTED has not been interviewed by our auditor. A request will be made to Ms. REDACTED to permit Mr. REDACTED to interview Mr. REDACTED

The members of the Board discussed the case at length and expressed concern that the investigation should be pursued vigorously to obtain complete information from all complainants and witnesses. In the interim, it was the consensus that Monsignor Sanchez's faculties be suspended pending the results of the investigation, that he undergo a psychological assessment (which has never been conducted), and that the pastors of parishes in which he has acted or may act as supply priest be advised that he is not permitted to engage in ministry. It was also the consensus that no further announcement need be made in Sacred Heart Parish at this time.

cc: Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales

*I concur in the recommendations.*  
*Roger Paul Hickey*  
*29 Nov. 2006*



Decree

As Episcopal Vicar for the Clergy duly appointed by the Archbishop of Los Angeles in California, in conformity with the norms of Canon 479 §2 of the Code of Canon Law, and acting in the name and at the direction of His Eminence Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, I hereby issue the following decree that any and all Archdiocesan faculties formerly entrusted to Reverend Monsignor Manuel Sanchez are hereby revoked.

This action is being taken with due regard for the pastoral needs of the Christian faithful as the investigation progresses into allegations of possible sexual misconduct brought against Reverend Monsignor Manuel Sanchez. The matter is pending now before the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Given the seriousness of the allegations, the provisions of this decree are both necessary and prudent pending the conclusion of the investigation and the resolution of this matter. At the same time, this decree should in no way be construed as a judgment of guilt concerning the allegations. Rather, this decree is a temporary measure intended to protect the rights and reputation of all involved, as well as to avoid any scandal to the Christian faithful.

Given this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January in the Year of Our Lord 2007, at the Curia of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in California.

*Gabriel Gonzales*

Reverend Monsignor Gabriel Gonzales  
Episcopal Vicar for the Clergy.

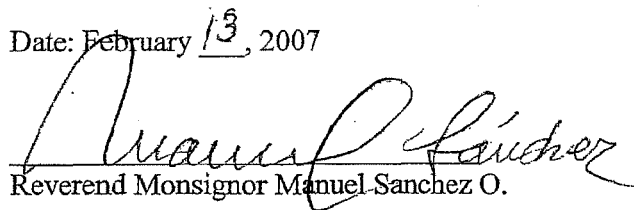
REDACTED

SEAL

## MANDATE

In accordance with canon 1481 of the Code of Canon Law, I, The Reverend Monsignor Manuel Sanchez O., hereby appoint REDACTED J.C.D, J.D. to be my canonical advisor, advocate and procurator in all matters pertaining to my canonical status in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California, and to any investigation, legal process or action of any kind involving allegations of sexual abuse brought against me, including any recourse taken from any such process or action.

Date: February 13, 2007



Reverend Monsignor Manuel Sanchez O.

I accept the appointment set forth in the above Mandate of Reverend Monsignor Manuel Sanchez O.

Date: February 13, 2007  
REDACTED



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-7284

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

March 3, 2007

Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
REDACTED

Dear Monsignor Sanchez,

I have received the mandate you sent naming Mr. REDACTED as your canonical Advocate/Procurator.

This is the first that I am hearing of you hiring Mr. REDACTED services, and I do want to make certain that you are aware that the Archdiocese does not automatically pay for such services; rather, previous authorization from this office is required. At present, there is no such authorization for your case. Therefore, Mr. REDACTED has been informed that no bills concerning charges that he might levy in your regard should be sent to this office but that he should bill you directly.

Since you have exercised your right to retain canonical counsel by hiring Mr. REDACTED should you find yourself unable to afford the fees that he might charge for his services, the Archdiocese will assist you in finding a qualified local canonist who will, at no cost to you, provide counsel suited to your present needs.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, I assure you of my prayerful good wishes.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Monsignor Gabriel Gonzales  
Vicar for Clergy



REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

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REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

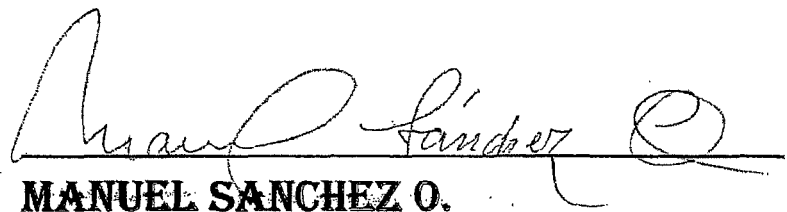
RECEIVED  
MAY 3 - 2007  
BY:

**MSGR. GABRIEL GONZALES**

**DEAR GABRIEL:**

**I HOPE YOU HAD A GOOD REASON FOR NOT  
COMMUNICATING WITH ME OR MR. <sup>REDACTED</sup> FOR  
ALMOST THREE MONTHS.**

**SINCERELY IN CHRIST,**

  
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Manuel Sanchez O.', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is followed by a large, stylized flourish or initial.

**MANUEL SANCHEZ O.**

The Rev. Msgr. Manuel Sanchez O.  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
1215 South Hamilton Blvd.  
Pomona, Ca. 91766

Bishop Gabino Zabala  
Saint Gabriel Pastoral Region

Dear Bishop Zavala:

May 1, 2007

I most sincerely regret having to send a letter of this nature to you, but I think that the circumstances leave me no choice. I have been gravely humiliated from the treatment that I have received by the Church suspending me a Divinis.

This is the document that Bishop Joe Sartoris asked me to leave for him and, after reading it, he returned it with a letter saying, among other things, "I have read all the material that you gave me. Your innocence certainly comes through." Bishop Sartoris is the only priest, that knowing my situation, has said something positive related to my canonical situation in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Following is the accusation of my supposed misconduct, I can swear in front of God that I am telling the complete truth. I defy the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board to investigate or allow me and my lawyer to clarify the facts and establish the truth. The hands of my lawyer have been completely tied due to the lack of any response to his petitions. I think that you, as my regional bishop, have the right to know all about my case.

Canon Law 1717 has been totally ignored. The conduct of the Personnel Board and the Vicar for Clergy is not acceptable in my opinion. They have demonstrated a complete lack of good manners and Christian charity. I have been dismissed from the Priesthood Ministry in an ignominious manner without giving me any opportunity to defend myself. Apparently, they did not even remotely speculate that those accusations could be pure fantasies or prefabrications by the people that have accused me.

These are the three possible allegations that could be influencing the Personnel Board:

1. REDACTED accusation of brutal sodomy more than 24 years ago in the sacristy of Sacred Heart Church in Pomona before the 10:30 Mass when I was already vested.
2. The case of REDACTED REDACTED
3. Four or five women accused me of asking them to sit on my lap when they went to Confession as teenagers.

When I was called to the Chancery on Saturday, February 3, 2007, the case of Mr. REDACTED was not even mentioned. After an investigation by a detective, the Clergy Misconduct Board had determined about three years ago that there was no credible evidence to support Mr. REDACTED claim. At that time, Msgr. Cox had suggested that I could go to my home in Spain until this matter was settled, but I preferred not to just disappear from public view. I told Msgr. Cox that I would prefer to remain in Pomona to continue saying two or three Masses on Sunday to fill the great need in the Church for a declining priesthood, as well as, to defend myself and my reputation.

Now, regarding the accusation by Ms. REDACTED the case was resolved as you can see in the accompanying document. I cannot imagine why this case was even mentioned after the Vicar for Clergy, Bishop Thomas Curry, gave no credibility to the claim. In addition, REDACTED my best collaborator during 20 years of parish work for the formation of the leaders of my community of Sacred Heart, is ready to come from El Paso, Texas to testify that everything that I said about Ms. REDACTED is true. He can speak with authority as he knew her family very well.

Concerning the accusation of the four or five women that were interviewed over a period of nine months by Detective Eusebio REDACTED I suspect that they are friends of Mr. REDACTED who have been paid to testify to augment his case. These women were present at Sacred Heart Church on March 19, 2006 when Mr. REDACTED came to manifest against me in his own interest. I have a witness that will testify that Mr. REDACTED gave each of his demonstrators the sum of \$100.00 for their participation. Mr. REDACTED promised the people on that day that

he would come *every* Sunday to demonstrate against me. However, due to the fact that he was met with antagonism by the parishioners, he has not returned in the past 13 months. And, contrary to what these women claim, I have been told by a reliable source that they are acquainted with each other and did attend classes together at Sacred Heart Parochial School in Pomona.

Immediately after my encounter with Mr. REDACTED and his demonstrators at the church door on March 19, 2006, I requested that the Chancery hire a detective to inquire about the allegations of the women who made these false claims of molestation against me. I was completely confident that this defamation would be quickly dismissed. REDACTED was hired by the Chancery, and I was naively under the impression that he would look for the truth on *my* behalf as well. After visiting them several times, REDACTED reported to *me* that the women maintained their silence. He gave me the impression that the girls had no interest in testifying against me. I cannot begin to state the shock that I felt after hearing the damning testimony of REDACTED at the meeting with Msgrs. Gonzales and Meyers.

According to REDACTED, the testimony of these women was the determining factor for the Clergy Oversight Misconduct Board to advise the Cardinal to put me out of the Ministry. Consequently, without taking into account Canon 1717, Juris Canonici of the Church, or without *advising* me of the severity of what possible crimes I may have committed, the Cardinal suspended me *A Divinis* on February 3, 2007.

My lawyer says that he cannot comprehend the way that the various institutions within the Catholic Church are proceeding in my case. More detailed information on all three of these cases can be viewed in my written declaration.

After three months of written requests from my lawyer and myself for a copy of the nature of the accusations, the silence has been deafening. The Vicar for Clergy, Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales and his aide, Msgr. Michael Meyers have repeatedly promised to keep me apprised of my

situation. Neither by telephone nor in writing have these petitions been forthcoming.

I find this attitude lacking fraternal courtesy and acceptable education. I wonder how they can possibly justify that they are acting in good conscience keeping me for so long in a crippling limbo. In the very least, they could say:

- A. We are not allowed to communicate with you or your lawyer.
- B. You have to wait until your case is prepared for presentation.
- C. Your case is so grave that you will waste your time trying to defend yourself because we think that you are guilty.

I think that I have not been treated in a Christian way by the Church that I have been serving for 53 years with great love during my priesthood. Nevertheless, I will always continue loving and serving the Great Faith in which I was born.

Furthermore, no one, absolutely no one, has asked me or has concerned himself about whether or not I have a place to live in these difficult circumstances. My feeling was that it was better not to remain at the rectory in Pomona. It continues to be most difficult for me to sleep at night, and I am considering going to a psychiatrist for help. I do not want to go to Spain because I do not know what to say to my brother who is a priest, REDACTED, and to the rest of my family. I intend to stay here in Los Angeles to defend my innocence. The Archdiocese apparently doesn't show any interest in solving this problem.

The only communication that I have received from the Vicar for Clergy was that, if I want to use the services of Mr. REDACTED as my canon lawyer, I will have to pay him myself. I know that Mr. REDACTED has been paid by the Diocese on other occasions.

Why this silence and inhuman way of proceeding so contrary to the times in which we live? I even wondered if it could be remotely possible that my critical and defensive attitude of my community of Sacred Heart School could have contributed to this trauma. The Cardinal told me personally and then later by a written communiqué that I was one of the best priests of the Archdiocese and that was the reason why he named me a monsignor.

I asked myself if it has been prohibited for REDACTED to communicate with me. Apparently, REDACTED has been so busy in his pastoral work that he didn't even have five minutes to call after my request to phone me regarding this matter. I wonder also if the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board is afraid to antagonize SNAP, and therefore it is forced to believe all the accusations against the priests. I have learned that Mr. REDACTED belongs to that commission in Pomona.

Can you imagine how I must feel in my present situation? Please think for a moment that *you* have been accused of asking some women to sit on your lap which you never ever did either in the Confessional or outside it. You go to the institution that you have been serving for *so* many years expecting that they will hear you, defend you and protect you. Instead of being offered any of the preceding expectations that you look for, you are not only denied *all* of them, but you are thrown out of that institution without giving you the opportunity of defending yourself in *any* manner whatsoever. You have to be blind in *both* eyes not to see that this is against the Gospel, and that this attitude is completely contrary to the Christian principles that Our Catholic Church is supposed to profess, to defend and to practice.

I consider myself *so* innocent regarding those allegations that I would deem myself guilty if I do *not* act to demand justice. Should I put my case in the Hands of Divine Providence alone, I would feel that I am failing myself. I have every RIGHT to be heard.

Sincerely in Christ,

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Manuel Sanchez O.



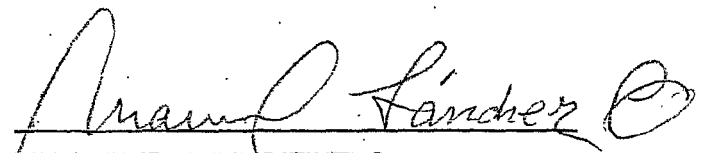
MAY 2, 2007

**CARDINAL ROGER M. MAHONY**

**SORRY! I REALIZE THAT THIS IS NOT THE BEST WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOU, BUT ENCLOSED YOU WILL FIND MY LETTER TO BISHOP GABINO ZAVALA, MY REGIONAL BISHOP OF SAN GABRIEL.**

**I HAD A MEETING WITH HIM ON MAY 1, 2007 TO DISCUSS MY ACTUAL SITUATION IN THE ARCHDIOCESE. I HOPE THAT THERE WILL BE A BETTER SOLUTION TO MY CASE. IN THE EYES OF GOD, I CAN SWEAR THAT I AM 100% INNOCENT OF ANY OF THESE CHARGES AGAINST ME.**

**SINCERELY IN CHRIST,**

  
**MANUEL SANCHEZ O.**

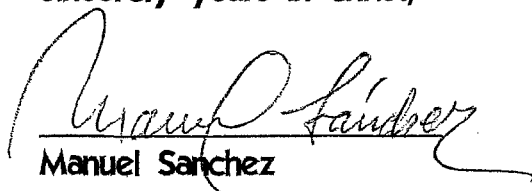
Your Eminence:

May 18, 2007

I hope that you will read this letter. In it, my feelings concerning your Decree of Suspendo a Divinis are reflected in an honest and sincere way.

I sincerely expect that my situation will be resolved as soon as possible. I reaffirm my innocence with an ever-growing sense of frustration and disappointment in the way that the Office of the Vicar for Clergy is handling my case.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Manuel Sanchez

**THE REV. MSGR. MANUEL SANCHEZ ONTIVEROS  
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1215 SOUTH HAMILTON BOULEVARD  
POMONA, CALIFORNIA 91766**

Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales  
Vicar for Clergy

Dear Gabriel:

May 18, 2007

I regret having to be so strong with you; but after almost four months of not being able to communicate with you, I think that I have every right to express my feelings to you concerning my case. I ask myself: Is the purpose of the Office of the Vicar for Clergy to defend the priests of the Church or is its objective to condemn without due process of Canon Law?

May I quote directly from the decree issued by your office on January 26, 2007? "This decree should in no way be construed as a judgment of guilt concerning the allegations." Normally, you declare someone guilty and then he is punished. In my case, I was punished to the maximum with *Suspensio a Divinis* without being declared "guilty." Is this the new rule coming from the Vatican?

I reiterate once more that I am one-hundred percent innocent with regard to the accusations that you brought against me to the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board. I have been disgracefully treated with a complete lack of respect for the position that I have so proudly held in this diocese for the past 32 years.

It is more than obvious that you didn't treat me according to the Christian principals of the Gospel. Please read Saint Matthew, Chapter 18, Verse 15. Couldn't you have solved this problem speaking directly to me? It was as easy as a phone call from me this Thursday, May 17, 2007, directly to Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> She told me that she was very sorry for whatever she said to Msgr. Curry in the Chancery. She said that she was under a great deal of stress for what was happening in Sacred Heart School and in the prayer group of my parish. She is now convinced that her daughter was telling lies because, she maintains that her daughter has been a liar all of her life. She promised to send me a FAX next Monday, May 21, 2007, detailing her conversation with me. She gave me the

telephone number with which she can be reached. When I receive this FAX, I will send a copy to you.

You took for granted the validity of Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> accusation and turned it over to the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board without taking into consideration the comments and conclusions by Msgr. Curry which are clearly defined in my personnel file in the Archdiocese. You did not allow me to defend myself; you completely tied the hands of my lawyer to advocate my case. Neither you, nor your secretary, did not have the smallest courtesy to be in touch with me. You made me think that my honor and my reputation mean nothing for you when, after serving my Church for fifty-three years, I was thrown out without the most remote possibility of defending myself.

Where should the priests of this Diocese go when they have been falsely accused? I have been denied by you access to the services of a lawyer accorded me by Canon 1717 of the Juris Canonici of our Church. I have been so disconsolate and depressed to the point that I have been forced to seek psychological therapy to try to understand how it could be possible for your office to be so callous and unfeeling.

May I expect that you, in your obviously very over-burdened schedule, will read this letter and do me the favor of responding in one way or another? Three days ago I requested from your secretary that you return my phone call. I am still waiting.

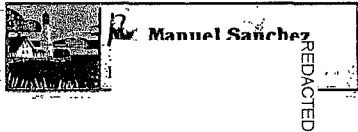
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Sincerely in Christ,

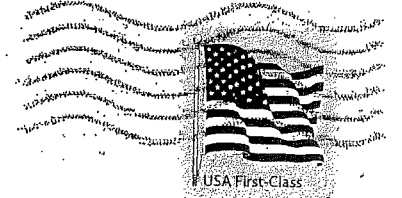
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(Manuel Sanchez)

CC: Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Bishop Gabino Zavala  
(My Regional Bishop)



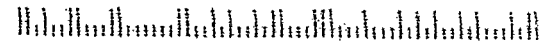
LOS ANGELES CA 900  
18 MAY 2007 PM 13 L



REDACTED

Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels  
555 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012-2717

90012+2707 0025



**THE REV. MSGR. MANUEL SANCHEZ ONTIVEROS  
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1215 SOUTH HAMILTON BOULEVARD  
POMONA, CALIFORNIA 91766**

**RECEIVED**  
MAY 31 2007  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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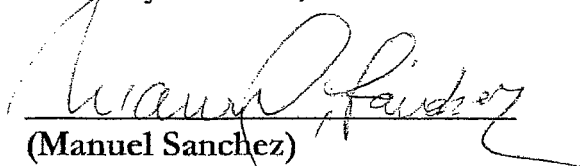
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(Manuel Sanchez)

CC: Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Bishop Gabino Zavala  
(My Regional Bishop)

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I sincerely expect that my situation will be resolved as soon as possible. I reaffirm my innocence with an ever-growing sense of frustration and disappointment in the way that the Office of the Vicar for Clergy is handling my case.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

---

Manuel Sanchez



THE REV. MSGR. MANUEL SANCHEZ  
SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1215 SOUTH HAMILTON BOULEVARD  
POMONA, CA. 91766

Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales  
Vicar for Clergy

Dear Gabriel,

May 23, 2007

I cannot find any good excuse why you have not been in contact with me. I wonder why we did not resolve the injustice of my problem a very long time ago.

In my opinion, your job and mission as Vicar for Clergy should be to defend and to be by the side of the priest in any difficulties or traumas in which he may be involved. I had the illusion that you would be there for *me* when I needed help.

I am wondering if you received my letter of May 18, 2007. Could it be lost? That would be the only adequate reason for the silence. Bishop Zavala and various others received my letter. If it should be the case that you didn't receive *your* copy, please let me know and I will gladly send you another.

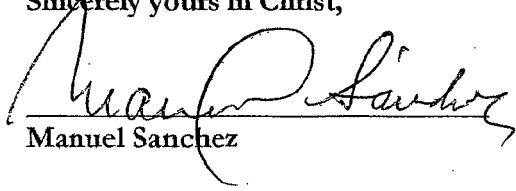
What could be a good reason for not making contact with me? You make me think that I am nothing in your opinion, either as a priest or as a human being. In my Spanish culture, the least thing that someone can do is to answer, either directly or indirectly, a request for such important communication.

I contacted Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> this past week, and she told me by telephone that she was very sorry about everything that she said about me in the Chancery when Msgr. Curry was Vicar for Clergy. She told me that she had mailed a letter with her hand-written testimony which recanted her previous accusations.

It comes to my mind Luke 18: 1-8 where the widow asks for justice from an unjust judge several times during many days until she was heard. Perhaps, you can take five minutes from your overburdened schedule to read this parable from Our Lord.

How many times must I ask you or your office to be in touch with me or my Canon lawyer before *I* am heard? Maybe, you have expected me to be quiet, to die or to disappear from this world. I promise you that I will not cease looking for justice until everything has been clarified.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Manuel Sanchez

RECEIVED  
MAY 24 2007  
BY:

Msgr. Gonzales::

August 28, 2007

This is a copy of a letter that I sent to REDACTED to REDACTED as well as, REDACTED Cardinal Roger Mahony. I also sent a copy to Mr. REDACTED the Canon lawyer that I retained who was unable to help me because he received no response whatsoever in the last seven months to his three letters to both you, and to Cardinal Mahony

Mr. REDACTED asked me for permission to send a copy of the attached letter to REDACTED the Chair of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board. I gave my consent overwhelmingly. Mr. REDACTED also asked me if I would be willing to take a polygraph test to prove my innocence of being a child molester. Of course, I said "Yes!" with a resounding affirmative response.

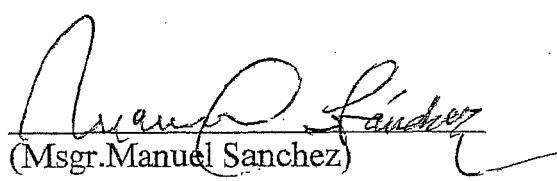
This letter reflects my profound feelings of anger at the unjust manner in which I have been treated by the Archdiocese.

As I requested from the Cardinal, I would appreciate it immensely if you could find one moment in your obviously overburdened schedule to dedicate to me. I am most anxious to know what the Archdiocese expects me to do in my status as a priest in the future.

I would surely be very indebted to you for any kind of communication that you might perhaps, in your charity, be allowed to share with me. Both my lawyers, as well as myself, have been in crippling limbo since last February.

I hope that we do not have to endure another seven months of silence.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
(Msgr. Manuel Sanchez)

RECEIVED  
AUG 29 2007  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear REDACTED

August 23, 2007

As you are a member of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board, I am writing to you in great frustration and anger. I hope that I will be able to discuss this letter with you either by telephone or in person.

I just got home from my vacation in Spain. Some of my friends could hardly wait to tell me that REDACTED ; lawsuit against me had been settled by the Archdiocese for more than one million dollars. Does that mean that the Cardinal, the Vicar for Clergy and the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board consider me guilty of that horrible crime against that man?

Is this the way to treat a priest? Please allow me to quote directly from a letter that I received from the Cardinal some time back: "You are one of the best priests of the Archdiocese, and this is why I made you a monsignor." The Archbishop told me that personally in his office and also in a hand-written letter which I still retain.

I remember clearly that in the beginning of my nightmarish trauma, the Board heard the exhaustive details of an investigation by a detective hired by the Archdiocese and said .. Quote!!!!... "the evidence did not support the charges.".... Unquote!!!!... Then I was suspended a Divinis!!!! I have never understood what happened for them to change their minds? I have been completely in the dark for so long a time. The Board never heard my testimony. I was never allowed to be represented by a lawyer which is against all the laws of the Church and is made very clear in the Canon Law. I was always under the impression that I was supposed to be considered innocent until I was proven guilty. Such has not been the case. That is an undeniable truth.

I have said to everyone that I am completely innocent of these vile charges by REDACTED If I assume that he is sincere and not just looking for the money, has no one ever considered that he confused me with someone else? During the late 70's and the early 80's, we had a lot of priests coming from Mexico to help at Sacred Heart Church. REDACTED claimed that his abuse took place in the summertime and that his abuser was a Mexican priest. No one will dare to say that I am a Mexican. I have never deviated from my custom of spending my vacation with my family in Spain during the summer months. From what I was told, he picked out my picture as his abuser after

someone said that I was the Pastor. He didn't even know me. I surely didn't know him.

My question to you or anyone who will listen is this: How can the Archbishop and the Vicar for Clergy celebrate the Eucharist in good conscience knowing that they condemned me behind my back without giving me any chance to defend myself? They are not so blind not to know that I am innocent of all these charges against me. I do not intend to sit still and allow my name as a dedicated priest of fifty-five years to be stained forever with such malicious injustice. My case has been treated as if we were in the Middle Ages or under the rules of the Inquisition.

Should I go to the Media with my case so that I will be heard? It looks like they are pushing me to exactly that. And I will do that if necessary without hesitation. It is a pity that in our church we should be forced to take these steps which are not at all beneficial for the case of The Gospel or our Hierarchy in the Church.

Am I a sacrificial lamb in this settlement? How many other priests are in the same position as I? Is the Hierarchy in the Church attempting to justify the grave errors made in the past concerning pedophile priests by sacrificing the innocent priests in the present?

Could the Board, the Vicar for Clergy or the Archbishop even consider saving my honor as a priest by making some effort to exonerate me? As far as I can see, during the last seven months, they haven't cared if I were alive or dead. In my humble opinion, this is not either Christian or humane.

Couldn't they say that, even if a priest did that to Mr. REDACTED, it cannot be proven at all that Msgr. Sanchez was the abuser? There is not one single witness nor one shred of evidence regarding that single accusation. REDACTED in his own deposition, even confused me with a priest who had been 8 years in Japan, with a Salician, and with a priest who taught for 6 years in Washington D.C., as well as, a priest who had been in 6 or 7 different parishes in Los Angeles when none of these things are true. My assignments in this Archdiocese are all in my personnel files..

REDACTED has been living in Pomona ever since he accused me of brutal rape.. The only reason that he picked me out was that Father REDACTED REDACTED, who was at that time in Sacred Heart with me, showed the different

pictures of the priests at the parish. <sup>REDACTED</sup> pointed out that I was the Pastor. Should <sup>REDACTED</sup> even have suspected that I was the abuser, didn't he have the time in 20 years to come and see me? He didn't recognize me, and I surely didn't recognize him. Does my honor count for nothing against a drug addict? Tell me! What is the way that an innocent priest has to defend himself in our church today?

What is the final reason that the Cardinal and the Vicar for Clergy didn't share with me or my lawyer the reasons for condemning me without a formal hearing? Were they so sure that I was guilty? Were they sharing their presumed facts with you before they asked you to vote with them in their condemnation against me? They were acting against the rules of the Juris Canonici and common law in any civilized country.

They financially rewarded that man even when I told the Vicar for Clergy several times personally and in writing not to give him one cent from the Church. Should I have millions, which I surely do not, I would not give him a penny.

Does the Archdiocese expect me to pay the \$3,500.00 they asked me to give my lawyer as a retainer? I surely hope they will assume that debt.

Do you personally think that they think I am guilty of that crime? It looks to me now that they do think that I am guilty.

What is my future as a priest in their eyes? Do they give a damn? Do they expect me to be quiet... or do they clearly understand that I will take my case to Rome with my Canon Lawyer to clarify my case if necessary? In the interim, I will contact any source I have at my disposal to make sure that my story heard. Seven months with no reply from the Archdiocese to answer my queries is six and a half months too long.

I feel I have been humiliated to the utmost by the Los Angeles Archdiocese.

Sincerely in Christ,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Msgr. Manuel Sanchez O  
REDACTED

Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales  
Vicar for Clergy

Dear Gabriel;

December 21, 2007

Here is a copy of the polygraph test that I took on November 28, 2007. If you need verification of the results, I can have the company that administered this examination contact you. As a matter of note, I received the highest possible mark which is a ONE, thirty being a failing grade.

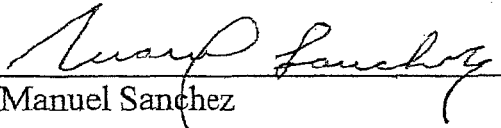
I would appreciate it very much if I could count on you to put this report in the hands of the CMOB before the next meeting. I would like to request also that my accusers be asked to take a similar polygraph examination before the members of the Board render any recommendation that will be given to the Cardinal. This is the only action that is just to my case.

If the Board wants me to repeat this test, I will do so gladly. If necessary, I will defray all the expenses of the testing for my accusers in a sincere effort to arrive at the truth. I also will gladly submit myself to an examination by the apparently highly sophisticated NO LIE MRI that is said to be very definitive.

You can understand that I am most anxious to clear my name of these unthinkable allegations against my ethical values, as well as, my vocation. I am sure that you will agree with me that honor is more valuable than life. Consequently, I hope that you can have compassion with my position that I will never cease in an attempt to clear my name of these false and heinous accusations.

I am including another copy of my deposition dated November 20, 2007. I requested on the day that my Canon lawyer and I met with Detective REDACTED in the Chancery that I be given the opportunity to read this declaration myself as part of the interview. I was denied this, and that has put me at a great disadvantage to defend myself.

Gabriel, I most sincerely wish for you a holiday season filled abundantly with great peace and joy.

  
Manuel Sanchez

**COPY**

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
Vicar for Clergy  
(213) 637-72843424  
Wilshire  
BoulevardLos Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

February 21, 2008

Reverend Monsignor Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros  
REDACTED

Dear Monsignor Sanchez :

I have received your letter of January 29, 2008, and your comments regarding your testimony. Your comments will be forwarded to C.M.O.B. for its review.

I know that the current circumstances are very hard for you and this whole process is very difficult. I do not know the status of any other inquiries being made in your case, if any, but as soon as your documents are ready, I am sure that the Board will consider the matter.

You are neither a sacrificial lamb or a leper. Monsignor Gonzales is responsible for the fair and impartial handling of any case, and for your protection, must follow meticulous procedures so that there can be little doubt of the process.

Please be assured of our continued prayerful support.

Sincerely in the Lord,

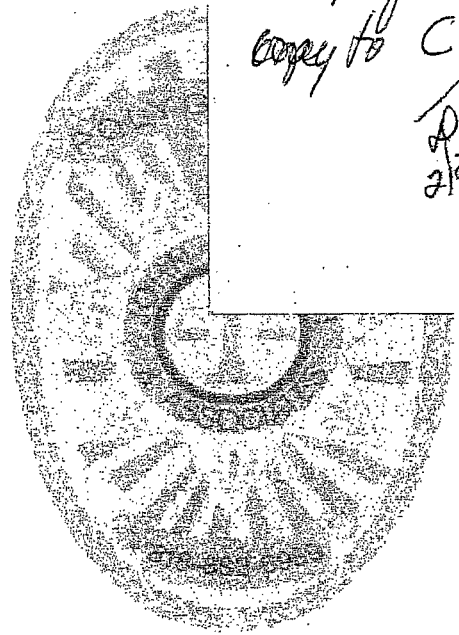
Monsignor Michael Meyers  
Associate Vicar for Clergy

Confiden

Can you make a Color  
copy on REDACTED copies?

one to file  
copy to CMOB

done  
2/28/08 MMayus



Computerized Polygraph Examination.

Manuel Sanchez

Conducted November 28, 2007  
REDACTED



November 29, 2007

two pages

RE: Polygraph Examination of [redacted] for [redacted] on [redacted] 2007

Interested Parties:

Pursuant to a request, I conducted a computerized Psychophysiological Detection of Deception Test (a computerized polygraph examination) with examinee Manuel Sanchez, in regards to allegations of improper activity from many years ago.

During a paralinguistic pre-test interview, the examinee and I thoroughly discussed the relevant issues (listed below as questions). All terms and words to be used in the relevant questions were understood by the examinee and then defined by the examinee to my satisfaction. Examinee stated that he was in good health, had consumed no unprescribed medicine/narcotics or alcohol recently, had no pain or discomfort at the time of the examination, and was well-rested (he said that he had a full night of sleep the night before).

At the conclusion of the pre-test interview, an acquaintance test was conducted. This test was used to prove to both the examinee and to myself that the examinee was suitable for a polygraph examination. Adequate recordings of the examinee's physiology were obtained during this portion of the examination, so the testing continued.

A comparison-question test was then conducted using methods developed and validated by the U.S. government's polygraph institute and approved by three national polygraph organizations. A Lafayette computerized polygraph instrument was used to record the cardio/pulse responses, upper and lower respiration, and electrodermal skin conductance tracings. The instrument was functionality-checked per factory procedure for the day of this examination; all functions were satisfactory. Multiple charts were collected.

The examinee was asked the following requested relevant questions on each chart (shown with the examinee's given answers):

- 1) Did you ever inappropriately touch or sodomize REDACTED  
(Examinee's answer: NO)
- 2) Did you ever ask REDACTED to sit on your lap while you touched her breasts or her person in any way? (Examinee's answer: NO)
- 3) Did you invite REDACTED to sit on your lap and then proceed to touch her inappropriately? (Examinee's answer: NO)
- 4) Did you ever invite REDACTED to sit on your lap while you proceeded to touch her inappropriately? (Examinee's answer: NO)

page 2 of 2  
Manuel Sanchez

UNFALSIFIED OPINION:

After carefully reviewing and analyzing the polygraph charts, it is the opinion of the examiner that there was **no deception indicated** during this polygraph examination. Upon using the computer to computer-analyze and auto-score the charts also produced strong '**No Deception Indicated**' scores.

*These results indicate that the examinee was telling the truth when answering the questions above.*

These collected charts were additionally reviewed by a second polygraph examiner who also obtained these same **NDI** scoring conclusions.

If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

The Rev. Msgr. Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros  
Sacred Heart Rectory  
1215 So. Hamilton Boulevard  
Panama, California 91766

Dear Msgr. Meyers:

January 29, 2008

I am sending you a copy of the addendum that I put together regarding the questions and answers that were presented in the transcript in the meeting that you attended in the Chancery on November 20, 2007 with Detective REDACTED REDACTED and my Canon lawyer, Mr. REDACTED and me. As you were also present in the meeting that was held on February 3, 2007, I am assuming that you have an interest in both sides of this grievous situation,

Reading the commentaries to the transcript of this meeting will give you a clearer picture of my position and the feeling of impotency that I have with regard to my current status. I do not think that I have been treated with either dignity nor fairness by the Archdiocese. The Suspendo a Divinis that I received last February was a shocking blow; but the new accusations that I received in November, I learned only on the day of this meeting.

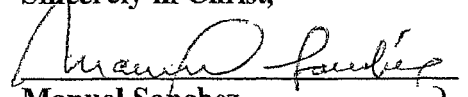
It was difficult to rebutt some of the questions that Mr. REDACTED presented to me because I had no written agenda to follow. In addition, Mr. REDACTED several times referred to a meeting that was held in the Chancery with you and me on January 27, 2007 of which I have no knowledge whatsoever. The result was that I was not up to par in responding properly. I was lost. For this reason, I wrote this addendum.

Believe me, I feel as though I have been treated like a leper. It is the old philosophy of... don't communicate with him...don't touch him...don't even look at him. Apparently, it has been prohibited to be in any kind of fellowship with any priest who has been put aside....mainly if he has been Suspendo a Divinis. It is a pity; but that is the reality, and this is the way I feel. I cannot tell you of my frustration!

I have very little hope that anyone is seriously even looking for the truth in my case. I doubt that the Chancery has any real interest in resolving my situation and lifting the Suspendo a Divinis I feel like a sacrificial lamb that is being offered up publicly in an attempt to demonstrate the "good intentions" of resolving the child molestation nightmare in which the Church finds itself. We, the innocent priests, are paying for the dire mistakes made by the Church allowing the pedophile priests to remain in active service when they should have been thrown out of the communities in which they were working.

If you would like to communicate with me, my Email is REDACTED

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Manuel Sanchez

I thank the Board for allowing me to present my remarks concerning the transcript made in the Chancery on November 20, 2007.

No.1: Page 1: REDACTED has stated that I have the right to have a written copy of the accusations against me.

COMMENT: To date, neither I nor my Canon lawyer has such a copy. It constituted a very great disadvantage for me and for Mr. REDACTED not Having clear ideas of what Mr. REDACTED would be asking at this interview.

No. 2: Page 2: REDACTED and REDACTED claim that they were molested by me when they were minors. I categorically deny that I ever touched either of these girls in any possible way. I do not know either one of them.

COMMENT:

I was in contact several times by telephone with Mr. REDACTED He told me that these women said repeatedly that they were not ready yet to make a charge against me. (THIS IS ONE OF MANY THINGS THAT MR. REDACTED FAILED TO MENTION IN THIS INTERVIEW.) He said on the last occasion that I spoke with him that he thought that they probably would NOT make any charges against me. The accusations of REDACTED have been referenced many times by Mr. REDACTED The veracity of their accusations is crucial in this case. I want you to read on page 28 of the transcript the conversation that Mr. REDACTED had with REDACTED when he visited her.....Please take note... THIS MEETING WITH REDACTED WAS AT MY REQUEST. I called REDACTED January 28, 2008, and this is what she said to me about this meeting. I think that it is very very important for the Board to know what was said on this subject. REDACTED is ready to give her testimony to anyone on the Board at any time. REDACTED can be reached after 7:30 PM at REDACTED REDACTED. She was approached by REDACTED (sister of REDACTED) and asked by her to join a group of women that REDACTED said were getting together to find something unethical or immoral to use against Father

Sanchez that would help REDACTED has known REDACTED  
 REDACTED and REDACTED from the time they were together in Sacred  
 Heart Parochial School in Pomona. REDACTED told REDACTED "I will not join  
 your group because Father Sanchez would NOT be capable of doing  
 anything immoral." I asked her if it was common for any of the priests  
 (including myself) in the parish to ask any of the girls to sit on their lap  
 in the Confessional or outside the Confessional. She replied that she  
 and her sister REDACTED had known me since they were little girls and never  
 did they sit on my lap nor were they asked to do so by me.

Those women have testified that I touched them inappropriately. If this  
 were true, should not REDACTED have mentioned this to REDACTED  
 immediately when she came to ask her to join her group? Why did it  
 take Mr. REDACTED several visits to these women to get their testimonies  
 if they were so sure of their accusations? Mr. REDACTED commented to  
 me by telephone that, after visiting them several times at my request, it  
 was his opinion that they would drop their allegations against me. The  
 testimony of REDACTED in its entirety could have thrown a lot of light on the  
 truthfulness of the accusations of those women against me. Why didn't  
 Mr. REDACTED even mention that very important testimony in my  
 favor?

No. 3: Page 3: I answered YES to Mr. REDACTED question of did I  
 remember the purpose of the meeting on April 12, 2006.

**COMMENT:**

It was a very friendly conversation and delightful lunch that we had.  
 In the following weeks, Mr. REDACTED and I had several conversations  
 on the telephone regarding the investigation of those girls who were  
 manifesting at the door of the church and supporting REDACTED

No. 4: Page 3: Mr. REDACTED asked me if I had talked to REDACTED  
 REDACTED before that meeting.

**ANSWER:** To clarify my answer to this question, I will state that I did  
 speak to her before this meeting. At the end of page 3 when Mr.  
 REDACTED asked me what REDACTED said about the allegations, the  
 following was my answer: She told me that she was invited to join these  
 women who were looking for something to accuse Father Sanchez.

REDACTED told me that they said they wanted to help REDACTED in his case.

No. 5: Page 4: Mr. REDACTED is talking about a meeting on January 27, 2007 in the Chancery.

ANSWER: I have no recollection of this meeting ever taking place. He is probably referring to the meeting that we had on February 3, 2007. This is when they surprised me with my infamous SUSPENSO A DIVINIS. I have to admit that I was confused on February 3, 2007 because I had no agenda or written accusations in front of me. Apparently, no tape was made of the January meeting to which he referred.

No. 6: Page 4: Concerning REDACTED and REDACTED REDACTED I was so astonished at those accusations that I couldn't get my thoughts together to give a straight forward and clear answer. Besides that, I didn't get together with Mr. REDACTED on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January as he is under the impression. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, we met in the Chancery.

No. 7: Page 5. Mr. REDACTED question about having that girl REDACTED sit on my lap and fondling her, my answer was, "I don't remember your saying that or hearing that." I resent not having the list of allegations against on that occasions or even now.

COMMENT; I have never molested or abused a child or a woman or a man in my entire life inside the Confessional or outside the Confessional. Certainly, I never ever asked those women to sit on my lap or touch them inappropriately. The Confessions always took place in the church but never in a private room. When Mr. REDACTED referred to a room, I imagine that he was referencing the Confessional itself. And furthermore, has anyone ever investigated those girls with the idea of proving that they were or were not telling the truth?

No. 7: Page 6: Mr. REDACTED once more referenced the meeting that took place in January of 2007. Again, I say that I have no recollection of any meeting having taken place on that date. Mr. REDACTED also

referred to certain women who made accusations against me dating back to 1987 and 1989.

**ANSWER:** I said that I didn't remember the names of the women he spoke about; I was confused. I should have said that I didn't know all of them; I did know some of them. The date was not correct and some of those names were known by me; some were not. The right answer should be that I remembered only some of those names.

**No. 8: Page 7: Mr.** REDACTED **asked me about whether or not** REDACTED **had reported...my question is, "What was reported in that meeting about** REDACTED **"**

**COMMENT:** I remember REDACTED ) accusing me of having an affair with REDACTED , but I don't remember Mr. REDACTED accusation of REDACTED saying that she was ever sitting in my lap and I was fondling her. That accusation is a terrible LIE from REDACTED I would like that she go through a polygraph examination as I did to establish the truth once and for all. May I point out once more the unfairness of having to deal with such delicate matters and not having any written statement? As it states in the archives of the Archdiocese, Msgr. Curry Investigated those allegations against me by interviewing the priests of the Parish, Father Chris Ponnet and Father REDACTED , the Principal of the Parochial School and her supervisor. Those allegations were dismissed by Msgr. Curry, the Vicar for Clergy at that time.

**No. 9: Page 7: Mr.** REDACTED **refers to "written reports" concerning these allegations.**

**COMMENT:** Why don't we have copies of them even at this date? Why are they still hidden from me? How can I defend myself if I don't know clearly what are the accusations in these "written reports?"

**No. 10: Page 8: Regarding the fact that no recording or no written report was made at the February 3, 2007 meeting with Msgr. Gonzales, I have a comment.**

**COMMENT:** I reaffirm that I didn't hear any mention about REDACTED accusing me of asking her to sit on my lap or to

fondling her in any way. Why is nothing written down about that meeting or that allegation made by her and given to me by Mr. REDACTED ? Apparently, anything that any one of these girls have said against me, were admitted without any investigation as if they were true. I highly resent that fact.

No.11: Page 9: Mr. REDACTED refers once again to a January meeting....this time he says the meeting took place with Msgr. Meyers.

COMMENT: I repeat that I do not know what meeting he is talking about. I never had a meeting in January in the Chancery with anyone. He further states that the purpose of this meeting was to inform me of all the allegations against me. This never happened. Msgr. Meyers was not present at this luncheon that the two of us had and at which I said over and over again that I was pushing the Archdiocese to have a detective investigate those accusations against me.

No.12: Page 11: Mr. REDACTED talks about Mrs. REDACTED who was in Sister REDACTED time period.

COMMENT: REDACTED and her son REDACTED and her daughter REDACTED, were also at the same time in the school. The mother was an employee, and REDACTED was in the same class as REDACTED. They have a completely different opinion about REDACTED as opposed to Mrs. REDACTED who says that he was a nice boy. On March 19, 2006 when REDACTED and the girls demonstrated in front of the church, REDACTED confronted REDACTED and told him, "You have always been a troublemaker. I have known you since you were in the school with my son." I wish that someone would take the time to interview REDACTED and her children. She is available every night after 8:00 PM at REDACTED

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING IS VERY IMPORTANT! The situation between the parish and the Principal, Sister REDACTED, was so tense that she changed the master key of the school rooms to prevent the CCD kids from holding their classes there. I had to call Sister REDACTED Provincial and tell her that if she didn't give me the new key, I wanted to get rid of her.

You may be asking why this is so important. It is important because it was during this period that the accusations of these girls took place.



The parents went to the Police and the Fire Department, as well as, to the Chancery many times to complain about the safety of the kids, but they were really complaining about me and the administration of the Parish. However, the construction was given a complete bill of safety by all these departments, but I was asked by these officials, "What kind of people do you have in the school? Everything is OK."

It was chaos in the school; the tension was enormous. I was giving 20% of the ordinary income from the parish budget to the parochial school when the norm is 10%. There were only 9 or 10 students in the school who belonged to Sacred Heart Parish. The parents of the students were very bitter and angry that I was building a much needed new hall and offices, refurbishing the church and adding stained glass windows....a labor long overdue.

The Vicar for Clergy, Msgr. Curry, analyzed all these complaints by the girls and their parents; he also spoke with Sister REDACTED, the Superior of the Principal, and she told him that she doubted the incidents of the molestations the girls had claimed. Sister REDACTED succeeded Sister REDACTED. The priests of the parish were also questioned about any impropriety in my behavior. They said they had never seen any sign of imprudent conduct either. In a letter to the Cardinal dated July 15, 1989, Msgr. Curry said, "At this stage, taking the situation as a whole, I have decided to suspend judgment while I pursue and investigate the matter further." This letter is in the Archives at the Archdiocese.

No.13: Page 13: Mr. REDACTED talks about two more girls who accused me, according to Mrs. REDACTED in 1989.

**COMMENT:** I know that those accusations have absolutely no credibility. Again they were investigated by Msgr. Curry and the Superior of Sister REDACTED and were put aside as not being substantiated. I reaffirm what I said before: I never asked any girl to sit on my lap with or without evil intentions....inside the Confessional or inside it. Of course, I consider myself a normal man, and sometimes I have picked up a little girl or boy who was asking me in public to hold him or her in my arms or on my lap.

No. 14: Page 14: Mr. REDACTED asks me about complaints made by young girls.

COMMENT: I have no doubt that these complaints were directly connected with my feuding relationship with the students in the Parochial School. The tension was so bad that the teachers, the parents and the students would pass me by in the school yard without even looking in my direction. The school wanted more and more money. I want to emphasize that there were 1500 students in the CCD Program and more than 700 parents who also attended weekly instruction classes in religion. There was a desperate need for the three new halls. (The new halls, the new offices and the refurbishing of the church were achieved with money that was donated from the community in the Sunday Masses collections. Never did I ask or receive money from the Chancery.) I would like to point out that not one boy or girl in the CCD Program nor their parents ever made any kind of complaint against me, including charges of sexual misconduct, in the more than 23 years that I was Pastor of that parish.

When Mr. REDACTED asked if I knew REDACTED, it is written "No response." I should have said, "No! Not at all!"

No. 15: Page 15: About those girls who accused me of touching them inappropriately (manosear)...

COMMENT; I repeat that I don't know those girls, and I never was touching them inappropriately. Those accusations were made in the time frame that Sister REDACTED was Principal and were analyzed by Msgr. Curry and her Supervisor Sister REDACTED. I knew nothing about these charges until almost 20 years later. Should they have been substantiated, certainly the Chancery, the parents or the Principal of the school would have notified me of these allegations.

No. 16: Page 16: About REDACTED ..

COMMENT: I never met her or talked to her, but I saw her report to Msgr. Curry about the Principal of the School and its problems when Mr. REDACTED sent me a copy from the Archives last year.

No. 17: Page 19: About REDACTED and her belonging to the Youth Group.....

COMMENT: Mr. REDACTED knows well REDACTED and her mother REDACTED I remember seeing REDACTED once or twice at the most. REDACTED

REDACTED I want to emphasize the importance of Mr. REDACTED testimony concerning REDACTED

No. 18: Page 21: Concerning the letters of Mrs. REDACTED and Mr. REDACTED ..

COMMENT: I sent a copy of Mrs. REDACTED letter both in English and in Spanish to Mr. REDACTED my Canon lawyer. I sent a copy of Mr. REDACTED letter both in English and in Spanish to Mr. REDACTED

No. 19: Page 22: Mr. REDACTED asked me if REDACTED had falsely accused me....

COMMENT: It is still a great confusion about everything concerning REDACTED and her accusations against me. I stated that in her telephone conversation with me from Miami, she was very friendly and showed repentance of what she had said in the Chancery. I was asking her, "If you want to help me in this case, handwrite a letter stating all these things that you said to me in order that I can present that to the Chancery." One week or so later, is when she wrote the letter "To Whom It May Concern." The tone of her words had changed considerably. Never ever was I telling her what to say in that letter. The testimony of Mr. REDACTED about her and her activities in the community will help a lot to clarify this situation.

I sent a copy of her letter, both in English and in Spanish to Mr. REDACTED

No 20; Page 23: Mr. REDACTED ; asked me if REDACTED had accused me of having an affair with REDACTED .....

COMMENT: I was momentarily confused. I said that she did not accuse me of that, but I should have said that she did. However, I didn't

learn about the full details of this accusation until I was shown Mrs. REDACTED report in the office of Mr. REDACTED about a year ago. This accusation and also REDACTED accusation were presented in the Chancery and analyzed by Msgr. Curry. I'll reiterate that he asked Father Chris Ponnet and Father REDACTED for their evaluations of these accusations. They told him that they had no knowledge of any improper conduct of Father Sanchez.

Concerning REDACTED I asked Msgr. Curry that I would ask REDACTED and her husband to go to another parish because of the scandal that could be in the community. Msgr. Curry told me not to be alone with Mrs. REDACTED but that I should allow this couple to remain in Sacred Heart Parish. I followed his advice from that moment. Both of them continue to attend Masses in this parish.

No. 21: Page 24: Let me quote Mr. REDACTED : "She REDACTED has said that she did it (sat on my lap...)"

COMMENT: I will say that this is a terrible LIE. REDACTED never sat in my lap. I never asked her to do that nor did I allow her to do that. I did not rub or touch her legs or any part of her body. I will reiterate my fervent desire: **THE SAME AS I WENT THROUGH A POLYGRAPH TEST, IS IT TOO MUCH TO ASK HER TO DO THE SAME?** I will even pay out of my pocket, if necessary for the NO LIE MRI to clarify the situation concerning REDACTED lies. Otherwise, I feel impotent in not being able to defend myself against that absurd accusation against me.

No. 22: Page 25: Mr. REDACTED asks me once more if I touched REDACTED leg.....

COMMENT: He's asking me the same question AGAIN...My answer is the same that never ever did she sit on my lap, never would I allow or ask her to do anything of that nature, including touching ANY part of her body. Concerning REDACTED office. I reiterate that it was on the second floor of the Beta Center and REDACTED office was on the first floor of the Beta Center.

No. 23: Page 26: Mr. REDACTED asked me if REDACTED would be able to hear me when I was visiting the office of REDACTED ...

**COMMENT:** As it is normal for any Pastor, I was visiting all the offices of the parish community frequently. I doubt that anyone would be able to hear from one office to another...to clear up that point.

I never knew about the accusations of REDACTED in which she claims that I asked her to sit on my lap and that I touched her inappropriately on parts of her body. I learned this only during this interrogation on November 20, 2007 in the Chancery. Is she attempting to take revenge for something that I don't even know that she is angry about?

**No. 24: Page 27:** About the accusation regarding REDACTED ...

**COMMENT:** I reiterate what I said before about the investigation made by the Chancery and about its results....Msgr. Curry interviewed my assistants Father Ponnet and Father REDACTED concerning Mrs. REDACTED, Mrs. REDACTED. They were questioned about these allegations. They told Msgr. Curry that they didn't know anything about any inappropriate behavior on my part. The comment that Msgr. Curry made and which is in the archives of the Archdiocese was that should there be any veracity in these allegations against Father Sanchez, the priests of the Parish would know about these claims.

**No. 25: Page 28:** It is not clear for me what Mr. REDACTED asked at the beginning of Page 28. If he means did Father Ponnet share with me any complaint about my conduct with the children during the First Confession, I will say NO!

**COMMENT:** I will say that Father Ponnet should have communicated that to me; and even more important, when he met with Msgr. Curry, he had a golden opportunity to complain about my behavior. Why didn't he?

**No. 26: Page 28:** Regarding REDACTED ....

**COMMENT:** Please refer to No. 2: Page 2....Under COMMENT

"I talked to REDACTED on January 28, 2008....."

About the statement that it was common practice to have teenagers sit on my lap, even if they were not offended, my answer to this is that if other priests were doing this, *I NEVER DID*.

No. 27: Page 29: To expand my answer to the question of whether or not I put my hand under REDACTED dress.....

COMMENT: I repeat emphatically that I don't even know this girl, and she is telling lies. Was she trying to help Mr. REDACTED. Otherwise, what would be her motivation to say such a terrible lie? Is anyone investigating her credibility? The testimony of REDACTED about those women is very important.

No. 28: Page 30: About the letter of Mr. REDACTED and the women who accused me.....

COMMENT: I don't know who the REDACTED are referring to. It would be easier to ask Mr. REDACTED daughters this question.

No. 26: Page 32: About whether or not I helped to write the letter "To whom it may concern," .....

COMMENT; I have to admit that I talked to the REDACTED many times about this terrible situation and the accusations of REDACTED Up to what point that I influenced them directly or indirectly to say what they say in the letter, I don't remember or know exactly what I said...I probably mentioned those names because I may have thought that the REDACTED daughters might know REDACTED and REDACTED REDACTED Mr. REDACTED told me at the time that he was helped in the composition by a very well educated person in El Paso where the REDACTED are living at the present time. I think that Mr. REDACTED has interviewed the REDACTED concerning this matter. In my opinion, it is much more important to know clearly what is their opinion of REDACTED

No. 27: Page 33: Up to the time of this interview on November 20, 2007. Mr. REDACTED said that he had not interviewed REDACTED

COMMENT: REDACTED was interviewed by a detective when he accused me the *first* time. According to the Chancery, an Oversight

Board studied the allegations and found that “the evidence did not support the charges.” To quote further from the article on the Internet, “The accuser is the only individual to ever come forward with one allegation against Rev. Sanchez.”

This accusation from REDACTED is the only accusation that I knew about until November 20, 2007 when Mr. REDACTED informed me of the horrible details of the infamous charges that are pending against me. How many times was REDACTED changing his accusations in this case? Should not someone seriously investigate him? Should he not be subjected to a polygraph test as I was?

My answer to Mr. REDACTED question of did I recognize and did I remember REDACTED my answer is emphatically NO! The first time that I ever laid eyes on this man was in March of 2006 when he came into the sacristy at Sacred Heart Church and asked me *if I was Father Sanchez*. About this incident and the lies that he told later about it, I have 8 witnesses whose irrefutable testimony was given to Mr. REDACTED It will prove that what Mr. REDACTED said about what happened in the sacristy on that occasion was completely false.

I am very disappointed in the Diocese for not even, to this very moment, providing me with a written copy of the charges against me. Is it not just and also necessary for me to have these accusations and someone to assist me in defending myself? I have been deprived of all these “tools” and denied my rights for one entire year. This is why I responded so poorly in the meeting at the Chancery on November 20, 2007. I felt completely abandoned by the Church.

No. 28: Page 37: In reference to the question of my ever being alone with an altar boy.....

COMMENT: I had always a lady in charge of the altar boys. I can say that there were from six to eight altar servers in the sacristy on Sundays. The first time that I heard of the allegation from Mr. REDACTED he had said that I had brutally sodomized him in the sacristy immediately before the 10:30 Mass on a Sunday when I was fully vested. Obviously, Mr. REDACTED wasn't aware that there really are always 6 to 8 altar servers, about 5 Ministers of the Eucharist and various lectors present before the Mass. Did I get into one of these closets that is

described in the transcript and abuse this innocent boy? If someone believes that this incident happened, he must think that I am extremely stupid and that that boy REDACTED is extraordinarily sharp because this accusation got him several million dollars. I, personally, was under the impression that this case was evaluated by one detective hired by the Archdiocese. Msgr. Cox, the Vicar for Clergy at that time, found that the charge was without any substantial foundation as it states in the archives of the Archdiocese. That's all I knew about Mr. REDACTED accusation until November 20, 2007 in the meeting in the Chancery.

To give a "precise" conclusion to this particular question, I have no recollection of ever being alone with any one of my altar servers in any wine or candle closets, vestment closets, public address storage closets, broom closets or toilets.

One of the four questions on the polygraph test that I took immediately after that meeting in the Chancery was, "Did you inappropriately touch or sodomize REDACTED To this question, as well as the remainder, I responded truthfully and clearly, "NO!"

I would like to share with the Board the polygraph examination conducted by REDACTED REDACTED. Please note the questions that were asked me and the answers that I gave the examiner. Further note that I passed this examination beyond any doubt whatsoever. On a scale of one to thirty, one being the highest, my score was a ONE. Please take note of page 2 which states "NO DECEPTION INDICATED." The copy reads "These results indicate that the examinee was telling the truth when answering the questions above." (Copy of complete test included.)

**QUESTIONS FOR THE POLYGRAPH TEST**

- 1. You have been accused of brutally sodomizing REDACTED

**QUESTION:** Did you ever inappropriately touch or sodomize REDACTED

- 2. REDACTED has accused you of having her sit on your lap in the 1980's, and she furthermore claims that you also touched her on



her breasts.

**QUESTION:** Did you ever ask REDACTED to sit on your lap while you touched her breasts or her person in any way?

3. REDACTED has accused you of touching her inappropriately as she sat on your lap at your request.

**QUESTION:** Did you ever invite REDACTED to sit on your lap and then proceed to touch her inappropriately?

4. REDACTED has accused you of asking her many times to sit on your lap, and she states further that you have touched her inappropriately at those times.

**QUESTION:** Did you ever invite REDACTED to sit on your lap while you proceeded to touch her inappropriately?

**I repeat: MY ANSWER TO ALL THESE QUESTIONS WAS A RESOUNDING, "NO!"**

**Did anyone ever doubt about the credibility of Mr. REDACTED accusations and seriously look for the TRUTH in my case?**

**Mr. REDACTED should have known, as he was in charge of my case, that I had not received one word from anyone regarding my case including Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales who had promised Bishop Zavala several times that he would send me a list of the allegations against me. At that point, on November 20, 2007, I was totally in limbo. I was at a complete disadvantage to answer *any* of Mr. REDACTED questions properly.**

**I had not been prepared for the apparently NEW accusations that I would now hear coming from REDACTED on Page 37.**

**Is there a good reason why the Diocese didn't communicate at all with me in these terrible circumstances? I greatly resent the way that I have been treated by the Church that I have been serving for 54 years and which was supposed to defend and protect me. I have been completely**

**abandoned. This is the reality! My depression and stress in these circumstances went to the point that I had to go to a psychologist to look for the help that I didn't find in my Church.**

Did the Archdiocese or anyone else ever think of the possibility that I could have been confused for another priest by Mr. REDACTED in the supposition that he truly was abused by anyone? Let me remind the Board that Mr. REDACTED came to Sacred Heart Church on March 19, 2006 looking for a Salesian Mexican priest who had been teaching for 6 years in Washington D. C. and had been a missionary in Japan previous to coming to my community. According to him, I have been in six or seven different parishes in all of which I abused children, and this behavior being known by the Archdiocese, nevertheless, the Archdiocese did nothing about it. None of these things are true! I am not Mexican; I am not a Salesian. I was not in Washington nor Japan previous to my assignment in Pomona.

**Not having my own detective who would be working for me in looking for the truth, not having a written copy of the accusations against me, and not being able to have a Canon lawyer during a very critical period has placed me at a grave disadvantage. I consider myself like little David coming up against a mammoth Goliath. Am I far from wrong?**

**EPILOGUE: I am 78 years old and retired with an excellent record in the Diocese of Los Angeles. Msgr. Cox, former Vicar for Clergy, advised me to return to Spain to enjoy my retirement. I told him that I would stay here to defend my honor and my reputation as a priest.**

**I can assure you that I *will* stay here in Los Angeles until my good name is cleared and my situation is resolved. I pray to the Lord of Justice that the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board will have the courage to investigate and look for the TRUTH and solely the TRUTH wherever it might be.**

**VERITAS LIBERABIT VOS!  
LA VERDAD OS HARA LIBRES!**

TO: Monsignor Gabriel Gonzales  
FROM: Monsignor Michael Meyers  
DATE: December 10, 2008  
RE: Call from Mr. REDACTED RE: Monsignor Manuel Sanchez

---

I told him that we have been bogged down in our process and that we have a big meeting next week called by the Cardinal to address the issue and make sure that things begin to be resolved.

He was thankful for the information and hope that progress might be possible.

**Msgr Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros (CMOB #064)**  
**Review Dec 22, 2008**

7-6-89

Mr. & Mrs. <sup>REDACTED</sup> met with Msgr Curry, VC, to discuss three allegations of sexual misconduct by Msgr Sanchez:

1. Inappropriately touched their daughter <sup>REDACTED</sup> during confession.
  - The daughter was interviewed 3 weeks later.
  - About 3 ½ years earlier (@1986, 20/21 years old), Sanchez asked her to sit on his lap during confession.
  - When she did not, he rubbed her leg.
  - He touched her leg several times during confession. He always started by touching a little bit and would continue until she pushed him away.
  - She felt it was not just a touch, but a sexual overture (my words).
  
2. Made two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession. The <sup>REDACTED</sup> said the school principal was aware of this incident.
  - The principal, Sr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> was interviewed and recalled the allegation very well. In 1987 Mrs <sup>REDACTED</sup> complained that Sanchez had her two daughters sit on his lap during confession and fondled them. She went to the Archdiocese alone once and with Sister <sup>REDACTED</sup> a second time to report <sup>REDACTED</sup> allegations and the alleged affair between Sanchez and <sup>REDACTED</sup>. Sanchez was very angry at what she had done and tried to get rid of her.
  - Another teacher, Sr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> recalled that the <sup>REDACTED</sup> girls announced to the school that their 13 year old cousin had run away with a 21 year old man. The 13 year old's mother called them liars and Mrs <sup>REDACTED</sup> removed her children from the school.
  - On 4-28-06, Mrs <sup>REDACTED</sup> was interviewed. Her daughter <sup>REDACTED</sup> now lives in Mexico and is unavailable for interview. Mrs <sup>REDACTED</sup> remembers <sup>REDACTED</sup> telling the principal about Sanchez fondling <sup>REDACTED</sup> during confession. <sup>REDACTED</sup> came home upset and said that Sanchez made her sit on his lap, then rubbed her back, legs and tried to touch her breast. At first <sup>REDACTED</sup> did not believe it until she saw <sup>REDACTED</sup> come out of the confessional in tears.
  
3. Was having an affair with an adult female parishioner
  - <sup>REDACTED</sup> met with Curry and expressed concern about an affair she thought Sanchez was having with <sup>REDACTED</sup>
  - <sup>REDACTED</sup> confronted Sanchez about it twice, but he said nothing. Finally when she confronted him a 3<sup>rd</sup> time he denied it and said <sup>REDACTED</sup> was infatuated with him and that he would encourage the family to worship elsewhere.
  - In a letter of 11-8-89, <sup>REDACTED</sup> expressed esteem for Sanchez but said he needed counseling.

- REDACTED was interviewed on 11-7-03. She knew Sanchez very well and described him as a “touchy-feely” type person. But, she never felt threatened by him in any way and can now see how someone might take his actions the wrong way.

5-12-03 REDACTED alleged that Sanchez forcibly sodomized him 22 years earlier (@1981) when REDACTED was about ten.

- According to REDACTED ; summary, the mediation documents submitted for this civil case “make this claim more plausible.”

Sanchez adamantly denies all of the allegations. On 11-14-03 his civil attorney, REDACTED was interviewed. He pointed out that Sanchez has denied the first two allegations both verbally and in writing. “The only allegation that seemed credible was the affair w/ REDACTED, but that had been in the distant past and no good could come to anyone by exposing it now.”<sup>1</sup>

According to REDACTED CMOB found insufficient evidence to establish the truth of REDACTED allegation and found it highly improbable that he committed that act; that the allegations involving the minors, even if true, amounted to possible boundary violations; as Sanchez is already retired, no removal of faculties or ministerial limitation was recommended; and, that the case be closed unless new relevant information is discovered.

4-11-06 During a protest at a church in Pomona, REDACTED and REDACTED REDACTED claimed Sanchez molested them when they were minors.

1. REDACTED was interviewed and said Sanchez had her sit on his lap for her first confession, put his hand under her dress, when his hand reached her panties she cried and jumped off his lap.
2. REDACTED will not be interviewed.
3. No independent corroboration has been found
4. A former classmate of the complainant’s was approached by REDACTED sister who told her about Sanchez had abused REDACTED The classmate felt that she was being recruited to make allegations against Sanchez. The classmate told the woman that those allegations were contrary to her experiences with Sanchez. The woman told her that REDACTED was trying to organize other girls against Sanchez.
5. On 1-26-07, Sanchez faculties were suspended pending resolution of this matter
6. The summary by REDACTED refers to, “...the investigation has uncovered circumstances that tend to impugn the credibility of the two women making the new allegation....” I have no idea what that evidence may be.

According to REDACTED there has been no CMOB action on these allegations.

<sup>1</sup> Sanchez Case Summary by REDACTED, unknown date.



**Archdiocese of Los Angeles**

Office of the  
Vicar for Canonical Services  
Office: (213) 637-7888  
Fax: (213) 637-6178

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

TO: File  
FROM: REDACTED  
RE: Preliminary Investigation of Msgr. Manuel Sanchez in 2003  
DATE: 19 May 2009

On 12 May 2003, Monsignor Craig Cox, then Vicar for Clergy of this Archdiocese, issued a decree opening a preliminary investigation into certain allegations made against Monsignor Manuel Sanchez, according to which he may have committed a delict against canon 1395.

The information gathered from this investigation was considered by the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board at its meeting of 10 December 2003. The Board concluded that there was insufficient evidence to establish the truth of the allegation and decided to recommend that the file be closed unless new relevant information was received.

Accordingly, a new decree closing the preliminary investigation as of 10 December 2003 should have been issued. However, for whatever reason, such a decree was not issued.

The fact that no further investigation was attempted until new information about other possible delicts was received in 2006 indicates that the preliminary investigation in 2003 was considered by all parties to be closed. For this reason a new preliminary investigation was initiated by a decree dated 11 April 2006 to look into the allegations that surfaced in 2006.

This memorandum hereby acknowledges the absence of a legitimate decree closing the preliminary investigation of 2003.

REDACTED

ARCHDIOCESAN SEAL



Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Office of  
the Archbishop

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

26 May 2009

His Eminence  
William Cardinal Levada, Prefect  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
Piazza Del S. Ufficio, 11  
00120 VATICAN CITY

Re: Rev. Msgr. Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros

Your Eminence:

It is with regret that I seek your direction and advice in regard to allegations of sexual misconduct against a priest of this Archdiocese, Reverend Monsignor Manuel Sanchez. These allegations date all the way back to 1989. As you will see from the history of the case which follows, it is only recently that the investigation advanced to the point where a complete report could be made to your Congregation in accord with the provisions of *Sacramentorum sanctitatis tutela* Art. 13.

Monsignor Sanchez is presently 79 years old and retired from active ministry since the year 2000. The incidents described below all occurred while he still enjoyed assignments in the Archdiocese.

In 1989 two allegations of sexual misconduct against then-Father Sanchez were received by the Archdiocese from a female parishioner, one alleging REDACTED

REDACTED, the second alleging that REDACTED

REDACTED Having learned of these accusations, the parish school principal reported a complaint that she had received in 1987 from a mother who alleged that Sanchez had asked her sixth grade daughter to sit on his lap during confession and then fondled her. Nothing came of the investigation of these matters at the time.

In April 2003 a Mr. REDACTED reported to the Archdiocese that, some twenty years previously when he was about ten years old, Father Sanchez had sodomized him. On 12 May 2003 a preliminary investigation according to the norm of Canon 1717 was opened. Monsignor Sanchez was provided competent canonical counsel. Mr. REDACTED joined the civil lawsuits being filed against the Archdiocese then, thus becoming unavailable for follow up investigation. The available evidence was presented to our Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board in accordance with Norm 4A of the *Essential Norms*. The Board's recommendation was: "Insufficient evidence to establish the truth of the allegation" made by Mr. REDACTED. It is deemed "highly improbable" that Sanchez committed the act alleged. On 10 December 2003 the investigation was concluded, allowing Msgr. Sanchez to continue to exercise public ministry.

In April 2006 two women participated in a public demonstration at Sacred Heart Church, where all alleged incidents occurred and where Msgr. Sanchez was now the pastor *emeritus*. Both women claimed that he had sexually molested them as minors. Only one of the women agreed to be interviewed. She alleged that the priest had asked her to sit on his lap during her first confession at age seven or eight. Once she did as he asked, he put his hand under her dress. When his hand reached the edge of her panties, she started to cry and jumped off his lap.<sup>7</sup> He told her not to say anything to anyone about what had happened. She also stated that the other woman demonstrator, who could not be interviewed, had a similar story.

In response, a decree opening a new preliminary investigation was issued on 11 April 2006, which included revisiting all the previous complaints. Thirty-four interviews were conducted, as well as a re-examination of the geography of the physical parish plant. As a result four separate women were located who reported that the accused had them each as a young child sit on his lap and touched them inappropriately during sacramental confession. Three more women supported the allegation that he had young girls sit on his lap in various settings. One of these women also reported that, when she was a young girl, he had her sit on his lap during confession, but he did not touch her and she was not offended. On the other hand six other women stated they never experienced any inappropriate behavior by the accused when they were students. Three male classmates of the complainants were located and interviewed, who stated that at no time were they asked to sit on Sanchez's lap during confession.

In the course of the investigation, Msgr. Sanchez was interviewed and informed of each accuser's identity and the substance of their allegations. He denied knowing the male sodomy complainant and denied that allegation. He remembered some of the girls, but did not remember the others. He adamantly denied that he ever had a girl sit on his lap during confession or at any other time, and he denied ever sexually molesting any girls.

The manner in which Msgr. Sanchez has vigorously defended himself has itself raised questions about his credibility. Evidence shows, for example, that he was on close terms with the family of the male complainant and should certainly have known the child. He and/or his lawyer arranged for him to take a lie detector test to demonstrate his truthfulness, but the expert hired to conduct the test was not a properly licensed professional and had in fact been indicted for fraudulent business practices. Monsignor has claimed that the women complainants are engaged in a conspiracy against him, but evidence shows a majority of them to be making completely independent claims. When given the opportunity to correct the transcript of his canonical interview, which was audiotape recorded to assure the accuracy of the proceedings, he chose to revise the substance of several answers and even some of the questions put to him. He even engaged in witness tampering, such as providing input to a letter written to undermine an accuser's credibility.

Given the allegation that REDACTED  
 REDACTED  
 REDACTED

Given the context of these allegations, his alleged actions with young girls making their first confession cannot be dismissed as merely an inept but innocent attempt to make them feel comfortable. The relevant civil penal code would treat his behavior as a form of sexual assault. From an objective moral standpoint his actions would seem at the least to be a form of grooming preparatory to engaging in sexual activity at a future date.



In sum, there appears to be the possibility of two types of reserved delict at stake, sexual abuse of minors – male and female – by a cleric (Canon 1395 §2) and solicitation to sexual sin in the act or on the occasion of sacramental confession (Canon 1387).

Regarding the allegation by REDACTED of rape and other sexually oriented behavior, the only allegation involving a male minor, I am still troubled by the exceptional nature of the claim in comparison with all the other accusations. Despite ongoing publicity in the media and a vigorous investigation, not a hint of a similar complaint with a male has surfaced. In the absence of other evidence and lacking other accusers, it is unlikely that a trial could reach moral certitude about Sanchez's guilt on this particular point.

On the other hand, there is convincing evidence, despite Sanchez's protestations to the contrary, that he engaged in some kind of sexual activity with minor girls that would be prosecutable under civil law. The added dimension of profaning the Sacrament of Reconciliation is especially troubling. I am alarmed at the frequency of allegations in recent years in which the sexual abuse of a minor is connected with sacramental confession.

Accordingly, I am requesting, first, the grant of an exception to prescription for the alleged delicts at issue. Even though Msgr. Sanchez is now retired, the public damage to the Church's mission of holiness is too great to ignore. For this reason, I also request that, at the least, the provisional measures that I have applied be made permanent – that he be forbidden to exercise public ministry and to maintain any contact with Sacred Heart Parish.

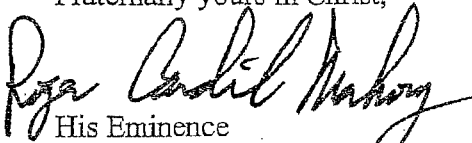
Third, in view of the need to make abundantly clear the duty of all priests to uphold the sacredness of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the trust of the faithful in approaching the sacrament, I request that your Congregation consider the administrative application of further penalties. I am suggesting that Msgr. Sanchez be forbidden to wear clerical attire and to present himself publicly as a priest. It may also be appropriate to rescind his appointment as a Prelate of His Holiness.

Given the gravity of the matter, it may also be appropriate to consider his dismissal from the clerical state. If in your judgment this could only be warranted by way of a judicial trial, I would ask you to take into consideration that given his current age, the shame that the other penalties mentioned would cause him, and the extraordinary length of time it is proving to take to conduct a trial to its conclusion, justice might be better served by your direct application of suitable penalties short of dismissal from the clerical state.

Documentation for this case accompanies this letter.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance and keeping you in my prayers, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,



His Eminence  
Cardinal Roger M. Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

COPY



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Archdiocese of Los Angeles

REDACTED

3424  
Wilshire  
BoulevardLos Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

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10 June 2009

His Eminence  
William Cardinal Levada, Prefect  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
Piazza del S. Ufficio, 11  
00120 VATICAN CITY  
EUROPE

RE: *Taxa* for the Rev. Msgr. Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros case.

Your Eminence,

I am pleased to send the enclosed check in the amount of \$500 as payment of the customary *taxa* for processing the above-named case.

With gratitude for your kind assistance, I have the honor to assure you of my prayerful best wishes.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

REDACTED

Enclosure

Check Date: 09 Jun. 2009

ACCLA

Check No. 237280

Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Voucher ID	Gross Amount	Discount Available	Paid Amount
0608 VC	08 Jun. 2009	00198914	500.00	0.00	500.00

*CDF  
manuel Sanchez  
Otineros*

**COPY**

Vendor Number	Name	Total Discounts
0000002838	Congregation For The Doctrine	\$0.00

Check Number	Date	Total Amount	Discounts Taken	Total Paid Amount
	09 Jun. 2009	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00



**The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles**  
 (A Corporation Sole)  
 3424 Wilshire Blvd.  
 Los Angeles, California 90010-2241  
 (213) 637-7691

Wachovia Bank, N.A.  
 Greenville, South Carolina  
 In Cooperation with & Payable If Desired at  
 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.  
 4759-613201 67-1/532

237280

Date  
June 9, 2009

Pay Amount  
\$ 500.00\*\*\*

Pay \*\*\*\*FIVE HUNDRED AND XX / 100 US DOLLAR\*\*\*\*

To The  
Order Of

REDACTED

CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE  
 of the Faith  
 Piazza Del S Offizio II  
 00120 Vatican City

REDACTED



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Archdiocese of Los Angeles

REDACTED

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

---

1 June 2009

Most Reverend Pietro Sambì  
Apostolic Nunciature  
3339 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008-3687

RE: Letter to His Eminence  
Cardinal William Cardinal Levada, Prefect  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith

Your Excellency:

Enclosed is a letter addressed to Cardinal William Levada, Prefect of the *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*, from Cardinal Roger Mahony.

I would respectfully request that you kindly forward the enclosed letter to the Congregation.

I am very grateful for your assistance in this matter. May the Lord continue to bless you and your ministry.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

REDACTED

Enclosure



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Archdiocese of Los Angeles

REDACTED

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

---

1 June 2009

His Eminence  
William Cardinal Levada, Prefect  
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith  
Piazza del S. Ufficio, 11  
00120 VATICAN CITY  
EUROPE

RE: Taxa to follow for the Rev. Msgr. Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros Case

Your Excellency,

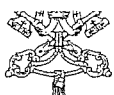
As customary a *taxa* for processing the above mentioned case will follow in the amount of \$500 payable to the Congregation for Doctrine of the Faith

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

REDACTED

Enclosure



CONGREGATIO  
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

00120 Città del Vaticano,  
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

9 June 2009

PROT. N. 186/2009 - 29496  
*(In responsione fiat mentio huius numeri)*

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Your Eminence,

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has received some documentation concerning the Reverend Manuel Sanchez, a priest of your Archdiocese.

You are kindly advised that the case has been assigned the Protocol Number 186/2009. It would be appreciated if all future correspondence could bear this indication.

This Dicastery will be pleased to inform you of the progress of the case in due course.

With every good wish, I remain,

Yours devotedly in the Lord,

Father Joseph Augustine DI NOIA, O.P.  
*Under-Secretary*

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His Eminence  
**Cardinal Roger Michael MAHONY**  
*Archbishop of Los Angeles*  
3424 Wilshire Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90010  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

No. 13004

June 11, 2009

*This No. Should Be Prefixed to the Answer*

REDACTED

**ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES**  
3424 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2202


Dear Father REDACTED

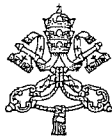
In the temporary absence of the Apostolic Nuncio, I acknowledge your kind letter of June 1, 2009, with enclosure.

Rest assured that the sealed packet addressed to His Eminence Cardinal William Levada, Prefect, *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith*, has been transmitted through the diplomatic pouch.

With respectful regards and best wishes, I am,

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

  
Msgr. Alexander Cifuentes Castaño  
*Chargé d' Affaires, a.i.*



CONGREGATIO  
PRO DOCTRINA FIDEI

12 February 2010  
00120 Città del Vaticano,  
Palazzo del S. Uffizio

186/2009 - 30971  
PROT. N. ....  
(In response fiat mentio huius numeri)

CONFIDENTIAL

Your Eminence,

The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith received on 15 June 2009 your correspondence regarding the **Rev. Manuel SANCHEZ ONTIVEROS**, a priest incardinated into the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, accused of the sexual abuse of minors.

After having carefully examined the *Acta* of the case, as well as other pertinent documentation presented to this Dicastery by the accused cleric and his canonical advocate, this Congregation grants the derogation from prescription for actions concerning the delict of sexual abuse of minors. You are thus authorized to initiate a penal judicial process to determine the truth of these allegations.

Your Eminence is kindly requested to nominate a Promoter of Justice to fulfil the requirements of can. 1721. During the penal trial at first instance care should be taken that the accused is fully aware of allegations and proofs, and that he enjoy the opportunity, via his canonical advocate, of a proper defence in accordance with can. 1723. On completion of the above-mentioned process, the tribunal is asked to forward the *Acta* to the Congregation.  
./..

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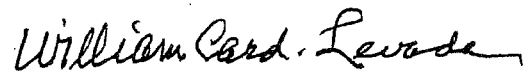
His Eminence  
**Roger Cardinal MAHONY**  
*Archbishop of Los Angeles*  
3424 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90010-2202  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Due to advanced age of the accused cleric, who steadfastly denies the allegations and has himself requested a canonical trial, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith would like to advise Your Eminence to proceed expeditiously in this matter.

With prayerful support and best wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William Card. Levada". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

William Cardinal LEVADA  
*Prefect*



MEMORANDUM

REDACTED

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

TO: Cardinal Mahony  
FROM: REDACTED  
RE: Sanchez Penal Trial  
COPY: REDACTED  
DATE: 15 March 2010

Recently, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith authorized you to initiate a penal judicial process in the case of Rev. Msgr. Manuel Sanchez. Due to his advanced age, the Congregation advised that Your Eminence proceed expeditiously in this matter.

Fr. REDACTED of San Francisco and Fr. REDACTED of Cheyenne have agreed to serve as judges on the case. Both of these men have experience in these matters and have been approved for service in other cases.

As for the third member and presiding judge of the *turnus*, REDACTED and I thought REDACTED would be a good choice. Since he is retired, he would have the time necessary to move the process along. Since he has already served on five trials, usually as the presiding judge, he is experienced enough to enforce timely action in the matter. He, too, has expressed his willingness to serve in this capacity.

Since REDACTED does not have a degree in canon law, it would be necessary to request an indult from him to serve as judge. This would seem to pose no problem since such an indult has already been granted multiple times, and he already has an indult to serve as judge in our tribunal in marriage nullity cases as well.

If these names meet with your approval, we would move to the next necessary steps.

*Approval as proposed*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
+ Roger Card. Mahony  
26 March 2010



REDACTED

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cardinal Mahony  
FROM: REDACTED  
RE: Sanchez Penal Trial  
COPY: REDACTED  
DATE: 15 March 2010

REDACTED

Recently, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith authorized you to initiate a penal judicial process in the case of Rev. Msgr. Manuel Sanchez. Due to his advanced age, the Congregation advised that Your Eminence proceed expeditiously in this matter.

Fr. REDACTED of San Francisco and Fr. REDACTED of Cheyenne have agreed to serve as judges on the case. Both of these men have experience in these matters and have been approved for service in other cases.

As for the third member and presiding judge of the *turnus*, REDACTED and I thought REDACTED would be a good choice. Since he is retired, he would have the time necessary to move the process along. Since he has already served on five trials, usually as the presiding judge, he is experienced enough to enforce timely action in the matter. He, too, has expressed his willingness to serve in this capacity.

Since REDACTED does not have a degree in canon law, it would be necessary to request an indult from him to serve as judge. This would seem to pose no problem since such an indult has already been granted multiple times, and he already has an indult to serve as judge in our tribunal in marriage nullity cases as well.

If these names meet with your approval, we would move to the next necessary steps.

REDACTED

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**From:** REDACTED  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 18, 2010 10:23 AM  
**To:** REDACTED  
**Cc:** REDACTED  
**Subject:** draft letter plus instructions  
**Attachments:** Sanchez, ltr re trial, 3-19-10.doc

REDACTED

Attached is an electronic version of my draft of a letter to Manuel Sanchez. You will find a signed original on your desk. If you need to revise the letter, then do so and have either <sup>REDACTED</sup> or Fr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> sign it for me.

I am hoping that you will find the letter OK as is, with the possible exception of the last sentence of the 2nd to last paragraph. If you don't like it, perhaps the best option is simply to drop it and leave everything else as is. The reason I put it in is that I want the recipients to be aware that as far we are concerned the case is as strong as it's ever going to be. But if you doubt the wisdom of this course, I will not argue.

The further idea is that along with the letter we will enclose 1) the CDF's letter so they know exactly what it said, and 2) the complete acts of the case as we sent them to Rome. <sup>REDACTED</sup> has already prepared the copies and had them bound. They are in your office in Fr. <sup>REDACTED</sup> hand truck.

See you on the 26th.

REDACTED

3/19/2010

CCI 006948

**CMOB #** J64

**Considered by CMOB**

**Inactive Date** 4/7/2009

**Case Name** Sacristy

**Active Case?**

**Priest Name** Sanchez Ontiveros, Manuel

**DOB** 3/2/1930

**Ethnicity** Spanish

**Diocese** Archdiocese of Los Angeles

**Canon State** Prelate of Honor/Chaplain of His Holiness

**Religious Order**

**Incardination** Los Angeles

**Date Of Ordination** 1954

**Clergy Status** Retired with No Faculties

**Clergy (Faculties)**

**Religious**

**Diocesan**

**Description**

**Deacon**

**DOB**

**Diocese**

**Ethnicity**

**Ordination**

**Status**

**Date Referred to Vicar** 10/22/2003

**Date Of Alleged Incident** 1981

**Alleged Victim** Minor Male

**Multiple Victims**

**Accusers**

**Investigation Complete**

**Investigator Name** REDACTED

**Removed From Ministry**

**Date Removed From Ministry**

**Date Returned To Ministry**

**Case Disposition** Substantiated

**Disposition Comments**

**Intervention**

**Description** Retired pastor emeritus, Hispanic, age 73, ordained 1954, incardinated 1976. In April 2003 REDACTED received a call from a concerned priest regarding a 32 yr. old man alleging abuse by Fr. in 1981-82 at the age of 7 or 10 years when he was an altar boy. Fr. would approach the boy from behind while in the sacristy and caress his face, press his body against the boy, expose himself and have the boy hold his penis. Fr. tried anal intercourse but was unable, at which point the boy stopped him. This occurred on weekends over a period of 7-8 weeks. Fr. denies allegations. There were other complaints in 1989.

\*\*\*\*\*

In April 2006, two women appeared at Fr's parish and alleged that he had abused them as minors. Flyers with the allegations were handed out to the public. Neither women has filed a formal complaint or lawsuit.

Case Status

October 22, 2003.	It was the consensus of the Board that Fr. X undergo a psychological assessment, that his activities be restricted – i.e., that he not be involved in public ministry – pending the results of the assessment, that the investigator investigate the matter further and report his findings to the Board. It is also the consensus of the Board that there is no need to notify the parish until the Board considers the case further.
December 10, 2003	There is insufficient evidence to establish the truth of the allegations. However, in view of the past activities of the priest and his out-going nature, boundary training and an appropriate protocol setting forth reasonable restrictions and limitations on his conduct is warranted.
January 28, 2004	Msgr. Cox stated that after Consultation, it was agreed that announcements will be made this weekend at Fr. X's parishes prior to media cover.
July 13, 2005	Msgr Cox will meet with Father when he returns to Los Angeles. Case should remain in active file
April 26, 2006	Two women appeared at Father's parish with a flyer stating that they had been abused by Father when they were minors. One claimant is not willing to be interviewed at this time. The other claimant has not been located. Father denies allegations. Board requested information on prior complaints.
May 10, 2006	REDACTED sent a letter to the one known claimant urging her to agree to be interviewed.
October 25, 2006	The two women have not agreed to be interviewed REDACTED will make another attempt to interview them. If unsuccessful, the REDACTED will write them letters urging them to consent to an interview. The Board received information on the prior 1989 complaints.
November 15, 2006	REDACTED located and interviewed one of the women who was in the recent demonstration. She stated that Fr X had attempted to fondle her. She also stated that she knew of other women who had similar experiences. She provided the names of additional individuals who will be interviewed. The Board recommended that Father X's faculties should be removed pending further investigation and that he should submit to a psychological assessment. Father's pastor will be notified.
November 28, 2006	Letter sent to Cardinal with Board's recommendations.
November 29, 2006	Cardinal concurs with Board's recommendations.
January 24, 2007	Fr has now returned from his travel and the V/C will meet with him in the near future. Faculties will be removed and he will be requested to undergo a psychological evaluation

May 16, 2007	Fr X has hired an attorney who is also a cano. . . . The attorney has written letters to the V/C alleging that Fr X has been denied "due process". Fr X also contacted two Board members, and has made the same claim. The V/C expressed concern that if the case was taken to Rome, Rome might require that Fr X be returned to ministry based on the evidence that has been accumulated so far. The Board recommended that Fr X should be interviewed by REDACTED along with those individuals whom Fr X claims can support his innocence.
June 20, 2007	The V/C stated that a summary of all the steps taken in this case will be presented at the next meeting. REDACTED has interviewed one of the individuals identified by Fr X and he is setting up interviews with others.
November 13, 2007	An interview with Fr X was scheduled for November 13 but was cancelled by his canonical lawyer. A new date has been set for the interview.
February 02, 2008	The canonical advocate for Fr X has requested that the Board delay a decision in this case pending receipt of more information from the advocate.
March 25, 2009	The Board concluded that the investigation into the allegations against Fr Sanchez was both adequate and thorough. The Board then made the following recommendations concerning Fr Sanchez:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.He should not continue to be a priest</li> <li>2.He should not participate in any public ministry</li> <li>3.He should have no access to his former rectory</li> <li>4.Steps should be taken to determine if he has committed a crime according to canon law</li> <li>5.A letter should be written to the bishop where he resides in Spain explaining the allegations and the actions of the Archdiocese in response to the allegations</li> <li>6.The complainants should be contacted and told of the actions the Archdiocese is taking in response to their allegations</li> <li>7.His former parish should be notified of his change of status.</li> </ol>
April 07, 2009	Cardinal concurs with the Board's recommendations.
April 07, 2009	A letter containing the Board's recommendations were sent to the Cardinal.

*Follow Up*

*Follow Up Date*

*Legal Proceedings*

*Legal Proceedings?*

*Court Cases Settled*

*Response*

*Response Date*

*Sent To Rome?*       *Date Sent To Rome*

*Canonical Trial*       *Canonical Trial Date*

*Canonical Disposition*

*Page*



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**Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board**

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April 3, 2009

CONFIDENTIAL--  
Personnel Matter

TO: Cardinal Roger M. Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

FROM: REDACTED  
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board

SUBJECT: Monsignor Manuel Sanchez (CMOB #064)

The Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board (Board) has concluded its review of the allegations against Monsignor Manuel Sanchez. This report is submitted to both summarize the case and communicate the Board's findings and recommendations to you.

In April 2003, a man reported to the Archdiocese that Monsignor Sanchez raped him when he was about 10 years old. In the initial complaint, the man alleged that Sanchez grabbed him from the rear and forced his penis into his rectum. He alleged the rape took place in the room where "left-over bread and wine were taken." The allegation was assigned to a Canonical Investigator with prior experience as a law enforcement officer. Unfortunately, the complainant was represented by counsel and could not be interviewed to clarify the location of the rape and other details of the case. The investigation was concluded in December 2003 and presented to the Board. The Board concluded that the allegations lacked credibility for several reasons, chief of which were the complainant's extensive criminal history and the improbability that a rape could occur in a high traffic area like the sacristy. The case was closed and the Board recommended to the Cardinal that Sanchez remain in ministry. The Cardinal concurred with that recommendation. This complainant was a plaintiff in the Clergy I lawsuit and he received a mid-range settlement.

In April 2006, two women participated in a public demonstration at the church where Sanchez had been the pastor. They claimed that Sanchez molested them when they were minors. One of the women agreed to be interviewed by the Canonical Investigator. She stated she went to Sanchez for her first confession when she was about seven or eight years old. She was



Monsignor Manuel Sanchez (CMOB #064)

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CONFIDENTIAL--

Personnel Matter

nervous when she entered the confessional and did not have anything to confess. Sanchez asked her to come to his side of the confessional so she did. She went to sit on a chair next to Sanchez, but he told her to sit on his lap. She sat on his lap as he told her, then he put his hand under her dress. His actions made her even more nervous and scared. When his hand reached the edge of her panties she started crying and jumped off of his lap. Sanchez became angry with her, told her she had been bad and needed to go say three Our Fathers and two Hail Marys. He also told her not to say anything to anyone about what had happened. She said that the other woman in the demonstration experienced a similar incident during confession. However, the other woman would not agree to be interviewed. Nevertheless, the investigator located and interviewed the woman's former 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. The teacher recalled the woman complaining about Sanchez touching her after going to him for confession. The teacher said she reported that complaint to the school principal.

The investigation into these allegations caused the Archdiocese to review every allegation that had been made against Monsignor Sanchez. Thirty-four interviews were conducted into all aspects of the complaints and those interviews shed new light on many of the earlier complaints. For example, the 2003 rape allegation was discounted at the time due to the improbability of it occurring in the high-traffic sacristy area. However, in the reinvestigation the complainant clarified that most of the alleged touching or rubbing occurred in areas around the church grounds and in the school's equipment room. The investigator was also able to locate a room adjacent to the sacristy, which the complainant confirmed to be the room where the alleged rape occurred.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

However, during her interview she offhandedly mentioned that Sanchez often had young girls including herself sit on his lap. She saw him do that many times and described it as a common and spontaneous occurrence. She did not view his actions as inappropriate, but admitted it became more uncomfortable after she turned sixteen.

In 1987, the school principal received a complaint from a school mother that Sanchez had asked her sixth grade daughter to sit on his lap during confession and then fondled her. The principal reported the allegation to her superior, but no action was taken. In 1989, after

becoming aware of the allegation that Sanchez REDACTED the principal communicated the 1987 complaint to the Vicar for Clergy. In the re-investigation, the mother was located and confirmed having complained to the school principal about the priest fondling her daughter on two occasions during confession. The daughter now resides in Mexico and was not available for interview.

As a result of the re-investigation, four separate women were located who reported that Sanchez had them sit on his lap and touch them inappropriately during Confession. Three more women supported the allegation that Sanchez had young girls sit on his lap in various settings. One of those women also reported that, as a young girl, Sanchez had her sit on his lap during Confession, but he did not touch her and she was not offended. In contrast, six women stated they never experienced any inappropriate behavior by Sanchez when they were students. In order to test if this was gender specific behavior, three of the complainants' male classmates were located and interviewed. All three stated that at no time were they asked to sit on Sanchez' lap during Confession.

In November 2007, Monsignor Sanchez was interviewed in the presence of his attorney. He was informed of each accuser's identity and the substance of their allegations. He denied knowing the rape victim and denied that allegation. He remembered some of the girls, but did not remember others. He adamantly denied that he ever had a girl sit on his lap during confession or at any other time and he denied every sexually molesting any girls.

The Board has reviewed this case several times over the years. Recently, we have spent many hours over two sessions reviewing the investigation in great detail. The Board's diversity including members with experience as mental health care professionals, law enforcement, the judiciary, abuse victims and their parents, religious and clergy all helped to ensure that every aspect of this case was fully explored.

By Charter, the Board is responsible for ensuring that all allegations of sexual misconduct by a priest or deacon are investigated thoroughly. Consequently, the Board's first duty is to determine if all reasonable investigative avenues have been pursued and exhausted. We have considered that aspect of this case and find that this matter has been investigated thoroughly. In that regard, the Board was profuse in its appreciation for the outstanding work done by Canonical Investigator REDACTED. He has earned the Board's utmost confidence in his ability to find the truth and accurately communicate his findings.

With the adequacy of the investigation established, it now becomes the Board's responsibility to recommend an appropriate disposition. We have discussed this matter extensively, ever mindful of our responsibility to the people involved as well as to the Church itself. In cases such as this it is important to be mindful of the standards under which the Board must weigh the evidence presented to it. First is the Archdiocesan Policy on Sexual Abuse by Clergy which defines sexual abuse of a minor as an act(s) of sexual molestation, sexual exploitation or other behavior by which an adult uses a minor as an object of sexual gratification. Second is the standard of justice which requires that a sustained allegation must be supported by

credible evidence leading a reasonable person to conclude that the alleged acts occurred, that the accused cleric committed those acts and that the acts constitute sexual abuse of a minor.

We are also mindful that Monsignor Sanchez is retired, temporarily prohibited from exercising public ministry, has been identified as an alleged child molester in several newspaper articles and that a substantial sum was paid to one of his accusers in response to a civil suit. However, our duty as Catholics and members of this Board is to review the facts of this case objectively and make a recommendation of conscience based upon the evidence that has been gathered. Having done that, we are unanimous in our conclusion that the facts in this case clearly meet the burden of proof required to support the conclusion that Monsignor Sanchez engaged in the sexual abuse of minors. Consequently, we unanimously make the following recommendations:

- Recommendation No. 1:** We recommend that Monsignor Sanchez be removed from ministry permanently. *I concur -*
- Recommendation No. 2:** We recommend that he be prohibited from maintaining any accommodation or other presence in any rectory or church facility. *I concur -*
- Recommendation No. 3:** We recommend that his permanent removal be announced at any parish with which he has maintained a priestly relationship. *I concur -*
- Recommendation No. 4:** As he occasionally travels to Spain, we recommend that the Church in Spain be notified in writing of his permanent removal from ministry. *I concur -*
- Recommendation No. 5:** As many of these acts occurred during the Sacrament of Confession, we recommend that a Canonists review this case thoroughly to determine if a charge(s) should be filed to seek his laicization. *I - concur*
- Recommendation No. 6:** We recommend that the complainants be notified of the Archbishop's final decision on this matter. *I concur*

With these findings and recommendations, the Board concludes this case and closes this file.

Respectfully submitted,  
REDACTED

*I concur in all six (6) recommendations,*

*+ Roger Carl Mahony*

*7 April 2009*

c: Monsignor Gonzales, Vicar for Clergy



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**Archdiocese of Los Angeles  
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board**

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April 3, 2009

CONFIDENTIAL--  
Personnel Matter

TO: Cardinal Roger M. Mahony  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

FROM: REDACTED  
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board

SUBJECT: Monsignor Manuel Sanchez (CMOB #064)

The Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board (Board) has concluded its review of the allegations against Monsignor Manuel Sanchez. This report is submitted to both summarize the case and communicate the Board's findings and recommendations to you.

In April 2003, a man reported to the Archdiocese that Monsignor Sanchez raped him when he was about 10 years old. In the initial complaint, the man alleged that Sanchez grabbed him from the rear and forced his penis into his rectum. He alleged the rape took place in the room where "left-over bread and wine were taken." The allegation was assigned to a Canonical Investigator with prior experience as a law enforcement officer. Unfortunately, the complainant was represented by counsel and could not be interviewed to clarify the location of the rape and other details of the case. The investigation was concluded in December 2003 and presented to the Board. The Board concluded that the allegations lacked credibility for several reasons, chief of which were the complainant's extensive criminal history and the improbability that a rape could occur in a high traffic area like the sacristy. The case was closed and the Board recommended to the Cardinal that Sanchez remain in ministry. The Cardinal concurred with that recommendation. This complainant was a plaintiff in the Clergy I lawsuit and he received a mid-range settlement.

In April 2006, two women participated in a public demonstration at the church where Sanchez had been the pastor. They claimed that Sanchez molested them when they were minors. One of the women agreed to be interviewed by the Canonical Investigator. She stated she went to Sanchez for her first confession when she was about seven or eight years old. She was

Monsignor Manuel Sanchez (CMOB #064)

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Personnel Matter

nervous when she entered the confessional and did not have anything to confess. Sanchez asked her to come to his side of the confessional so she did. She went to sit on a chair next to Sanchez, but he told her to sit on his lap. She sat on his lap as he told her, then he put his hand under her dress. His actions made her even more nervous and scared. When his hand reached the edge of her panties she started crying and jumped off of his lap. Sanchez became angry with her, told her she had been bad and needed to go say three Our Fathers and two Hail Marys. He also told her not to say anything to anyone about what had happened. She said that the other woman in the demonstration experienced a similar incident during confession. However, the other woman would not agree to be interviewed. Nevertheless, the investigator located and interviewed the woman's former 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. The teacher recalled the woman complaining about Sanchez touching her after going to him for confession. The teacher said she reported that complaint to the school principal.

The investigation into these allegations caused the Archdiocese to review every allegation that had been made against Monsignor Sanchez. Thirty-four interviews were conducted into all aspects of the complaints and those interviews shed new light on many of the earlier complaints. For example, the 2003 rape allegation was discounted at the time due to the improbability of it occurring in the high-traffic sacristy area. However, in the reinvestigation the complainant clarified that most of the alleged touching or rubbing occurred in areas around the church grounds and in the school's equipment room. The investigator was also able to locate a room adjacent to the sacristy, which the complainant confirmed to be the room where the alleged rape occurred.

In July 1989, a twenty-five year old woman told the Vicar for Clergy that she had attended a youth retreat when she was twenty-one years old. At the retreat, she had a face-to-face confession with Sanchez. During the confession Sanchez asked her to sit on his lap and she jokingly dismissed the request. However, during confession he began to rub her leg, so she left the church and did not come back during the remainder of the retreat. In the re-investigation the complainant was re-interviewed by a Canonical Investigator. The new interview disclosed that Sanchez touched her leg several times during different confessions. She said he would start by touching her leg a little bit at a time and would continue until she pushed him away. These incidents started when she was about eighteen years old.

In November 1989, a twenty-four year old woman wrote a letter to the Archdiocese  
REDACTED

REDACTED The complainant was re-interviewed for this investigation REDACTED  
REDACTED However, during her interview she offhandedly mentioned that Sanchez often had young girls including herself sit on his lap. She saw him do that many times and described it as a common and spontaneous occurrence. She did not view his actions as inappropriate, but admitted it became more uncomfortable after she turned sixteen.

In 1987, the school principal received a complaint from a school mother that Sanchez had asked her sixth grade daughter to sit on his lap during confession and then fondled her. The principal reported the allegation to her superior, but no action was taken. In 1989, after

becoming aware of the allegation that Sanchez REDACTED the principal communicated the 1987 complaint to the Vicar for Clergy. In the re-investigation, the mother was located and confirmed having complained to the school principal about the priest fondling her daughter on two occasions during confession. The daughter now resides in Mexico and was not available for interview.

As a result of the re-investigation, four separate women were located who reported that Sanchez had them sit on his lap and touch them inappropriately during Confession. Three more women supported the allegation that Sanchez had young girls sit on his lap in various settings. One of those women also reported that, as a young girl, Sanchez had her sit on his lap during Confession, but he did not touch her and she was not offended. In contrast, six women stated they never experienced any inappropriate behavior by Sanchez when they were students. In order to test if this was gender specific behavior, three of the complainants' male classmates were located and interviewed. All three stated that at no time were they asked to sit on Sanchez' lap during Confession.

In November 2007, Monsignor Sanchez was interviewed in the presence of his attorney. He was informed of each accuser's identity and the substance of their allegations. He denied knowing the rape victim and denied that allegation. He remembered some of the girls, but did not remember others. He adamantly denied that he ever had a girl sit on his lap during confession or at any other time and he denied every sexually molesting any girls.

The Board has reviewed this case several times over the years. Recently, we have spent many hours over two sessions reviewing the investigation in great detail. The Board's diversity including members with experience as mental health care professionals, law enforcement, the judiciary, abuse victims and their parents, religious and clergy all helped to ensure that every aspect of this case was fully explored.

By Charter, the Board is responsible for ensuring that all allegations of sexual misconduct by a priest or deacon are investigated thoroughly. Consequently, the Board's first duty is to determine if all reasonable investigative avenues have been pursued and exhausted. We have considered that aspect of this case and find that this matter has been investigated thoroughly. In that regard, the Board was profuse in its appreciation for the outstanding work done by Canonical Investigator REDACTED. He has earned the Board's utmost confidence in his ability to find the truth and accurately communicate his findings.

With the adequacy of the investigation established, it now becomes the Board's responsibility to recommend an appropriate disposition. We have discussed this matter extensively, ever mindful of our responsibility to the people involved as well as to the Church itself. In cases such as this it is important to be mindful of the standards under which the Board must weigh the evidence presented to it. First is the Archdiocesan Policy on Sexual Abuse by Clergy which defines sexual abuse of a minor as an act(s) of sexual molestation, sexual exploitation or other behavior by which an adult uses a minor as an object of sexual gratification. Second is the standard of justice which requires that a sustained allegation must be supported by

Monsignor Manuel Sanchez (CMOB #064)  
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CONFIDENTIAL--  
Personnel Matter

credible evidence leading a reasonable person to conclude that the alleged acts occurred, that the accused cleric committed those acts and that the acts constitute sexual abuse of a minor.

We are also mindful that Monsignor Sanchez is retired, temporarily prohibited from exercising public ministry, has been identified as an alleged child molester in several newspaper articles and that a substantial sum was paid to one of his accusers in response to a civil suit. However, our duty as Catholics and members of this Board is to review the facts of this case objectively and make a recommendation of conscience based upon the evidence that has been gathered. Having done that, we are unanimous in our conclusion that the facts in this case clearly meet the burden of proof required to support the conclusion that Monsignor Sanchez engaged in the sexual abuse of minors. Consequently, we unanimously make the following recommendations:

- Recommendation No. 1:** We recommend that Monsignor Sanchez be removed from ministry permanently.
- Recommendation No. 2:** We recommend that he be prohibited from maintaining any accommodation or other presence in any rectory or church facility.
- Recommendation No. 3:** We recommend that his permanent removal be announced at any parish with which he has maintained a priestly relationship.
- Recommendation No. 4:** As he occasionally travels to Spain, we recommend that the Church in Spain be notified in writing of his permanent removal from ministry.
- Recommendation No. 5:** As many of these acts occurred during the Sacrament of Confession, we recommend that a Canonists review this case thoroughly to determine if a charge(s) should be filed to seek his laicization.
- Recommendation No. 6:** We recommend that the complainants be notified of the Archbishop's final decision on this matter.

With these findings and recommendations, the Board concludes this case and closes this file.

Respectfully submitted,

REDACTED

c: Monsignor Gonzales, Vicar for Clergy

**CMOB 064 Summary**

**Priest Background:** This case involves a 79 year old Archdiocesan priest who was ordained in 1954. He is currently retired with no faculties. His faculties were removed by decree on 1/26/07.

**Complaints:**

**Complainant #1 (C1)**

In April 2003, C1, a male born in 1971, reported to the Victims Assistance Ministry <sup>REDACTED</sup> that in approximately 1981 he had been sexually abused by the priest (064). In the initial information reported by C1 was documented on a Clergy Misconduct form and reflects that C1 accused the priest of grabbing him from the rear and put his penis inside of him. C1 reported that the incident happened in the room where left-over bread and wine were taken. The initial investigation in this matter was conducted by and reported to CMOB by <sup>REDACTED</sup>. Based on a review of the documents from the first investigation, it appears that the location of the alleged incident was assumed to be the sacristy.

The first investigation was concluded in December 2003 and subsequently presented to CMOB. The allegations made by C1 were not substantiated and the credibility of C1 was in question for several reasons, including, but not limited to, C1's criminal past, drug usage, and primarily, because the sacristy was an active venue during Sunday mornings and completely inhospitable for the activity C1 described.

The case was closed and the priest remained in ministry. C1 was a plaintiff in the Clergy I lawsuit.

**Complainant #2 (C2)**

<sup>REDACTED</sup>

*MOST COMPLEX --  
① RAPE OF MINOR BOY  
② YOUNG GIRLS SITTING ON LAB POOL CONFESSION  
C1 BY  
CONSISTENT FROM WOMAN WHO HADN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN YEARS OR KNOW*



REDACTED

**Complainant #3 (C3)**

REDACTED

REDACTED

In subsequent interviews as part of this investigation, C3 reported that it was common for the priest to have young girls sit in his lap, including herself. She saw him have girls sit in his lap and noted that it was part of his "M. O." with the girls. Regarding herself, she described sitting on the priest's lap as a common and spontaneous occurrence. She opined that his actions never seemed contrived and she did not view them as inappropriate. She volunteered that she would have to admit that as she got older, about the age of sixteen, it felt more uncomfortable.

**Complainant #4 (C4)**

In July 1989, the school principal reported to Vicar for Clergy that in 1987, the mother of C4, a female born in 1973, complained to her that some time around Easter, the priest had asked each of her two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession and then fondled them. In April 2006, the mother of C4 was located and confirmed having complained to the school principal about the priest having fondled C4 on two occasions during confession. C4 is married and resides in Mexico and was not available for interview.

1-26-07  
CMB  
RECOMMEND  
PACU CASE  
REMOVED  
←

**Complainants #5 & #6 (C5 & C6)**

APRIL 2006

C5 and C6, females born in 1971 and 1970, respectively, participated during a public demonstration at the church where the priest was a former pastor and claimed he had molested them when they were minors. C5 was subsequently interviewed and reported that when she was about seven or eight years old, she went to confession for the first time in order to make her First Communion. She recalled that when she entered the confessional she was nervous and did not have anything to confess. The priest asked her to come around to his side and when she did she noticed a chair to the left side of the priest. When she went to sit in the chair the priest told her not to sit in the chair, but in his lap. She sat in his lap as he told her and he put his hand under her dress. His actions made her even more nervous and scared. When his hand reached the edge of her panties she started crying and jumped off of his lap. The priest became angry with her, told her she had been bad and needed to go say three Our Fathers and two Hail Marys. He also told her not to say anything to anyone about what had happened. C5 also reported that C6 had also experienced a similar incident during confession.

C6 never made herself available for interview; however, her former 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher from 1982-1983, was interviewed and recalled C6 having complained about the priest after going to confession with him. She made a report to the school principal.

**Investigation:**

This case was reopened for investigation after the allegations made by C5 & C6 during the public demonstration in April 2006. Extensive investigation was conducted regarding all aspects of the allegations against the priest and included thirty-four interviews.

Regarding C1, it is noted that after the initial investigation in 2003, a mediation document signed by C1 was received which alleged that the priest abused him by doing the following:

- The priest penetrated C1's anus with his penis one time.
- Fondled C1's genitals over his clothes on multiple occasions.
- Fondled C1's buttocks over his clothes on multiple occasions.
- Rubbing his body against C1 on multiple occasions.
- Rubbing and massaging C1's body over his clothes on multiple occasions.
- Caressing C1's face, skin to skin, on multiple occasions.
- Giving C1 wine.

C1 was interviewed in January 2008, and provided a statement reaffirming his original allegations regarding the sexual abuse. He clarified that "not too much happened in the sacristy" and that most of the allegations involving touching or rubbing against him occurred in areas around the church grounds and in the equipment room of the school. C1 stated that he was anally raped by the priest one time and the incident occurred in a room located in a room adjacent to the sacristy. Subsequent investigation located a room adjacent to the sacristy as described by C1.

Regarding allegations of misconduct involving confessions or the priest having girls sit on his lap, four complaints exist regarding improper behavior with young girls during confession, statements from three additional women support allegations about the priest having young girls sit on his lap, six additional women reported having interacted with the priest when they were students and never experienced any inappropriate behavior.

Additionally, three men, two of whom were classmates with C5 and one with C6, were interviewed. All three reported having gone to confession with the priest, but at no time were they ever asked to sit on his lap.

**Interview with the priest:**

On November 20, 2007, the priest was interviewed in the presence of his attorney. The interview was audio tape-recorded by the investigator and the priest's attorney, and later transcribed.

During the interview, the priest was informed of the identity of each of the persons who made specific allegations of sexual misconduct against him, the nature of

those allegations and the identity of women who had reported that he had them sit on his lap as young girls, but were not offended by the behavior. The following points are noted regarding the priest's responses:

- He did not remember C1 and denied the specific allegations made against him by C1.
- He denied knowing C6.
- He denied knowing C4's family and that any parent ever complained about his behavior or attempted to talk to him

REDACTED

- He acknowledged knowing C3, but denied that he ever had her sit on his lap.
- He denied knowing C5.
- He did not remember the teacher who claimed she made a report to the principal regarding an incident involving C6.
- He denied ever having any girl sit on his lap during confession or at any time.
- He admitted to providing some input to the letter written in his support by a married couple.

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**Memorandum**

**To:** REDACTED

Monsignor Gabriel Gonzales  
Vicar for Clergy

REDACTED

**From:**

**Date:** February 9, 2009

**Subject:** Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
Canonical Investigation

**Reference:** Email from REDACTED dated December 26, 2008.

Referenced email outlined several pending issues which were discussed during a meeting on December 22, 2008 and that needed to be resolved in order to conclude this investigation.

The purpose of this memorandum is to document that the pending issues have been resolved as follows:

1. By Email dated January 6, 2009 REDACTED REDACTED advised that, according to REDACTED records REDACTED is the only plaintiff in regards to Manual Sanchez. Neither REDACTED REDACTED were found in a database search of plaintiffs or perpetrator information.

REDACTED advised that a review of settlement information revealed that REDACTED settlement was above the median range.

2. By Email dated February 5, 2009, REDACTED attorney, advised that she did not have any additional information.

3. By Email dated January 6, 2009, REDACTED also advised that Sanchez' file shows Sanchez P and C files REDACTED file REDACTED correspondence, and REDACTED work product. There is no information solely available to REDACTED. Therefore, there is nothing that REDACTED has that the ACC does not have.

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4. The letter written by REDACTED, was previously translated by the investigator and it represents an accurate translation; however, the following information, which was previously reported by Investigative Report dated June 23, 2008, is noted:

- On September 27, 2007, Sanchez wrote an email to REDACTED Chair of the CMOB, in which he stated, "On May 15, 2007, I had a telephone conversation with REDACTED who was at that time in Miami, Florida. She freely admitted that she had accused me falsely when she told her story in the Chancery. I asked her to provide me with a handwritten letter attesting to her admission. She did so immediately, although the letter is not so strongly worded as was the conversation on the telephone. She told me that her step-daughter had been a liar all her life and continues to be dishonest even now that she is married. She volunteered to testify by telephone from Santo Domingo, where she presently resides, to anyone from the Chancery or from the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board. She can be reached at this number REDACTED REDACTED. *(It should be noted that the letter does not state that the daughter had been a liar all her life as Sanchez states; however, Sanchez later did accurately translate the letter which reads, in part, that REDACTED yoto was not sure that her daughter was telling the truth at the time because lately she had been telling them things that were not true.)*

On September 27, 2007, REDACTED was re-contacted to confirm the information provided by Sanchez to REDACTED via email. REDACTED, reiterated that what she had told Sanchez was that, with time, she had doubts regarding whether or not his intentions were malicious, but at no time did she tell him that she had falsely accused him. She suggested to Sanchez that possibly through a dialogue between himself and REDACTED the issue could be resolved.

She continued that she has no doubts that the incident with REDACTED and Sanchez occurred, and what happened to REDACTED was very traumatic for her. She never told Sanchez that REDACTED had lied about the incident, but did, in the course of the conversation, tell him that her daughter, like most children, had, on occasion, not been completely honest with her.

She said Sanchez had called her sisters numerous times attempting to contact her and when he talked to her, he pressured her into writing a letter, which she did on the way to the airport. She stated that, based on the nature of their conversation and what Sanchez is now saying, he is not acting in good faith.

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5. It is noted that independent investigation was conducted by Sanchez' attorney and he submitted four signed declarations from four women, who attended Sacred Heart during the same time period as REDACTED and REDACTED asserting that they never experienced any inappropriate behavior on the part of Sanchez. One of the women, REDACTED was also interviewed by the investigator in this matter on two occasions and her statement was consistent with the information provided to Sanchez' attorney.

A by-product of reviewing school records to locate boys, who attended school at the same time as REDACTED, was locating records which revealed that some of the claims made by two of the women interviewed by Sanchez' attorney were not accurate. For example, REDACTED, reported that she was a classmate of REDACTED during 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and REDACTED was her best friend. She reported having seen REDACTED three years ago and REDACTED never told her anything about being abused. No school records were located for REDACTED and pupil classroom attendance records for REDACTED, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 1982-1983 and 1983-1984, respectively, did not show any record for REDACTED. Records show that REDACTED sisters, REDACTED attended Sacred Heart School in 1984-1985 and part of the 1985-1986 school year.

REDACTED was contacted on February 6, 2009 by telephone in El Paso, Texas. REDACTED was advised of the result of the records check which did not show her as a classmate of REDACTED insisted that she attended school at Sacred Heart and started school at the same time as her sisters, REDACTED. REDACTED was advised that REDACTED was no longer a student at Sacred Heart for the 1984-1985 school year. She then stated that the person that she was referring to in her signed statement was not REDACTED but possibly REDACTED. She was asked if she prepared the signed statement or if it was prepared for her by Sanchez's attorney. She advised that the statement was prepared by Sanchez's attorney and sent to her for her signature.

To summarize, in the course of this investigation, four complaints exist regarding improper behavior with young girls during confession, statements from three additional women support allegations about Sanchez having young girls sit on his lap, six additional women reported having interacted with Sanchez when they were students and never experienced any inappropriate behavior.

Additionally, to resolve the pending issues in this matter, three men, who were former students at Sacred Heart School, two of whom were classmates with REDACTED and one with REDACTED were interviewed. All three reported having gone to confession with Sanchez, but at no time were they ever asked to sit on his lap.

**Msgr Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros (CMOB #064)  
Review Dec 22, 2008**

7-6-89

REDACTED met with Msgr Curry, VC, to discuss three allegations of sexual misconduct by Msgr Sanchez:

REDACTED

1. Inappropriately touched their daughter<sup>REDACTED</sup> during confession.
  - The daughter was interviewed 3 weeks later.
  - About 3 ½ years earlier (@1986, 20/21 years old), Sanchez asked her to sit on his lap during confession.
  - When she did not, he rubbed her leg.
  - He touched her leg several times during confession. He always started by touching a little bit and would continue until she pushed him away.
  - She felt it was not just a touch, but a sexual overture (my words).
  
2. Made two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession. REDACTED said the school principal was aware of this incident.
  - The principal<sup>REDACTED</sup> was interviewed and recalled the allegation very well. In 1987<sup>REDACTED</sup> complained that Sanchez had her two daughters sit on his lap during confession and fondled them. She went to the Archdiocese alone once and with<sup>REDACTED</sup> a second time to report<sup>REDACTED</sup> allegations and the alleged affair between Sanchez and REDACTED Sanchez was very angry at what she had done and tried to get rid of her.
  - Another teacher<sup>REDACTED</sup> recalled that the<sup>REDACTED</sup> girls announced to the school that their 13 year old cousin had run away with a 21 year old man. The 13 year old's mother called them liars and REDACTED remove her children from the school.
  - On 4-28-06<sup>REDACTED</sup> was interviewed. Her daughter<sup>REDACTED</sup> now lives in Mexico and is unavailable for interview. REDACTED remembers telling the principal about Sanchez fondling<sup>REDACTED</sup> during confession<sup>REDACTED</sup> came home upset and said that Sanchez made her sit on his lap, then rubbed her back, legs and tried to touch her breast. At first<sup>REDACTED</sup> did not believe it until she saw<sup>REDACTED</sup> come out of the confessional in tears.

REDACTED

REDACTED  
REDACTED

5-12-03 REDACTED alleged that Sanchez forcibly sodomized him 22 years earlier (@1981) when REDACTED was about ten.

CCCC  
#

- According to REDACTED summary, the mediation documents submitted for this civil case "make this claim more plausible."

Sanchez adamantly denies all of the allegations. On 11-14-03 his civil attorney, REDACTED was interviewed. He pointed out that Sanchez has denied the first two allegations both verbally and in writing. "The only allegation that seemed credible was the affair w/ REDACTED, but that had been in the distant past and no good could come to anyone by exposing it now."<sup>1</sup>

According to REDACTED CMOB found insufficient evidence to establish the truth of REDACTED allegation and found it highly improbable that he committed that act; that the allegations involving the minors, even if true, amounted to possible boundary violations; as Sanchez is already retired, no removal of faculties or ministerial limitation was recommended; and, that the case be closed unless new relevant information is discovered.

4-11-06 During a protest at a church in Pomona, REDACTED and REDACTED REDACTED claimed Sanchez molested them when they were minors.

1. REDACTED was interviewed and said Sanchez had her sit on his lap for her first confession, put his hand under her dress, when his hand reached her panties she cried and jumped off his lap.
2. REDACTED will not be interviewed.
3. No independent corroboration has been found
4. A former classmate of the complainant's was approached by REDACTED sister who told her about Sanchez had abused REDACTED. The classmate felt that she was being recruited to make allegations against Sanchez. The classmate told the woman that those allegations were contrary to her experiences with Sanchez. The woman told her that REDACTED was trying to organize other girls against Sanchez.
5. On 1-26-07, Sanchez faculties were suspended pending resolution of this matter
6. The summary by REDACTED REDACTED refers to, "...the investigation has uncovered circumstances that tend to impugn the credibility of the two women making the new allegation..." I have no idea what that evidence may be.

According to REDACTED there has been no CMOB action on these allegations.

TO DO: 1- W/ ATTORNEYS ANYTHING?  
 2- \$ CIVIL MEDIATION?  
 3- LTR FROM ~~ADIX~~ REDACTED TRANSLATED  
~~SMITH~~  
~~2011~~

<sup>1</sup> Sanchez Case Summary by REDACTED, known date.

4 - REMOVE SAMPLE 2013  
BOYS & GIRL CLASSMATES (A)  
CNO SITTING AT MY COMPRESSION



**Subject:** MSGR MANUEL SANCHEZ CMOB #064

**From:** REDACTED

**Date:** Fri, 26 Dec 2008 14:21:16 -0800

**To:** REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

On Monday 12-22-08, we met to review this case. It was decided that REDACTED has the canonical lead and that REDACTED would provide investigative support for this case. We also concluded that the following work needs to be done before to conclude this investigation:

- ✓ 1. Double check to make sure that only REDACTED was part of the civil suits. If so, was his settlement in the median range?
- ✓ 2. REDACTED attorney needs to be contacted and asked if he found anything we need to know about.
- ✓ 3. The attorney representing the Archdiocese needs to be contacted to see if he found anything we need to know about.
- ✓ 4. The letter from REDACTED needs to be translated by someone other than the accused.
- ✓ 5. We need to ask 2 or 3 boys and 2 or 3 girls who made their first communion at about the same time as the complainants if Sanchez had just about everyone sit on his lap or just a few of the girls.

So, the status of this case is returned to Canonical Services for further investigation. Everyone agreed that the follow-up work could be completed quickly. So, I will have REDACTED ask everyone to bring their schedule with them to the January CMOB meeting so we can agendaize a special meeting in February to review this case.

Thanks,

REDACTED

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## Investigative Report

**To:** REDACTED

Monsignor Gabriel Gonzales  
Vicar for Clergy

REDACTED

**From:**

**Date:** June 23, 2008

**Subject:** Canonical Investigation of Monsignor Manuel Sanchez

**Reference:** Report of REDACTED Canonical Auditor, dated December 6, 2003, setting forth the details of canonical investigation of Monsignor Sanchez, which was conducted as a result of allegations of sexual abuse made by REDACTED against Sanchez.

**Predication:** The canonical investigation of Sanchez was reopened on April 11, 2006 and was prompted by new allegations against Sanchez by two adult females REDACTED REDACTED who, on April 9, 2006, during a public demonstration at Sacred Heart Church, Pomona, California, claimed they were molested as minors by Sanchez.

**Summary of Investigation:** On April 12, 2006, the auditor met with Sanchez, at which time he denied knowing REDACTED or the nature of the allegations they were making. He also provided the names of REDACTED REDACTED who he advised had been recently contacted by someone related to the two women, who was attempting to recruit them into making an allegation against him. In a subsequent telephone call, Sanchez provided the names of REDACTED REDACTED as persons who could provide information on his behalf. He specifically advised that he had been told by REDACTED that REDACTED had paid people to demonstrate on April 9, 2006. Sanchez requested that the auditor conduct interviews of the persons he identified.

The persons identified by Sanchez were interviewed. The information provided by REDACTED revealed that she had been contacted on March 27 or 28, 2006, by REDACTED the sister of REDACTED, to talk to her about the sexual abuse by

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Sanchez of REDACTED REDACTED also told her that REDACTED REDACTED and possibly four or five other girls had been molested by Sanchez. REDACTED described the molestation of the girls as Sanchez having them sit on his lap while he fondled them. REDACTED interpreted REDACTED visit as an attempt to convince her that the allegations made by REDACTED were true and to recruit her to also claim she had been molested by Sanchez.

REDACTED, in her interview, advised that REDACTED was accompanied by several other persons, including some bodyguards, as part of the demonstration on April 9, 2006. She heard from a friend that REDACTED had paid his bodyguards \$100.00 for their services.

The others identified by Sanchez provided favorable statements regarding their own interaction with Sanchez, noting that they had never experienced any inappropriate behavior from him. The interviews were documented as separate reports and submitted to the main confidential file+.

On April 15, 2006, REDACTED was briefly interviewed and acknowledged her participation in the April 9, 2006 demonstration. However, because of another appointment she was not available for a detailed interview. She advised that she would contact the auditor to arrange an interview with herself and REDACTED

On April 24, 2006, REDACTED was again contacted at her residence. She advised she was not ready or comfortable with being interviewed at that time, but would be willing to do so at a later date. She said that she had been in contact with REDACTED REDACTED who had agreed to be interviewed, but also at a later date. REDACTED stated that she would contact the auditor to schedule a date for the interview once she was ready.

REDACTED did not provide any statement as to the nature of the abuse which she was alleging. The only information available describing what was possibly being alleged was provided by REDACTED on April 15, 2006, when she said she was told by REDACTED that the molestation involved Sanchez having the girls sit on his lap while he fondled them.

A review of the referenced report prepared by REDACTED revealed that similar allegations accusing Sanchez of having girls sit on his lap and fondling them had surfaced during a 1989 inquiry.

On November 13, 2006, REDACTED, provided a statement regarding her claim of having been molested by Sanchez. She explained that when she was about seven or eight years old she went to confession for the first time in order to make her First Communion. She said all of the students were taken from school to the church for confession the week before they were scheduled to make their First Communion. She recalled that when she entered the confessional she was nervous and

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did not have anything to confess. Sanchez asked her to come around to his side and when she did, she noticed a chair to the left side of Sanchez. When she went to sit in the chair Sanchez told her not to sit in the chair, but in his lap. She sat in his lap as he told her and he put his hand under her dress. His actions made her even more nervous and scared. When his hand reached the edge of her panties she started crying and jumped off of his lap. Sanchez became angry with her, told her she had been bad and needed to go say three Our Fathers and two Hail Marys. He also told her not to say anything to anyone about what had happened. When she left the confessional she was crying, but no one asked her what had happened. She noted that there were teachers and teacher's aides outside who saw her crying.

On November 15, 2006, the auditor reported to the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board on this matter. The results of the investigation, to date, were reported and a summary of allegations that were made against Msgr. Manuel Sanchez in 1989 were also presented. Those allegations are summarized as follows:

1. **Allegation:** Msgr. Sanchez asked a girl to sit on his lap during confession and was rubbing her leg.

**Details:** On July 6, 1989, REDACTED, and her husband advised Msgr. Thomas J. Curry, Vicar for Clergy, that in about 1986 Sanchez inappropriately touched their daughter REDACTED. On July 26, 1989, Msgrs. Curry and REDACTED met with REDACTED, age 24, and her mother. REDACTED reported that about three and a half years earlier she attended a youth retreat and had a face-to-face confession with Sanchez. According to REDACTED, Sanchez asked her to sit on his lap and she dismissed the request jokingly. However, during the confession, he rubbed her leg. She left the church after that incident and did not return.

2. **Allegation:** Msgr. Sanchez asked a 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl to sit on his lap, while he rubbed her back, legs and tried to touch her breast.

**Details:** On July 6, 1989, the REDACTED also alleged that Sanchez asked two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession. In response to the allegation, on July 7, 1989, Msgr. Curry met with REDACTED the school principal. She reported to Msgr. Curry that in 1987, REDACTED REDACTED told her that some time around Easter, Sanchez had asked each of her two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession and then fondled them.

**Note:** On April 28, 2006, REDACTED was located and interviewed via telephone. REDACTED said she could not recall the exact dates, but did remember making a report to the Principal about Sanchez fondling her daughter REDACTED during confession. She said REDACTED was born in 1973 and now resides in Aguas Calientes, Mexico with her husband. She has

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another daughter, <sup>REDACTED</sup> born in 1975, who was also a student at Sacred Heart at the same time as <sup>REDACTED</sup> is also married and lives in Zacatecas, Mexico.

She continued that it was a common practice for the school to take the students to confession during the weekdays and Sanchez would hear their confessions. It was during a weekday confession, while at school, that <sup>REDACTED</sup> came home upset and frightened. <sup>REDACTED</sup> told her she did not want to go to confession with Sanchez because he insisted on face-to-face confessions and then he placed her on his lap. Once she was sitting on his lap, Sanchez began to rub her back, then her legs and then tried to touch her breast, but she did not allow him to do so. At first, she did not believe <sup>REDACTED</sup> but later, when she was present with <sup>REDACTED</sup> at church for confession, she observed <sup>REDACTED</sup> coming out of the confessional crying. <sup>REDACTED</sup> told her Sanchez had done the same thing again. She immediately went to the confessional to speak to Sanchez, but he would not come out. Afterwards, she spoke to the secretary at the school and the Principal and told them what had happened. She made a request of the Principal that her daughters not go to confession with Sanchez, but another priest, possibly <sup>REDACTED</sup>

3. <sup>REDACTED</sup>

On November 30, 2006 <sup>REDACTED</sup> the former Principal at Sacred Heart School reported she had very good recollection about the complaint made by <sup>REDACTED</sup> regarding her daughter. She noted that it occurred about the same time period as information which she reported to Msgr. Curry about Sanchez's relationship with <sup>REDACTED</sup>. She said she was told by several persons, whose names she could not recall, except for <sup>REDACTED</sup> that Sanchez had been observed on

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several occasions going to an upstairs room in the Beta Center to visit REDACTED  
 According to what she was told, Sanchez would go to the center at about 11:00 p.m. and  
 leave around 3:00 a.m. or 4:00 a.m.

REDACTED

REDACTED

On January 27, 2007, the auditor, in the presence of Msgrs. Gabriel Gonzales and  
 Michael Meyers, informed Sanchez of the allegations made by REDACTED accusing him  
 of having fondled her during confession when she was a child and that the same had  
 happened to her friend, REDACTED. The auditor also informed Sanchez of the most  
 recent information from REDACTED who had accused him of similar  
 behavior in the past, and of the information reported by REDACTED about her sitting  
 on his lap. Sanchez was not asked to respond, but he did say that he had never had  
 anyone sit on his lap, as he was being accused. Sanchez asked the auditor to confirm that  
 REDACTED <sup>ACTED</sup> had said the same as the others. He was advised that she reported the  
 same behavior, but that she was not offended. After advising Sanchez of the allegations  
 against him, the auditor was excused from the meeting and Msgrs. Gonzales and Meyers  
 met privately with Sanchez to inform him that his faculties were being revoked.

Later, on the same date, and several days afterwards, Sanchez contacted the  
 auditor by telephone. Sanchez vehemently asserted that he had not done what he was  
 being accused of, and that the women who accused him are all acquaintances who had  
 conspired against him. Sanchez requested that REDACTED be re-  
 interviewed for information which supports his claim that the statements provided by REDACTED  
 REDACTED and others are false and a conspiracy against him.

On June 13, 2007, after several attempts to contact REDACTED by telephone,  
 she was re-interviewed at her parents' residence. She acknowledged that she had spoken

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to Sanchez specifically about the allegations made by REDACTED. She said Sanchez told her they had accused him of having them sit in his lap and fondling them. She said he did not tell her where the incidents occurred or the circumstances. The information provided by REDACTED was essentially the same as her previous statement in April 2006. However, she was emphatic in expressing her support for Sanchez and noted that she was born in 1971 and remembers knowing Sanchez all of her life. She said she has two brothers and two sisters and they were all in shock when they heard the allegations against Sanchez. She noted that Sanchez and his brother, REDACTED, were frequent visitors to their home when she was growing up and she never felt uncomfortable around them. She expressed that she trusted Sanchez to the point that she would entrust her own children to be in his care. She emphatically stated that she does not believe the allegation against Sanchez and what he is accused of doing does not represent the "Father" she knows.

REDACTED opined that REDACTED and REDACTED were close friends with REDACTED, because during her conversation with REDACTED in 2006 REDACTED told her she had met with REDACTED and he had cried in her arms. REDACTED was asked if she specifically knew if the REDACTED were friends with REDACTED. She acknowledged that it was an assumption on her part because of her conversation with Lorraine.

It is noted that in 1989, Sanchez was accused by REDACTED REDACTED of having an affair with a married parishioner. REDACTED REDACTED mother, is the person with whom Sanchez was allegedly having an affair.

On July 5, 2007, REDACTED, former classmate of REDACTED and REDACTED was interviewed. She was not aware of the allegations against Sanchez and noted that in her own interaction with Sanchez nothing of an inappropriate nature had ever occurred. She recalled Sanchez having her sit on his lap on numerous occasions, in what she described as a church-related setting, with other people present. She estimated that she was in the sixth grade when Sanchez had her sit on his lap. She did not recall going to confession with Sanchez, but said that she thought she must have.

She was asked if she was present at a party with REDACTED and REDACTED about ten years ago when the topic of them being molested by Sanchez was discussed. She was emphatic that she did not attend the party and noted that she has not seen any of her former classmates since 1985.

On July 6, 2007, REDACTED was re-interviewed to determine if she was personally acquainted with any of the women who had accused Sanchez of molestation or inappropriate behavior related to him having them sit on his lap. She acknowledged that she knew REDACTED from their mutual involvement in the parish youth group, but noted that REDACTED was in the Spanish group and she was in the English group, which limited their interaction. She said they did talk on occasion, but never about the current topic.

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She was not acquainted with REDACTED however, the surnames did sound familiar as families that were active at Sacred Heart.

She said that it was common for Sanchez to have young girls sit on his lap, including herself. She saw him have girls sit on his lap and noted that it was part of his "M. O." with the girls. Regarding herself, she described sitting in Sanchez's lap as a common and spontaneous occurrence. She opined that his actions never seemed contrived and she did not view them as inappropriate. She added that she would have to admit that as she got older, about the age of sixteen, it felt more uncomfortable.

REDACTED was asked if Sanchez ever rubbed her leg while she was sitting on his lap. She said Sanchez would touch her leg and at that point she would think, "Okay, this has gone far enough" and jump off.

On July 7, 2007, REDACTED, former Principal at Sacred Heart School from 1981 through 1983, was interviewed. She stated that in her interaction with parents, teachers and students, nothing was ever reported to her about Sanchez.

On July 28, 2007, REDACTED contacted the auditor by telephone to advise the correct name of the former teacher at Sacred Heart was REDACTED and REDACTED should be REDACTED. She added that Sanchez was very close to the REDACTED family and it was rumored that Sanchez paid the tuition at Sacred Heart for the REDACTED.

On August 7, 2007, REDACTED, former teacher at Sacred Heart School from 1981 through 1983, was interviewed by telephone. REDACTED was advised of the ongoing canonical investigation of Sanchez, which was initiated as a result of allegations made by REDACTED. She recalled REDACTED being in her fifth grade class and described him as outgoing, funny, cute and basically a nice little boy. However, he could at times be a typical fifth grader, and be talking when he shouldn't. She did not recall REDACTED ever saying anything to her about any problems with Sanchez.

REDACTED volunteered, without being asked, that she did recall an incident during confession involving REDACTED. She explained that it was customary for the teachers to walk the students to the church for confession and afterwards walk them back to school. One day after returning to the school, REDACTED who was either a sixth or seventh grader, approached her and asked to talk to her. REDACTED was upset because Sanchez had asked her to sit on his lap during confession. She immediately took REDACTED to the Principal, REDACTED who spoke to REDACTED privately. Afterwards she, REDACTED spoke to REDACTED and was told that she had confronted Sanchez, asking him what he was doing and what he was thinking. REDACTED told her Sanchez's explanation was that he was just trying to comfort REDACTED.

On July 10, 2007, REDACTED, advised she was classmates with REDACTED and REDACTED, but not well.



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She last saw REDACTED in ninth or tenth grade when they all attended Ganesha High School in Pomona. She was very close friends with REDACTED and on occasion would spend the night at her house. Prior to the interview with the auditor, she had never heard anything about REDACTED having been molested by Sanchez. She said REDACTED never said anything to her about being molested and reiterated that she has not seen her since high school.

Regarding her own experiences with Sanchez, she recalled that on occasion he would be present on the school campus and during recess she would go and say "hi" to him and sit on his lap. She also recalled that she started going to confession with him in about fourth grade and she did not like the screen in the confessional booth, so she would have face-to-face confessions with Sanchez. She said during confession, Sanchez would have her sit on his lap. She said Sanchez never did anything that she would have considered inappropriate and if he had, she would have immediately told her father. She added that her father was the Physical Education teacher at Sacred Heart.

On September 11, 2007, REDACTED was interviewed by the auditor and REDACTED regarding the information provided by REDACTED REDACTED was advised that, according to REDACTED, she had immediately taken REDACTED to her REDACTED office and reported the incident. REDACTED was provided a brief description of the various allegations against Sanchez, and that a similar complaint involving confession and Sanchez having a girl sit on his lap, had been reported by a parent to the school principal in 1987.

REDACTED said she had absolutely no recollection of what REDACTED said had occurred.

On October 2, 2007, Father Christopher Ponnet was interviewed about information he provided to Monsignor Curry in 1989 in which he said that he had heard rumors about Sanchez, but they were not substantiated and that someone at First Confessions had mentioned being uncomfortable with Sanchez. He was asked for the source of the rumors, what he was told and if he recalled the identity of the person who mentioned being uncomfortable at First Confessions.

Father Ponnet advised that the rumors were in reference to the mother of two girls who had made a report to REDACTED regarding Sanchez's behavior during confession. He said the source of the information was REDACTED. He noted that REDACTED and REDACTED, the youth minister, seemed to know specifics about the accusations.

In reference to First Confessions, he said he could not recall specifically who mentioned something to him, but speculated that it might have been in reference to the general rumors that were circulating. He added that he and REDACTED were in charge of preparing students for First Confessions and they changed confessions to be

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held in plain public view in the sanctuary area. He was not sure of the exact year that the change was made, but said it was possibly in May 1989.

Father Ponnet said that while he heard innuendos about misconduct on the part of Sanchez, he never saw anything directly.

Father Ponnet advised that he was aware of the ongoing investigation, because three to four months ago, Sanchez called him "out of the blue" and told him someone had accused him of misconduct. He said Sanchez's description of the allegations was generic in nature and Sanchez did not provide any specifics. Sanchez told him that someone might be contacting him in connection with the investigation. Sanchez asked him if he had seen anything happen. He told Sanchez that he did not think that it was appropriate to be discussing the matter with him, or to be giving details. He added that he got the impression that the purpose of Sanchez's contacting him was to try to influence his statement.

It is noted that during the course of this investigation, Sanchez has offered names of witnesses who, according to Sanchez, could in some way substantiate his claims of a conspiracy against him. The statements provided by some of those witnesses have been previously noted in this report. Additionally, Sanchez sent letters and email communications to Monsignor Gonzalez and REDACTED Chair of the Clergy Misconduct Board (CMOB), providing information regarding his case. The following is a summary of some of the information provided by Sanchez and the investigation conducted to verify his claims:

- On September 24, 2007, Sanchez wrote an email to Monsignor Gabriel REDACTED, asking that he provide the CMOB a copy of a letter written by REDACTED in May 2007 containing an apology for defaming him.

On September 26, 2007 REDACTED was interviewed and confirmed that she had talked to Sanchez by telephone in May 2007. REDACTED told her that he had been trying to locate her to ask for forgiveness because he had been too harsh and demanding with her. He told her that a young man, whom he described as a drug addict who was only trying to get money from the church, had falsely accused him of molestation and the previous information involving her daughter, REDACTED had surfaced. She said Sanchez never mentioned anything about also having been accused by two women. She said Sanchez appeared very anguished and was looking for her support.

She felt sorry for Sanchez and told him that maybe she too had done wrong by reporting him to his supervisor because of the incident involving REDACTED and that she probably should have talked to him directly. She said that after so many years she has doubts about whether Sanchez's actions towards REDACTED were done with malicious intent. She conveyed her

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feelings to Sanchez and wrote him a letter, but at no time did she apologize for having defamed him. She reiterated that, with time, she has had doubts regarding Sanchez's intentions, but at the time of the incident, she was very angry. She added that her husband does not share her feelings regarding Sanchez's intentions.

- On September 27, 2007, Sanchez wrote an email to REDACTED Chair of the CMOB, in which he stated, "On May 15, 2007, I had a telephone conversation with REDACTED who was at that time in Miami, Florida. She freely admitted that she had accused me falsely when she told her story in the Chancery. I asked her to provide me with a handwritten letter attesting to her admission. She did so immediately, although the letter is not so strongly worded as was the conversation on the telephone. She told me that her step-daughter had been a liar all her life and continues to be dishonest even now that she is married. She volunteered to testify by telephone from Santo Domingo, where she presently resides, to anyone from the Chancery or from the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board. She can be reached at this number: REDACTED

REDACTED

On September 27, 2007, REDACTED, was re-contacted to confirm the information provided by Sanchez to REDACTED via email. REDACTED reiterated that what she had told Sanchez was that, with time, she had doubts regarding whether or not his intentions were malicious, but at no time did she tell him that she had falsely accused him. She suggested to Sanchez that possibly through a dialogue between himself and REDACTED, the issue could be resolved.

She continued that she has no doubts that the incident with REDACTED and Sanchez occurred, and what happened to REDACTED was very traumatic for her. She never told Sanchez that REDACTED had lied about the incident, but did, in the course of the conversation, tell him that her daughter, like most children, had, on occasion, not been completely honest with her.

She said Sanchez had called her sisters numerous times attempting to contact her and when he talked to her, he pressured her into writing a letter, which she did on the way to the airport. She stated that, based on the nature of their conversation and what Sanchez is now saying, he is not acting in good faith.

- Sanchez provided an English translation of a letter dated February 6, 2007, addressed to "To whom it may concern" from former Sacred Heart parishioner REDACTED. The letter was written in support of Sanchez and to create doubt regarding the credibility of REDACTED and REDACTED. The letter specifically states, "Four of our

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children were attending the parochial school at Sacred Heart during the same period as were the girls who accused Father Sanchez of molesting them. My daughters will testify that Father never invited them or anyone they knew inside or outside of the confessional to sit on his lap. They cannot imagine how those girls can make such outlandish statements.”

On October 22, 2007, REDACTED were contacted by telephone to verify they had written the aforementioned letter. REDACTED confirmed that she and her husband wrote the letter to provide support to Sanchez related to the allegations made against him.

REDACTED was asked about the letter making reference to her children going to Sacred Heart during the same time period as the girls who accused Sanchez, and if she was referring to REDACTED and REDACTED. She said that she had never heard the names of REDACTED and REDACTED and was not aware that other girls had accused Sanchez. She said Sanchez did not tell them about any girls, other than REDACTED, REDACTED, having accused him of abuse. She said the letter was only to provide support to Sanchez related to the allegations made against him by REDACTED and her daughter, REDACTED.

It noted that on November 20, 2007, Sanchez was interviewed in the presence of his attorney, REDACTED at which time Sanchez was asked for a copy of the REDACTED original letter written in Spanish. By letter dated February 6, 2008, Sanchez’s attorney provided a copy of the original letter.

On February 11 & 12, 2008, REDACTED were again contacted to confirm that they were the authors of the letter provided by Sanchez’s attorney. They both stated they had written the letter, but acknowledged that at the time the letter was written in 2007 they had no knowledge that Sanchez had been accused by other girls. They could not provide a plausible explanation as to why the letter makes reference to the “girls who accused Sanchez”. REDACTED said that the original letter, signed by her and her husband, had just been mailed on Thursday of the previous week. She explained that they had never provided Father Sanchez the original letter and only sent him a translation of the letter. She said they did not think that there would be any need for them to send the signed original. REDACTED said that, initially, he was going to provide a handwritten letter, but later solicited the assistance of a personal acquaintance, who is a doctor. The doctor prepared the original version in Spanish and she also prepared a translated copy which was sent to Sanchez. REDACTED was not willing to provide the name of the doctor.

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As previously noted, on November 20, 2007, Sanchez was interviewed in the presence of his attorney. Monsignors Michael W. Meyers and REDACTED were also present. The interview was audio tape-recorded by the investigator and REDACTED, and later transcribed.

During the interview, Sanchez was informed of the identity of each of the persons who made specific allegations of sexual misconduct against him, the nature of those allegations and the identity of women who had reported that he had them sit on his lap as young girls, but were not offended by the behavior. The following points are noted regarding Sanchez's responses:

- He did not remember REDACTED and denied the specific allegations made against him by REDACTED.
- He denied knowing REDACTED I.
- He denied knowing the REDACTED family and that any parent ever complained about his behavior or attempted to talk to him.
- He acknowledged knowing REDACTED, but denied the allegation about asking her to sit on his lap or touching her leg. His attorney did not allow him to answer if REDACTED went to confession with him.
- He acknowledged knowing REDACTED, but denied that he ever had her sit on his lap.
- He denied knowing REDACTED
- He denied knowing the REDACTED sisters or remembering their father, who was a PE teacher at the school.
- He did not remember REDACTED ever talking to him about a complaint made by any student.
- He denied ever having any girl sit on his lap during confession or at any time.
- He admitted to providing some input to the letter written by the REDACTED

By letter dated December 21, 2007 to Monsignor Gonzales, REDACTED provided the results of a polygraph examination taken by Sanchez on November 28, 2007, which in the opinion of the examiner revealed that there was no deception by Sanchez during the examination. The credentials of the examiner as a certified polygraph examiner were investigated and it was determined, not only that he was not a certified examiner, but that he had previously been indicted by the California Department of Consumer Affairs for fraudulent business practices. The results of the inquiry regarding the examiner and observations regarding the validity of the examination were submitted by separate memorandum dated January 11, 2008.

By letter dated December 21, 2007, REDACTED was provided the original transcript of the interview with Sanchez. It was requested that the document be reviewed to ensure that it accurately reflected the questions asked of Monsignor Sanchez and his

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responses. Additionally, it was requested that the accuracy of the document be acknowledged by each page being initialed and the last page being signed by Sanchez.

It is noted that prior to the transcript being sent to [REDACTED] it was reviewed by the investigator and compared with the contents of the audio recording of the interview. The transcript, with the exception of minimal typographical errors or portions marked as unintelligible, is a verbatim transcription of the interview.

By letter dated February 21, 2008, [REDACTED] returned a copy of the original transcript with an attachment from Sanchez with three pages of "corrected answers". As previously noted the document provided to Sanchez was a verbatim transcription of the interview; however, in some instances, Sanchez crossed out the question or statement made by the investigator and his original answer to the question. The "corrected answers" noted by Sanchez were changes to his original answers or clarifications of his responses. For example, Sanchez admitted to telling the [REDACTED] what to say in their letter supporting him, but changed his answer to just "No" in his corrections.

On January 14, 2008, [REDACTED] was interviewed in the presence of his attorney, [REDACTED]. It is noted that [REDACTED] signed a mediation document on May 11, 2004 in which he alleged that in 1980-1981 he was sexually abused by Sanchez in the sacristy of the church and other places on church grounds at Sacred Heart Parish in Pomona, California. In his signed statement, [REDACTED] alleged that Sanchez abused him by doing the following:

- Sanchez penetrating [REDACTED] anus with his penis one time.
- Fondling [REDACTED] genitals over his clothes on multiple occasions.
- Fondling [REDACTED] buttocks over his clothes on multiple occasions.
- Rubbing his body against [REDACTED] on multiple occasions.
- Rubbing and massaging [REDACTED] body over his clothes on multiple occasions.
- Caressing [REDACTED] face, skin to skin, on multiple occasions.
- Giving [REDACTED] wine.

[REDACTED] provided a statement reaffirming his original allegations regarding the sexual abuse of which he accused Sanchez. He noted that giving him wine was not like it sounded, but it involved Sanchez allowing the altar boys to have small quantities of wine if they wished.

[REDACTED] clarified that "not too much happened in the sacristy" and that most of the allegations involving touching or rubbing against him occurred in areas around the church grounds and in the equipment room of the school. [REDACTED] stated that he was anally raped by Sanchez one time and the incident occurred in a room located in the area of the sacristy. [REDACTED] was shown photographs and a sketch of the floor plan of the sacristy. His reaction to the photographs and the sketch was to ask why a floor plan of

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how the sacristy area looked in 1980-1981 was not shown to him. He said that in 2006 he confronted Sanchez in the sacristy and it did not appear as he remembered it from when he was an altar boy. He said that, prior to 2006, he had not been back to or seen the sacristy since he was anally raped by Sanchez and was certain there was a room off to one side. He recalled that the room was used to store wine, communion hosts and some chairs were stacked up against one wall.

On January 18, 2008, REDACTED, a former neighbor of REDACTED reported that in approximately 2003, following a confrontation between him and REDACTED REDACTED apologized, and emotionally opened up to him about his life and attributed some of his problems to having been "violated by a priest" when he was an altar boy. He said REDACTED did not go into any details about what he meant by having been violated. He told REDACTED that in order for him to deal with what had happened, he needed to confront the situation directly and suggested to him that he talk to someone at the church. The following day he drove REDACTED to Sacred Heart and left him there.

REDACTED added that REDACTED later told and discussed the abuse issue with REDACTED REDACTED who is a chaplain for the Chino Police Department.

On January 18, 2008 REDACTED, mother of REDACTED was interviewed. REDACTED was asked if REDACTED ever told her anything about having been abused by Sanchez and, if so, when and what had happened. She said that REDACTED did tell her, but only after he was an adult and she estimated that it was some time between five to ten years ago. REDACTED became very emotional and started to cry, saying that REDACTED did not go into a lot of detail, but told her that when he was about ten years old, Sanchez had penetrated him in his backside. She noted that her reaction at the time, as in other situations with REDACTED she felt helpless in knowing how to help him.

REDACTED advised that she and her family were very close to Sanchez. She added that they were probably closer to him, referring to seeking him out and sharing family information, than Sanchez was to them. She said that she talked to Sanchez about problems her family was experiencing because of the controlling, demanding and abusive nature of her REDACTED REDACTED. Afterwards, at the invitation of Sanchez, she and her ex-husband accompanied Sanchez to a retreat in San Diego.

On March 3, 2008 REDACTED Sacred Heart Church was contacted to determine if there were any storage rooms in the vicinity of the sacristy, as described by REDACTED. She advised that a room, which was previously the office of the Director of Religious Education (DRE), was being used for storage and is located just outside of and adjacent to the sacristy. During the interview with Sanchez, he was also shown the same photographs and sketch of the sacristy floor plan that was shown to REDACTED. Sanchez identified a small room, within the sacristy, which had been previously observed by the investigator and noted on the sketch as the "janitor's room", as previously being the office of the CCD Director. The room identified by REDACTED was physically observed by the investigator and it was not located within the sacristy or

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identical to the room identified by Sanchez as the office of the CCD Director. Sanchez also advised that there were no rooms in the church that were used for the storage of chairs and tables.

By letter dated April 11, 2008, addressed to Monsignor Gonzales, REDACTED provided signed declarations from REDACTED attesting to having attended Sacred Heart School during the same time period as REDACTED and REDACTED and/or having been classmates/friends. They also stated they never saw Sanchez act improperly toward any girl or saw any girl sitting on his lap. REDACTED also provided a sworn declaration made by REDACTED in support of Sanchez and attesting to a number of aspects of her knowledge of the allegations made by REDACTED and REDACTED and to never having seen Sanchez with girls sitting on his lap or hearing any gossip among the girls, that he ever asked any of them to do that, nor that he ever touched any of them in any inappropriate way.

All of the aforementioned signed statements are included as part of the confidential file in this matter.

**Observations/Findings:** It is noted that the canonical investigation regarding Sanchez was reopened following allegations made by two women in April 2006 that they had been molested as minors by Sanchez. The nature of those allegations was not immediately known; however, in November 2006, one of the two women provided a statement that she had been molested during confession. The behavior she described was similar to previous reports that were documented and filed in 1989. The observations/findings that follow are based on information gleaned from file documents, the previous investigation conducted by REDACTED and investigation conducted since April 2006:

- The allegations made by REDACTED and REDACTED which was the basis for reopening this investigation, are consistent with allegations which were previously made by the mother of REDACTED in 1987 and REDACTED in 1989. Support of the allegation involving REDACTED was provided by a former teacher who claimed she made a report to the Principal about Sanchez sometime in 1982 or 1983.
- In documents submitted to the Vicar for Clergy and during a recorded interview, Sanchez has consistently denied the allegations, specifically stating that he never had women sit on his lap in the confessional or outside. Five women provided statements to the contrary, based on their personal experiences.
- Sanchez has claimed that the women involved in the allegations against him know each other and conspired against him with false accusations. Investigation revealed that two of the women, REDACTED are



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acquainted, but no information was developed that they were acquainted with or in any way associated with REDACTED

- REDACTED, former classmates of REDACTED REDACTED, also provided statements which refute Sanchez's claim that he never had any women sit on his lap in the confessional or outside. REDACTED were not aware of the ongoing investigation and the allegations made by REDACTED and had not been in recent contact with them.
- Violations of California Penal Code - Consultation with the Child Protection Section of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) regarding the specific behavior of which Sanchez is accused, i.e., having young girls sit on his lap and fondle, attempt to fondle, touch under clothing or over clothing was within the scope of 288(a) PC (Lewd act with a minor) or 243.4(d) (Sexual Battery). The behavior claimed by REDACTED would fall within the scope of 288(a) PC and the behavior alleged by REDACTED would be within 243.4(d).
- The allegations made by REDACTED mother were reported in 1987 by the school principal to the regional supervisor. No information is available as to what action was taken. The allegations surfaced again in 1989 during inquiries related to Sanchez being accused of having an affair with a married parishioner. The regional supervisor stated she doubted the incident took place and noted that the principal was dealing with many of her own personal problems as well. REDACTED contact information was available, but no interview of REDACTED was pursued, nor was the matter reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- The initial investigation related to the allegations made by REDACTED focused on the plausibility of REDACTED being anally raped in the sacristy, which was described as an active venue during Sunday mornings and completely inhospitable for the activity described by REDACTED. Based on information contained in the mediation document signed by REDACTED in May 2004 and his interview in 2008, in which he described the location where he claims he was raped by Sanchez as a storage room with chairs, the activity described by REDACTED would be more plausible from the aspect of privacy. Based on REDACTED description and location of the room, it is possible that he was referring to the room identified to the investigator by the parish business manager as a current storage room, previously used as an office by the DRE.
- The final point is that there is no physical evidence to prove or disprove the allegations against Sanchez and the ultimate decision regarding

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whether or not the allegations have any validity might come down to the credibility of Sanchez versus the accusers/witnesses.

The following concerns related to the credibility of REDACTED and Sanchez surfaced during the course of the investigation:

REDACTED

During the first investigation, REDACTED noted that the allegation was made approximately twenty-two years after it supposedly happened and there were a plethora of reasons to doubt whether it occurred, including the following:

- REDACTED made allegations during his initial complaint about having been penetrated by a priest that were inconsistent with allegations in a subsequent interview.
- REDACTED claimed he was expelled in mid-year from the parish school. The school records revealed that he attended for two full years and was not expelled.
- REDACTED criminal past and REDACTED including his self-admitted conviction on fraud charges, impugns his credibility.
- The sacristy was an active venue during Sunday mornings and completely inhospitable for the activity REDACTED described. *(Note: Subsequent investigation revealed the most egregious act described by REDACTED the anal penetration, did not occur in the sacristy, but in a room adjacent to the sacristy)*
- REDACTED claimed he was wearing shorts at the time of the offenses. Investigation revealed that altar servers were not allowed to serve Mass in shorts.
- REDACTED was about 4'8" tall at the time of the alleged activity whereas Sanchez stands close to 5'8". REDACTED opined that with this height difference, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to engage in the alleged activity the way REDACTED described.

REDACTED

- REDACTED participated in a demonstration at Sacred Heart in which she handed out leaflets alleging that she had been molested by Sanchez, but has not been willing to provide a statement to the investigator.
- In a signed statement provided by REDACTED, she said she did not believe REDACTED because she knew the girls, referring to REDACTED REDACTED they were associated with gang members and REDACTED boyfriend was in prison.
- During the interview with REDACTED he said that he was aware that the investigator had attempted to locate REDACTED. He said

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REDACTED had contacted him about being interviewed by the investigator and he told her that as far as her decision about being interviewed, it was her decision not his. He volunteered that he was subsequently contacted by REDACTED asking him for some money. He offered to allow REDACTED to earn some money by working REDACTED. She was not pleased with his offer and refused.

**Sanchez**

- During the interview with REDACTED, she described Sanchez, based on her personal observations of his association with REDACTED and her confrontation with him regarding her suspicions of an affair, as a blatant liar.
- Sanchez advised REDACTED by email that he had talked to REDACTED REDACTED by telephone and that she had freely admitted that she had falsely accused him and that her daughter had lied. REDACTED was interviewed and denied having said what Sanchez attributed to her. She noted that based on the nature of their conversation, he was not acting in good faith.
- Sanchez provided a letter purportedly written by REDACTED supporting him against allegations made by REDACTED. Based on previous materials submitted by Sanchez, the letter appeared to have been possibly written by Sanchez. During the interview with Sanchez, he admitted to telling the REDACTED what to say in the letter, but later after reviewing the interview transcript, he changed his answer, denying he had done so. REDACTED were not able to provide a plausible answer to why they made references in their letter to the "girls who accused Sanchez" when at the time the letter was written, they were not aware that Sanchez had been accused by other girls besides REDACTED.
- Sanchez denied knowing REDACTED, but shortly after being informed of their allegations, he prepared or had a letter prepared by the REDACTED stating that their daughters went to school with the girls who accused Sanchez. If he did not know REDACTED how would he have known that the REDACTED children were classmates of REDACTED. As previously noted, the REDACTED were unaware that REDACTED had accused REDACTED at the time the letter was written.
- Sanchez also denies knowing REDACTED, but REDACTED mother REDACTED advised that she and her family had been very close to Sanchez. She added that Sanchez was aware of their family problems and she and her ex-husband had gone on a retreat to San Diego with Sanchez when they were parishioners at Sacred Heart.
- Regarding the polygraph examination, it is not known if Sanchez selected the examiner or if he was selected by REDACTED but the utilization of an

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examiner who is not a recognized certified examiner and is someone who has been indicted for fraudulent business practices is a cause for concern.

**Witness Interviews:** Separate detailed interview reports have been prepared for the following persons:

REDACTED

REDACTED

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REDACTED

SANCHEZ TRANSLATION  
OR REDACTED LETTER --  
IS IT ACCURATE?

May 21, 2007

**"To whom it may concern:"**

**With this I want to let you know that I belonged to Sacred Heart Church Parish in Pomona, California in the 1980s years when Father Sanchez was Pastor.**

**I went to the Chancery of Los Angeles and said several things about Father Sanchez for which I am sorry.**

**In that period, I was living in moments of confusion for several reasons that I will say immediately.**

- 1. The atmosphere that was reigning in the community due to the problems in the Parochial School.**
- 2. Father Sanchez called my attention frequently when I was in the Charismatic Prayer Group.**
- 3. My daughter<sup>REDACTED</sup> told me that Father Sanchez suggested that she sit on his lap. I would like now that they will get together and dialogue because I am not sure that she was telling the truth at that time because lately she has been telling us many things that were not true.**

**I want to express my sincere sorrow to Father Sanchez if sometimes he has been suffering due to those accusations, because I know very well that he has been working hard to build up that community.**

REDACTED

Mayo 21, 2007

"A Quien Pueda Interesar"

Por ste medio quiero dar a conocer que pertencí a la parroquia Sagrado Corazón de Pomona, CA, por los años 80, siendo el P. Manuel Sánchez el párroco.

Fui a la concillería de Los Angeles y dije varias cosas del P. Sánchez de las cuales estoy arrepentida.

En esa época estaba viviendo momentos de confusión por varias razones que expondre a continuación.

1- La atmósfera que reinaba en la comunidad debido a la problemática de la escuela parroquial.

2- El P. Sánchez me llamaba la atención con frecuencia en el grupo de oración carismática.

3- Mi hija, REDACTED, me dijo que el P. Sánchez le había sugerido que se sentara en sus rodillas. Me gustaría hoy que ellos se reuniesen y dialogasen, ya que no estoy tan segura de que ella nos dijo la verdad en esa época pues últimamente nos ha dicho varias cosas que no son ciertas.

Quiero pedir excusas al P. Sánchez si alguna vez ha sufrido por esta causa, pues sé muy bien lo duro que ha trabajado para construir esa comunidad.

REDACTED

SANCHEZ CASE

Summary

2003 INVESTIGATIO PRAEVIA

This investigation was opened by decree on 12 May 03 and closed on 10 Dec 03. It was prompted by a primary allegation against Msgr. Manuel Sanchez (MS): an adult man REDACTED REDACTED, claimed that approx. 22 years earlier MS forcibly sodomized him when he was approx. 10 years old. There are in MS's files three earlier allegations of sexual misconduct, all made in 1989: (1) MS had "inappropriately touched" an adult woman, REDACTED during confession; (2) MS had asked two sixth-grade girls to sit on his lap during confession and fondled them; REDACTED REDACTED

CHRONOLOGY

- 6 Jul 89: REDACTED, parishioners at S. Heart in Pomona met with V/C Curry to discuss MS; among the many allegations they made, they accused him of having inappropriately touched their adult daughter, REDACTED, of making two sixth-grade girls sit on his lap during confession (they stated that the school principal was aware of this incident) and of having an affair w/an adult female parishioner (first, second and third of three earlier allegations).
- 7 Jul 89: REDACTED met w/principal of S. Heart school, REDACTED, who told him that in 87 a REDACTED had complained that MS had her two daughters sit on his lap during confession and fondled them (second of three earlier allegations).
- 26 Jul 89: REDACTED, who was then 24 yrs old, met with V/C Curry; she said that about 3½ years earlier (hence, 85-86), MS had asked her to sit on his lap during confession, she did not, he rubbed her leg; she left the Church after that, she thinks MS is a good man but needs help (first of three earlier allegations).
- Sep 89: REDACTED met w/principal of S. Heart school and REDACTED, who told him REDACTED had announced to school that a 13-yr-old cousin of theirs had run away w/a 21-yr-old man; mother of 13-yr-old girl called REDACTED girls liars, and REDACTED removed her children from the school (second of three earlier allegations).
- 27 Sep 89: V/C Curry met with MS, who "vehemently denied any impropriety on his part"; MS said he knew the REDACTED and considered them good friends, he wanted to speak with them about these allegations but was discouraged from doing so (first, second and third of three earlier allegations).

REDACTED REDACTED

- 1 May 03: interview of REDACTED by c/aud in presence of a licensed psychologist, REDACTED described acts and circumstances of his abuse by MS; many of REDACTED claims either cannot be corroborated or are contradicted by other sources (primary allegation against MS).
- 7 Nov 03: interview of REDACTED by c/aud; she met MS when she was 13, became part-time parish receptionist at 16, after 6½ years she was hired as youth minister and became part of parish staff. She considered MS good friend, counselor and father-figure. MS was "touchy-feely", she recalled sitting on his lap and him rubbing her leg on at least one occasion, but did not think anything of it; she never felt threatened by these actions but can now see how someone might take it the wrong way. MS had a strained relationship w/staff but not office personnel. After she confronted MS w/affair



REDACTED their relationship turned cold and non-existent. REDACTED lost her office after REDACTED sent letter to V/C Curry (*third of three earlier allegations*).

9 Jun 03: letter from MS to V/C Cox, swearing that he “never touched any boy or girl or adult inappropriately in my forty-nine years of priesthood” (*primary and three earlier allegations*).

17 Jun 03: MS met with V/C Cox, willingly took customary oath and stated that in his 49 years as a priest, he had never done anything inappropriate to either a child or an adult (*primary and three earlier allegations*).

14 Nov 03: interview of REDACTED MS’s civil counsel, by c/aud. REDACTED stated that MS had already denied REDACTED allegations verbally and in writing, hence there was no need for him to make any further statements REDACTED

REDACTED

#### CONCLUSIONS

**primary allegation:** the claims made by REDACTED were not deemed credible, as there were many serious reasons to doubt their truth.

**three earlier allegations:** (1) the claim that MS inappropriately touched an adult woman during confession, if true, may have been something done with no ill intent on the part of MS, and in any event it was not possible to contact the adult woman herself during the investigation; (2) there is no direct evidence or testimony regarding the claims that MS had made two sixth grade girls sit on his lap and that he had fondled them during confession, and even if this had happened, such acts may have been boundary violations with no ill intent on the part of MS, especially since the word “fondle” had a much less specific and negative connotation in 89 than it had in 03; REDACTED

REDACTED

**2003 CMOB RECOMMENDATION:** there is “insufficient evidence to establish the truth of the allegation” made by REDACTED and it is deemed “highly improbable” that MS committed the act alleged; regarding the previous allegations concerning minors, they amount at most to possible boundary violations; therefore, inasmuch as MS is already retired, no removal of faculties or limitation of ministry is recommended, and the case is to be closed unless new relevant information is forthcoming.

**2003 ARCHBISHOP’S DECISION:** concurrence with recommendation of CMOB.

#### 2006 – 2007 INVESTIGATIO PRAEVI

This new investigation was opened by decree on 11 Apr 06 and was prompted by new allegations against MS by two adult females, REDACTED, who claimed during a protest on 9 Apr 06 at S. Heart Church in Pomona that they too were molested as minors by MS.

#### CHRONOLOGY

11 May 04: REDACTED civil counsel submits mediation document to Archdiocese containing sworn statements by REDACTED regarding his claims of abuse by MS (*primary allegation against MS*).

Apr-May 06: attempted interview of REDACTED by c/aud. REDACTED participated in demonstration of 9 Apr 06 at S. Heart Church, Pomona, stating publicly that she had been molested by MS; however, she would not meet with c/aud to give statement (*second of two new allegations*).

Apr-May 06: interview of four former students of S. Heart school, each of these women had only positive experiences w/MS while they were students at S. Heart school and observed no untoward activity on

- his part; one of these women REDACTED interviewed on 15 Apr 06) reports that in Mar 06 she had been approached by REDACTED sister and friend of REDACTED — who attempted to recruit her to say that she too had been molested by MS.
- 13 Nov 06: interview of REDACTED by c/aud; REDACTED participated in demonstration of 9 Apr 06 at S. Heart Church, Pomona, stating publicly that she had been molested by MS. When 7 or 8, she went to first confession to MS, who invited her to sit on his lap, which she did. MS put his hand under her dress, making her very nervous and scared. When his hand reached the edge of her panties, she started crying and jumped off. MS became angry and told her she had been bad and needed to say 3 Our Fathers and 2 Hail Marys; he also told her to tell no one about what had happened. She avoided MS after that (*first of two new allegations*).
- 28 Apr 06: interview of REDACTED, mother of REDACTED (one of the two "sixth-grade girls" of the earlier allegations who were made to sit on MS's lap and were fondled by him) by c/aud; REDACTED now lives in Mexico and is unavailable to c/aud. REDACTED remembers making report to principal about MS fondling daughter REDACTED during confession; REDACTED had come home upset and frightened, MS had made her sit on his lap and rubbed her back, legs and tried to touch her breast, but REDACTED did not allow him to do so. At first, REDACTED did not believe REDACTED but then observed REDACTED coming out of confessional in tears on a subsequent occasion and went in to confessional to speak w/MS. REDACTED requested that her daughters no longer confess to MS; she subsequently removed all her children from the school (*new relevant information on second of three earlier allegations*).
- 30 Nov 06: interview of REDACTED, principal of S. Heart school from 86 to 93; she had a very good recollection of complaint made by REDACTED, regarding her daughter, complaint occurred at same time as reports that MS was going up to office of REDACTED and allegations of an improper relationship between them. She recalled going to the Archdiocese and reporting situation (MS and Sanchez) twice to Msgr. Curry, once by herself, another time with REDACTED. No action was taken about complaints against MS, but after MS had gone to the Archdiocese to meet with s/o about complaints, he returned to S. Heart and was very angry w/Sister and tried to get rid of her. She had no knowledge of allegations against MS except those involving Sanchez and the REDACTED REDACTED (*second and third of three earlier allegations*).
- 8 Jan 07: interview of REDACTED by c/aud; she remembers being first interviewed by s/o from the Archdiocese in 1989, MS did not damage her physically or sexually abuse her, but his actions towards her involved misconduct and broke her faith in the Church. She had come to US in 83 as an 18-yr-old (born in 65) attended S. Heart Church in Pomona, involved in youth group; attended retreats, it was customary for retreatants to go to confession before retreat; several times during confession, MS touched her legs; he started touching a little bit and would continue until she pushed him away. Several incidents, all during confession, 83-84. When MS asked her to sit on his lap during confession, she said that was too much; she refused, but he proceeded to touch her leg as before. For her "it was not just a touch," she interpreted it as meaning he wanted to do more than just touch. She spoke to her stepmother. She thought that MS was approached about this by the Archdiocese, but nothing happened until she was interviewed several years later, in 89. There was another REDACTED whom the same thing had happened, but REDACTED could not remember this girl's name. 1
- REDACTED

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

primary allegation: the new, more complete information contained in the Mediation Document submitted by REDACTED and his attorneys make REDACTED's claims more plausible.

three earlier allegations: REDACTED REDACTED ) there is now direct testimony regarding the claim that MS made at least one sixth grade girl sit on his lap and

that he fondled her during confession, giving this claim the semblance of truth; REDACTED  
REDACTED  
two new allegations: the first of these new claims appears to have the semblance of truth, while the second cannot yet be evaluated, since the claimant refuses to make any statement.

2006 CMOB RECOMMENDATION: given the new evidence that has been brought forward, the various allegations made appear to be plausible, and until complete information can be obtained from all witnesses and complainants, MS's faculties should be suspended pending the results of the investigation, he should undergo a psychological assessment and pastors of parishes where he has acted or may act as a supply priest should be notified that he is not permitted to engage in ministry.

2006 ARCHBISHOP'S DECISION: concurrence with recommendation of CMOB.

Revocation of MS's faculties: on 26 Jan 07 V/C issued a decree revoking MS's faculties pending the conclusion of the investigation and the resolution of the matter.

Re; Sanchez:

REDACTED

REDACTED was working on this case. Attached is his analysis and recommendations dated March 13, 2007.

I have examined the file and I find evidence of three developments that post date his analysis:

1. On November 20, 2007, Manuel Sanchez met with REDACTED and REDACTED REDACTED. It appears that the purpose of this meeting was to provide him the opportunity to present his viewpoint to CMOB. Essentially, he continues to deny all charges and reiterate the claim of a conspiracy against him. It is not clear if his Canonical Adviser was present for that session.
2. The accused took a polygraph test and passed it.
3. REDACTED one of the ladies who denounced him to Msgr. Curry some years ago (Msgr. Curry, now bishop Curry was Vicar for Clergy) provided a written apology for things that she said to Msgr. Curry about Sanchez. A copy of that apology is on file.

REDACTED

SANCHEZ CASE

REDACTED

Analysis and Recommendations by REDACTED

13 Mar 07

FACTS, 2003

**prelim. investigation:** opened by decree on 12 May 03 and closed on 10 Dec 03 (closing decree is not found in the file); prompted by the allegation of an adult man REDACTED, who claimed that approx. 22 years earlier Msgr. Sanchez (S.) forcibly sodomized him when he was approx. 10 years old; three earlier allegations of sexual misconduct had been made against S. in 1989, all three coming from one female parishioner who claimed that S. had "inappropriately touched" her adult daughter during confession, that S. had asked two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession, and that S. was having an affair with an adult female parishioner.

**conclusions of investigation:** the allegation put forth by REDACTED is not deemed credible, as there are many serious reasons to doubt its truth; REDACTED REDACTED *idem* for the allegations that S. had two sixth grade girls sit on his lap during confession; REDACTED REDACTED

**CMOB recommendation:** there is "insufficient evidence to establish the truth of the allegation" made by REDACTED, and it is deemed "highly improbable" that S. committed the act alleged; regarding the previous allegations concerning minors, they amount at most to possible boundary violations; therefore, inasmuch as S. is already retired, no removal of faculties or limitation of ministry is recommended, and the case is to be closed unless new relevant information is forthcoming.

FACTS, 2006 – 2007

**prelim. investigation:** opened by decree on 11 Apr 06, no conclusion date found, perhaps still ongoing; prompted by new allegations against S. by two adult females REDACTED REDACTED who claimed during a protest in Apr 06 — organized by REDACTED at Sacred Heart Church in Pomona — that they too were molested as minors by S.

**results of investigation to date:** REDACTED described molestation to auditor as S. having her sit on his lap when she made her first confession in preparation for first communion and putting his hand under her dress, when his hand reached her panties she started crying and jumped off his lap; REDACTED has not cooperated with any kind of statement; no independent corroboration of allegations has been found. It was discovered that a woman, a former classmate of REDACTED's sister in Pomona, was approached by REDACTED sister, who explained that she was a friend of REDACTED and who told her how S. had abused REDACTED This other woman had the impression that REDACTED's sister, who was also good friends with REDACTED was attempting to convince her of the truth of REDACTED's allegations and was attempting to recruit her to claim that she too had been abused by S.; this woman, however, could only respond that REDACTED's sister's statements were contrary to her own experience of S. REDACTED's sister also told this woman that REDACTED was attempting to locate and organize other girls against S.

**CMOB recommendation:** none found in file.

**decree revoking S.'s faculties:** on 26 Jan 07 the Vicar for Clergy issued a decree revoking S.'s faculties pending the conclusion of the investigation and the resolution of the matter.

## OBSERVATIONS

**Decree of 26 Jan 07, revoking faculties formerly entrusted to S.:** this seems to be without any real practical effect, since faculties previously granted to S. ceased when he retired from ministry, inasmuch as he no longer holds an ecclesiastical office, no longer has an official ministerial assignment and is not on an officially approved active leave of absence (cf. current FACULTIES for priests of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles).

**N.B.:** no FACULTY is required to exercise those rights, powers or functions given by ordination itself (e.g. *the right or power of a validly ordained priest to celebrate Mass*), for it is by valid ordination that they are conferred. **If such rights, powers or functions are to be effectively restricted or forbidden, the procedures outlined in canon law must be carefully observed** (applicable norms may include canons 35-58 [*on singular administrative acts*], 1317-1320 [*on penalties in general*], 1336-1338 [*on expiatory penalties*], 1341-1342 [*on imposition of penalties*], 1362-1363 [*on terms of prescription*], 1399 [*on special circumstances allowing for punishment of otherwise unspecified violations of law*], 1718 [*norms for determining how to proceed in a penal matter*], 1720 [*norms for an administrative penal process*], 1722 [*norms for placing restrictions or prohibitions on a reus while the canonical process is underway*]).

**Evaluation of Present Status of Case:** unless the prelim. investigation begun in 2006 uncovers evidence not yet found, the new allegations made and the statements gathered seem to add nothing to the substance of what was already presented in 2003; moreover, the investigation has uncovered circumstances that tend to impugn the credibility of the two women making the new allegations, only one of whom has described the act of molestation of which she accuses S. It is therefore most difficult at present to see any basis for an eventual modification by CMOB of its 2003 recommendations. Nonetheless, CMOB should certainly be heard concerning these latest developments in the case.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

With a view to upholding the public good, which includes the due observance of applicable norms, the following recommendations are made in the Sanchez case at the present time:

- (1) as a conciliatory gesture, a decree formally rescinding the decree of 26 Jan 07 should be issued (as explained above, the original decree has no real practical effect anyway);
- (2) S. should be informed of the decision to rescind the original decree and be invited to meet so that the decree of revocation may be executed and the matter fully discussed;
- (3) if not already concluded, the prelim. investigation begun in 2006 should be formally concluded (this step may precede or be contemporaneous with nos. 1 and/or 2 above);
- (4) a final report of the matter should be made to CMOB and a final recommendation elicited from the Board;
- (5) at a meeting w/S. — whether the meeting suggested in no. 2 above or a subsequent meeting — an explanation should be made of the need for S. to avoid giving occasion to misguided persons or unscrupulous detractors to call into question either his reputation or that of the Church; the possibility should be discussed of S.'s voluntarily acceding to a request from his Archbishop, a request prompted by a concern for the good of the Church and for S.'s own personal good, that S. agree to certain limits on the occasional public ministry in which he will engage as a retired priest (e.g. refraining from any public ministry at Sacred Heart Church in Pomona and other area parishes);
- (6) this agreement should be put into writing as a record of what the parties have mutually decided, and the assurance should be given that at any time and for any reason S. may approach the Vicar for Clergy for a temporary or permanent revision of the agreement, always with a view to the overall good of the Church and to S.'s own personal good.

The Rev. Msgr. Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros  
1215 South Hamilton Boulevard  
Pomona, California, 91766

REDACTED

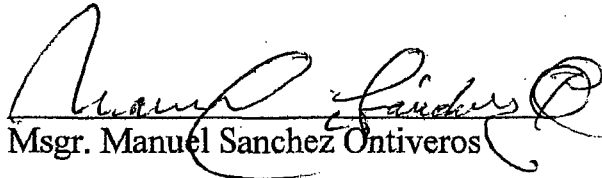
September 25, 2007

REDACTED

Bishop Sartoris advised me yesterday to send you all the material I could concerning my case. I tried to send these documents by Email, but I do not know if they got through. Therefore, I am directing them to the Chancery .

I hope that you will have the opportunity to read them before the session. Thank you again for reviewing my case.

Sincerely yours,



Msgr. Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros

## QUESTIONS FOR THE CARDINAL AND MSGR. GONZALES

1. Could you please ask the Cardinal what is my future as a priest in Los Angeles and in the world?
2. Could the Cardinal and the Vicar for Clergy give me a good reason or explanation why, during almost 8 months, they had absolutely no communication with me or with my Canon lawyer, even after repeated attempts from us to contact them?
3. By telephone, Msgr. Gonzales told me that I had the right to retain a Canon lawyer and agreed that REDACTED recommendation of REDACTED of San Francisco would be a good choice for me. One week later, Msgr. Gonzales told me by letter that the Archdiocese would not be responsible for paying REDACTED I don't understand what made him change his mind.
4. Why did Msgr. Gonzales tell me that the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board recommended to the Cardinal that I be put on Suspendo a Divinis when, according to one of the members of the Board, the Board didn't know the details of the accusation against me when that decision was made? Even now, they don't know the full story of my case. REDACTED, being part of the settlement, makes me look guilty in the eyes of my community, as well as, the whole world.
5. Why didn't the Archdiocese even consider the possibility that REDACTED if he was abused at all, could have been abused by someone other than by me? My contention is, that if it did happen, it is a clear case of mistaken identity.



**MSGR. MANUEL SANCHEZ O.  
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1215 SOUTH HAMILTON BOULEVARD  
POMONA, CA. 91766**

**Most Rev. Gabino Zavala  
Regional Bishop of San Gabriel Pastoral Region  
16009 East Cypress Avenue  
Irwindale, California 91706-2122**

**Dear Bishop Zavala:**

**September 14, 2007**

**After seven months of a complete absence of support from the Archdiocese, I am very relieved that I will finally have the opportunity to actually sit down and discuss my situation with my Regional Bishop.**

**There is no way to express my feelings other than to say that this neglect is a disgrace to my fifty-five years in the priesthood. It is my opinion that my accuser, REDACTED has received much more favorable attention than I in this shameful matter.**

**As you will note as you read the material enclosed, my Canonist, Mr. REDACTED of San Francisco, received not one word from his letters of inquiry to The Archbishop nor The Vicar for Clergy regarding my case. However, this incredible silence does not deter me from continuing in my battle to clear my good name of an insidious crime.**

**I look forward to our meeting on Wednesday. I have great hope that you will give me some clarity and perhaps even some modicum of closure to a time of great sorrow in my life.**

**Sincerely yours in Christ,**

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**Manuel Sanchez O.**

**THE REV. MSGR. MANUEL SANCHEZ  
SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1215 SOUTH HAMILTON BOULEVARD  
POMONA, CA. 91766**

**Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales  
Vicar for Clergy**

Dear Gabriel,

May 23, 2007

I cannot find any good excuse why you have not been in contact with me. I wonder why we did not resolve the injustice of my problem a very long time ago.

In my opinion, your job and mission as Vicar for Clergy should be to defend and to be by the side of the priest in any difficulties or traumas in which he may be involved. I had the illusion that you would be there for *me* when I needed help.

I am wondering if you received my letter of May 18, 2007. Could it be lost? That would be the only adequate reason for the silence. Bishop Zavala and various others received my letter. If it should be the case that you didn't receive *your* copy, please let me know and I will gladly send you another.

What could be a good reason for not making contact with me? You make me think that I am nothing in your opinion, either as a priest or as a human being. In my Spanish culture, the least thing that someone can do is to answer, either directly or indirectly, a request for such important communication.

I contacted <sup>REDACTED</sup> this past week, and she told me by telephone that she was very sorry about everything that she said about me in the Chancery when Msgr. Curry was Vicar for Clergy. She told me that she had mailed a letter with her hand-written testimony which recanted her previous accusations.

It comes to my mind Luke 18: 1-8 where the widow asks for justice from an unjust judge several times during many days until she was heard. Perhaps, you can take five minutes from your overburdened schedule to read this parable from Our Lord.

How many times must I ask you or your office to be in touch with me or my Canon lawyer before *I* am heard? Maybe, you have expected me to be quiet, to die or to disappear from this world. I promise you that I will not cease looking for justice until everything has been clarified.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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Manuel Sanchez

9++

**Your Eminence Cardinal Mahony:**

**I am sorry but this is the only possible way to communicate with you, although I would prefer to talk out this problem in person.**

**Please understand my situation. In this letter to Bishop Zavala, I have expressed my innermost feelings regarding the tremendous humiliation that I received from your unexpected punishment of *Suspensio a Divinis*. Never in my life could I have imagined that I would be treated in this manner by the Church that I have served with so much love for 53 years.**

**My intention has been always and is to continue serving her 'till the end of my life. That has been the call that I received from God.**

**Sincerely in Christ,**

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**Manuel Sanchez O.**

The Rev. Msgr. Manuel Sanchez O.  
Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
1215 South Hamilton Blvd.  
Pomona, Ca. 91766

**Bishop Gabino Zabala  
Saint Gabriel Pastoral Region**

**Dear Bishop Zavala:**

**May 1, 2007**

**I most sincerely regret having to send a letter of this nature to you, but I think that the circumstances leave me no choice. I have been gravely humiliated from the treatment that I have received by the Church suspending me a Divinis.**

**This is the document that Bishop Joe Sartoris asked me to leave for him and, after reading it, he returned it with a letter saying, among other things, "I have read all the material that you gave me. Your innocence certainly comes through." Bishop Sartoris is the only priest, that knowing my situation, has said something positive related to my canonical situation in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.**

**Following is the accusation of my supposed misconduct, I can swear in front of God that I am telling the complete truth. I defy the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board to investigate or allow me and my lawyer to clarify the facts and establish the truth. The hands of my lawyer have been completely tied due to the lack of any response to his petitions. I think that you, as my regional bishop, have the right to know all about my case.**

**Canon Law 1717 has been totally ignored. The conduct of the Personnel Board and the Vicar for Clergy is not acceptable in my opinion. They have demonstrated a complete lack of good manners and Christian charity. I have been dismissed from the Priesthood Ministry in an ignominious manner without giving me any opportunity to defend myself. Apparently, they did not even remotely speculate that those accusations could be pure fantasies or prefabrications by the people that have accused me.**

These are the three possible allegations that could be influencing the Personnel Board:

- 1. REDACTED accusation of brutal sodomy more than 24 years ago in the sacristy of Sacred Heart Church in Pomona before the 10:30 Mass when I was already vested.
- 2. The case of REDACTED (age 20 years) who accused me of asking her to sit on my lap for her Confession. She never attended Masses.
- 3. Four or five women accused me of asking them to sit on my lap when they went to Confession as teenagers.

When I was called to the Chancery on Saturday, February 3, 2007, the case of REDACTED was not even mentioned. After an investigation by a detective, the Clergy Misconduct Board had determined about three years ago that there was no credible evidence to support REDACTED claim. At that time, Msgr. Cox had suggested that I could go to my home in Spain until this matter was settled, but I preferred not to just disappear from public view. I told Msgr. Cox that I would prefer to remain in Pomona to continue saying two or three Masses on Sunday to fill the great need in the Church for a declining priesthood, as well as, to defend myself and my reputation.

Now, regarding the accusation by REDACTED, the case was resolved as you can see in the accompanying document. I cannot imagine why this case was even mentioned after the Vicar for Clergy, Bishop Thomas Curry, gave no credibility to the claim. In addition, REDACTED, my best collaborator during 20 years of parish work for the formation of the leaders of my community of Sacred Heart, is ready to come from El Paso, Texas to testify that everything that I said about REDACTED is true. He can speak with authority as he knew her family very well.

Concerning the accusation of the four or five women that were interviewed over a period of nine months by REDACTED REDACTED I suspect that they are friends of REDACTED who have been paid to testify to augment his case. These women were present at Sacred Heart Church on March 19, 2006 when REDACTED came to manifest against me in his own interest. I have a witness that will testify that REDACTED gave each of his demonstrators the sum of \$100.00 for their participation. REDACTED promised the people on that day that

he would come *every* Sunday to demonstrate against me. However, due to the fact that he was met with antagonism by the parishioners, he has not returned in the past 13 months. And, contrary to what these women claim, I have been told by a reliable source that they are acquainted with each other and did attend classes together at Sacred Heart Parochial School in Pomona.

Immediately after my encounter with REDACTED and his demonstrators at the church door on March 19, 2006, I requested that the Chancery hire a detective to inquire about the allegations of the women who made these false claims of molestation against me. I was completely confident that this defamation would be quickly dismissed. REDACTED was hired by the Chancery, and I was naively under the impression that he would look for the truth on *my* behalf as well. After visiting them several times, REDACTED reported to *me* that the women maintained their silence. He gave me the impression that the girls had no interest in testifying against me. I cannot begin to state the shock that I felt after hearing the damning testimony of REDACTED at the meeting with Msgrs. Gonzales and Meyers.

According to REDACTED, the testimony of these women was the determining factor for the Clergy Oversight Misconduct Board to advise the Cardinal to put me out of the Ministry. Consequently, without taking into account Canon 1717, Juris Canonici of the Church, or without *advising* me of the severity of what possible crimes I may have committed, the Cardinal suspended me *A Divinis* on February 3, 2007.

My lawyer says that he cannot comprehend the way that the various institutions within the Catholic Church are proceeding in my case. More detailed information on all three of these cases can be viewed in my written declaration.

After three months of written requests from my lawyer and myself for a copy of the nature of the accusations, the silence has been deafening. The Vicar for Clergy, Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales and his aide, Msgr. Michael Meyers have repeatedly promised to keep me apprised of my

situation. Neither by telephone nor in writing have these petitions been forthcoming.

I find this attitude lacking fraternal courtesy and acceptable education . I wonder how they can possibly justify that they are acting in good conscience keeping me for so long in a crippling limbo. In the very least, they could say:

- A. We are not allowed to communicate with you or your lawyer.
- B. You have to wait until your case is prepared for presentation.
- C. Your case is so grave that you will waste your time trying to defend yourself because we think that you are guilty.

I think that I have not been treated in a Christian way by the Church that I have been serving for 53 years with great love during my priesthood. Nevertheless, I will always continue loving and serving the Great Faith in which I was born.

Furthermore, no one, absolutely no one, has asked me or has concerned himself about whether or not I have a place to live in these difficult circumstances. My feeling was that it was better not to remain at the rectory in Pomona. It continues to be most difficult for me to sleep at night, and I am considering going to a psychiatrist for help. I do not want to go to Spain because I do not know what to say to my brother who is a priest REDACTED and to the rest of my family. I intend to stay here in Los Angeles to defend my innocence. The Archdiocese apparently doesn't show any interest in solving this problem.

The only communication that I have received from the Vicar for Clergy was that, if I want to use the services of REDACTED as my canon lawyer, I will have to pay him myself. I *know* that REDACTED has been paid by the Diocese on other occasions.

Why this silence and inhuman way of proceeding so contrary to the times in which we live? I even wondered if it could be remotely possible that my critical and defensive attitude of my community of Sacred Heart School could have contributed to this trauma. The Cardinal told me personally and then later by a written communiqué that I was one of the best priests of the Archdiocese and that was the reason why he named me a monsignor.

I asked myself if it has been prohibited for REDACTED to communicate with me. Apparently, REDACTED has been so *busy* in his pastoral work that he didn't even have five minutes to call after my request to phone me regarding this matter. I wonder also if the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board is afraid to antagonize SNAP, and therefore it is forced to believe all the accusations against the priests. I have learned that REDACTED belongs to that commission in Pomona.

Can you imagine how I must feel in my present situation? Please think for a moment that *you* have been accused of asking some women to sit on your lap which you never ever did either in the Confessional or outside it. You go to the institution that you have been serving for *so* many years expecting that they will hear you, defend you and protect you. Instead of being offered any of the preceding expectations that you look for, you are not only denied *all* of them, but you are thrown out of that institution without giving you the opportunity of defending yourself in *any* manner whatsoever. You have to be blind in *both* eyes not to see that this is against the Gospel, and that this attitude is completely contrary to the Christian principles that Our Catholic Church is supposed to profess, to defend and to practice.

I consider myself *so* innocent regarding those allegations that I would deem myself guilty if I do *not* act to demand justice. Should I put my case in the Hands of Divine Providence alone, I would feel that I am failing myself. I have every RIGHT to be heard.

Sincerely in Christ,

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Manuel Sanchez O.



**Manuel Sanchez**

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**From:** "Manuel Sanchez" REDACTED  
**To:** REDACTED  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2007 6:22 PM  
**Attach:** REDACTED  
**Subject:** Fw:REDACTED recommendation

— Original Message —

**From:** Manuel Sanchez  
**To:** REDACTED  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2007 6:08 PM  
**Subject:** Bishop Satoris' recommendation

REDACTED

**Bishop Sartoris has strongly advised me to give you as much information as possible concerning my case. He told me that he knows of your integrity both as a lawyer and a Christian.**

**In the decree of Suspenso a Divinis, REDACTED accusations were strongly influential for the decision of the Board against me.**

**Her case had already been analyzed at that time, and it had been decidedly determined by Bishop Tom Curry that it had no foundation whatsoever.**

**Nevertheless REDACTED case was once more presented as defamation and libel. I was completely dumbfounded. Apparently, the Board did not have access to the prevailing facts of the decision by Bishop Curry.**

**On May 15, 2007, I had a telephone conversation with REDACTED who was at that time in Miami, Florida. She freely admitted that she had accused me falsely when she told her story in the Chancery. I asked her to provide me with a handwritten letter attesting to her admission. She did so immediately, although the letter is not so strongly worded as was the conversation on the telephone. She told me that her step-daughter had been a liar all her life and continues to be dishonest even now that she is married. She volunteered to testify by telephone from Santo Domingo, where she presently resides, to anyone from the Chancery or from the Clerov Misconduct Oversight Board. She can be reached at this number REDACTED**

**The Vicar for Clergy has a copy of REDACTED letter in Spanish, written "To Whom it May Concern," on May 21, 2007. I will send you a copy of the letter in English. Also included, I am sending a copy of the letter that I sent to Bishop Zavala on May 1, 2007. I admit that it is a very strong letter, but please understand my anger and my frustration.**

**Sincerely yours,**

**Msgr. Manuel Sanchez O.**

10/17/2007

REDACTED


September 18, 2007

As you can imagine, the forthcoming review of my case by the CMOB on October 24<sup>th</sup> is extremely important to me. Just in case you have not received any of these copies, I am sending them directly to you at the Chancery.

I greatly appreciate the time that you have spent on my appeal. Without your cooperation and work, the solution of my situation would be almost impossible to resolve, I am convinced.

Thank you very much for anything that you might do for me, and may God bless you.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Msgr. Manuel Sanchez Ontiveros

**Manuel Sanchez**

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**From:** "Manuel Sanchez" REDACTED  
**To:** REDACTED  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 17, 2007 8:28 PM  
**Subject:** Review Board Hearing

REDACTED

Bishop Sartoris strongly advised me to request your permission for my presence at the October 24th meeting of the CMOB. I would be more than grateful for the opportunity to defend my case in person. I will greatly appreciate your consideration of my petition.

Concerning the case of REDACTED, the opinion and testimony of REDACTED REDACTED would be very important. For twenty years they were leaders and teachers for the parents of the C.C.D. children. They were very well acquainted with the character and the behavior of REDACTED in the community. Although they reside at the present time in El Paso, Texas, they readily offered to come to Los Angeles and testify to the Board as to the veracity of their written statement.

As a matter of record, I would like to comment on the declaration of REDACTED REDACTED He was present when the Decree of Suspenso a Divinis was given to me on February 3, 2007. Regarding the girls who accused me of immoral conduct when they manifested in front of the church with REDACTED said clearly that these girls didn't know each other. This is a decided contradiction of REDACTED REDACTED

(cellphone) REDACTED. When REDACTED visited REDACTED in her home, she told him that she knew three of the girls as they all had attended the same school together in Pomona REDACTED told me that she had offered to cooperate in any way with the detective, but REDACTED refused to give her the complete list of the names of the other girls. I have no idea of the number of girls who were paid to accuse me in order to assure REDACTED of his share of the settlement with the Archdiocese. REDACTED will gladly speak with anyone on the Board about this matter. It is unbelievable that REDACTED didn't tell the true facts to the Chancery.

I have a witness who said that the group of about fifteen people that were demonstrating with REDACTED in front of the church were paid the sum of \$100.00 each. Her name is REDACTED; her phone number is REDACTED. She can be reached after 8:00 PM. She was also present when this manifestation took place REDACTED had promised that he would come every Sunday to Sacred Heart to demonstrate. Due to the rejection of the whole community, he came only once. According to REDACTED, she said to REDACTED "What are you doing to our church. You are trying to destroy it. I have known you since you were a little boy in the school, and you were always a terrible troublemaker." She stated that REDACTED then went to the other side of the street crying. It is a pity that REDACTED will be rewarded after telling so many lies about me. I have been humiliated to the ultimate without having having any possibility to defend myself.

10/17/2007

**THE REV. MSGR. MANUEL SANCHEZ ONTIVEROS  
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1215 SOUTH HAMILTON BOULEVARD  
POMONA, CALIFORNIA 91766**

Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales  
Vicar for Clergy

Dear Gabriel:

May 18, 2007

I regret having to be so strong with you; but after almost four months of not being able to communicate with you, I think that I have every right to express my feelings to you concerning my case. I ask myself: Is the purpose of the Office of the Vicar for Clergy to defend the priests of the Church or is its objective to condemn without due process of Canon Law?

May I quote directly from the decree issued by your office on January 26, 2007? "This decree should in no way be construed as a judgment of guilt concerning the allegations." Normally, you declare someone guilty and then he is punished. In my case, I was punished to the maximum with Suspendo a Divinis without being declared "guilty." Is this the new rule coming from the Vatican?

I reiterate once more that I am one-hundred percent innocent with regard to the accusations that you brought against me to the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board. I have been disgracefully treated with a complete lack of respect for the position that I have so proudly held in this diocese for the past 32 years.

It is more than obvious that you didn't treat me according to the Christian principals of the Gospel. Please read Saint Matthew, Chapter 18, Verse 15. Couldn't you have solved this problem speaking directly to me? It was as easy as a phone call from me this Thursday, May 17, 2007, directly to <sup>REDACTED</sup>. She told me that she was very sorry for whatever she said to Msgr. Curry in the Chancery. She said that she was under a great deal of stress for what was happening in Sacred Heart School and in the prayer group of my parish. She is now convinced that her daughter was telling lies because, she maintains that her daughter has been a liar all of her life. She promised to send me a FAX next Monday, May 21, 2007, detailing her conversation with me. She gave me the

telephone number with which she can be reached. When I receive this FAX, I will send a copy to you.

You took for granted the validity of REDACTED accusation and turned it over to the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board without taking into consideration the comments and conclusions by Msgr. Curry which are clearly defined in my personnel file in the Archdiocese. You did not allow me to defend myself; you completely tied the hands of my lawyer to advocate my case. Neither you, nor your secretary, did not have the smallest courtesy to be in touch with me. You made me think that my honor and my reputation mean nothing for you when, after serving my Church for fifty-three years, I was thrown out without the most remote possibility of defending myself.

Where should the priests of this Diocese go when they have been falsely accused? I have been denied by you access to the services of a lawyer accorded me by Canon 1717 of the Juris Canonici of our Church. I have been so disconsolate and depressed to the point that I have been forced to seek psychological therapy to try to understand how it could be possible for your office to be so callous and unfeeling.

May I expect that you, in your obviously very over-burdened schedule, will read this letter and do me the favor of responding in one way or another? Three days ago I requested from your secretary that you return my phone call. I am still waiting.

I am sorry if I am very strong in this letter. I think that the reputation and honor of a priest who has been serving faithfully for so many years deserves a modicum of respect from you and your office.

Sincerely in Christ,

---

(Manuel Sanchez)

CC: Cardinal Roger Mahony  
Bishop Gabino Zavala  
(My Regional Bishop)

Your Eminence:

May 18, 2007

I hope that you will read this letter. In it, my feelings concerning your Decree of Suspenso a Divinis are reflected in an honest and sincere way.

I sincerely expect that my situation will be resolved as soon as possible. I reaffirm my innocence with an ever-growing sense of frustration and disappointment in the way that the Office of the Vicar for Clergy is handling my case.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

---

Manuel Sanchez

THE REV. MSGR. MANUEL SANCHEZ  
SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1215 SOUTH HAMILTON BOULEVARD  
POMONA, CA. 91766

Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales  
Vicar for Clergy

Dear Gabriel,

May 23, 2007

I cannot find any good excuse why you have not been in contact with me. I wonder why we did not resolve the injustice of my problem a very long time ago.

In my opinion, your job and mission as Vicar for Clergy should be to defend and to be by the side of the priest in any difficulties or traumas in which he may be involved. I had the illusion that you would be there for *me* when I needed help.

I am wondering if you received my letter of May 18, 2007. Could it be lost? That would be the only adequate reason for the silence. Bishop Zavala and various others received my letter. If it should be the case that you didn't receive *your* copy, please let me know and I will gladly send you another.

What could be a good reason for not making contact with me? You make me think that I am nothing in your opinion, either as a priest or as a human being. In my Spanish culture, the least thing that someone can do is to answer, either directly or indirectly, a request for such important communication.

I contacted <sup>REDACTED</sup> this past week, and she told me by telephone that she was very sorry about everything that she said about me in the Chancery when Msgr. Curry was Vicar for Clergy. She told me that she had mailed a letter with her hand-written testimony which recanted her previous accusations.

It comes to my mind Luke 18: 1-8 where the widow asks for justice from an unjust judge several times during many days until she was heard. Perhaps, you can take five minutes from your overburdened schedule to read this parable from Our Lord.

How many times must I ask you or your office to be in touch with me or my Canon lawyer before *I* am heard? Maybe, you have expected me to be quiet, to die or to disappear from this world. I promise you that I will not cease looking for justice until everything has been clarified.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

---

Manuel Sanchez

**Manuel Sanchez**

---

**From:** "Manuel Sanchez" REDACTED  
**To:** REDACTED  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2007 6:08 PM  
**Attach:** REDACTED  
**Subject:** REDACTED recommendation

REDACTED

Bishop Sartoris has strongly advised me to give you as much information as possible concerning my case. He told me that he knows of your integrity both as a lawyer and a Christian.

In the decree of *Suspensio a Divinis*, REDACTED accusations were strongly influential for the decision of the Board against me.

Her case had already been analyzed at that time, and it had been decidedly determined by Bishop Tom Curry that it had no foundation whatsoever. Nevertheless, REDACTED case was once more presented as defamation and libel. I was completely dumbfounded. Apparently, the Board did not have access to the prevailing facts of the decision by Bishop Curry.

On May 15, 2007, I had a telephone conversation with REDACTED who was at that time in Miami, Florida. She freely admitted that she had accused me falsely when she told her story in the Chancery. I asked her to provide me with a handwritten letter attesting to her admission. She did so immediately, although the letter is not so strongly worded as was the conversation on the telephone. She told me that her step-daughter had been a liar all her life and continues to be dishonest even now that she is married. She volunteered to testify by telephone from Santo Domingo, where she presently resides, to anyone from the Chancery or from the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board. She can be reached at this number: REDACTED

The Vicar for Clergy has a copy of REDACTED letter in Spanish, written "To Whom it May Concern," on May 21, 2007. I will send you a copy of the letter in English. Also included, I am sending a copy of the letter that I sent to Bishop Zavala on May 1, 2007. I admit that it is a very strong letter, but please understand my anger and my frustration.

Sincerely yours,  
Msgr. Manuel Sanchez O.

9/24/2007



## CMOB 064 Summary

**Priest Background:** This case involves a 79 year old Archdiocesan priest who was ordained in 1954. He is currently retired with no faculties. His faculties were removed by decree on 1/26/07.

### Complaints:

#### Complainant #1 (C1)

In April 2003, C1, a male born in 1971, reported to the Victims Assistance Ministry (VAM) that in approximately 1981 he had been sexually abused by the priest (064). In the initial information reported by C1 was documented on a Clergy Misconduct form and reflects that C1 accused the priest of grabbing him from the rear and put his penis inside of him. C1 reported that the incident happened in the room where left-over bread and wine were taken. The initial investigation in this matter was conducted by and reported to CMOB by REDACTED. Based on a review of the documents from the first investigation, it appears that the location of the alleged incident was assumed to be the sacristy.

The first investigation was concluded in December 2003 and subsequently presented to CMOB. The allegations made by C1 were not substantiated and the credibility of C1 was in question for several reasons, including, but not limited to, C1's criminal past, drug usage, and primarily, because the sacristy was an active venue during Sunday mornings and completely inhospitable for the activity C1 described.

The case was closed and the priest remained in ministry. C1 was a plaintiff in the Clergy I lawsuit.

REDACTED

#### Complainant #2 (C2)

REDACTED

**Complainant #3 (C3)**

In November 1989, C3, a female born in 1965, wrote a letter to the ADLA  
REDACTED . In subsequent

interviews as part of this investigation, C3 reported that it was common for the priest to have young girls sit in his lap, including herself. She saw him have girls sit in his lap and noted that it was part of his "M. O." with the girls. Regarding herself, she described sitting on the priest's lap as a common and spontaneous occurrence. She opined that his actions never seemed contrived and she did not view them as inappropriate. She volunteered that she would have to admit that as she got older, about the age of sixteen, it felt more uncomfortable.

**Complainant #4 (C4)**

In July 1989, the school principal reported to Vicar for Clergy that in 1987, the mother of C4, a female born in 1973, complained to her that some time around Easter, the priest had asked each of her two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession and then fondled them. In April 2006, the mother of C4 was located and confirmed having complained to the school principal about the priest having fondled C4 on two occasions during confession. C4 is married and resides in Mexico and was not available for interview.

**Complainants #5 & #6 (C5 & C6)**

C5 and C6, females born in 1971 and 1970, respectively, participated during a public demonstration at the church where the priest was a former pastor and claimed he had molested them when they were minors. C5 was subsequently interviewed and reported that when she was about seven or eight years old, she went to confession for the first time in order to make her First Communion. She recalled that when she entered the confessional she was nervous and did not have anything to confess. The priest asked her to come around to his side and when she did she noticed a chair to the left side of the priest. When she went to sit in the chair the priest told her not to sit in the chair, but in his lap. She sat in his lap as he told her and he put his hand under her dress. His actions made her even more nervous and scared. When his hand reached the edge of her panties she started crying and jumped off of his lap. The priest became angry with her, told her she had been bad and needed to go say three Our Fathers and two Hail Marys. He also told her not to say anything to anyone about what had happened. C5 also reported that C6 had also experienced a similar incident during confession.

C6 never made herself available for interview; however, her former 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher from 1982-1983, was interviewed and recalled C6 having complained about the priest after going to confession with him. She made a report to the school principal.

### Investigation:

This case was reopened for investigation after the allegations made by C5 & C6 during the public demonstration in April 2006. Extensive investigation was conducted regarding all aspects of the allegations against the priest and included thirty-four interviews.

Regarding C1, it is noted that after the initial investigation in 2003, a mediation document signed by C1 was received which alleged that the priest abused him by doing the following:

- The priest penetrated C1's anus with his penis one time.
- Fondled C1's genitals over his clothes on multiple occasions.
- Fondled C1's buttocks over his clothes on multiple occasions.
- Rubbing his body against C1 on multiple occasions.
- Rubbing and massaging C1's body over his clothes on multiple occasions.
- Caressing C1's face, skin to skin, on multiple occasions.
- Giving C1 wine.

C1 was interviewed in January 2008, and provided a statement reaffirming his original allegations regarding the sexual abuse. He clarified that "not too much happened in the sacristy" and that most of the allegations involving touching or rubbing against him occurred in areas around the church grounds and in the equipment room of the school. C1 stated that he was anally raped by the priest one time and the incident occurred in a room located in a room adjacent to the sacristy. Subsequent investigation located a room adjacent to the sacristy as described by C1.

Regarding allegations of misconduct involving confessions or the priest having girls sit on his lap, four complaints exist regarding improper behavior with young girls during confession, statements from three additional women support allegations about the priest having young girls sit on his lap, six additional women reported having interacted with the priest when they were students and never experienced any inappropriate behavior.

Additionally, three men, two of whom were classmates with C5 and one with C6, were interviewed. All three reported having gone to confession with the priest, but at no time were they ever asked to sit on his lap.

### Interview with the priest:

On November 20, 2007, the priest was interviewed in the presence of his attorney. The interview was audio tape-recorded by the investigator and the priest's attorney, and later transcribed.

During the interview, the priest was informed of the identity of each of the persons who made specific allegations of sexual misconduct against him, the nature of

those allegations and the identity of women who had reported that he had them sit on his lap as young girls, but were not offended by the behavior. The following points are noted regarding the priest's responses:

- He did not remember C1 and denied the specific allegations made against him by C1.
- He denied knowing C6.
- He denied knowing C4's family and that any parent ever complained about his behavior or attempted to talk to him.

REDACTED

- He acknowledged knowing C3, but denied that he ever had her sit on his lap.
- He denied knowing C5.
- He did not remember the teacher who claimed she made a report to the principal regarding an incident involving C6.
- He denied ever having any girl sit on his lap during confession or at any time.
- He admitted to providing some input to the letter written in his support by a married couple.



**COPY**

REDACTED

Archdiocese of Los Angeles

3424  
Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2202

January 20, 2009

REDACTED

REDACTED, CHRISTMAS 2008

*Re:* REDACTED

REDACTED

As you may recall last winter, after REDACTED was interviewed, you were going to review your files for any relevant materials that might assist the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board.

The Sanchez matter is scheduled for final review by the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board next month. As part of their review, they have asked me to confirm with you whether your files contain any information that was not previously provided by you or b<sup>REDACTED</sup> when he was interviewed on January 14, 2008. If you have any information, let me know and I will ask REDACTED to contact you. If you have no information, please let me know that as well.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated. Trust you are having a good New Year.

Yours very truly,  
REDACTED

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Attorney Work Product

## Memorandum

REDACTED  
**To:**

Monsignor Gabriel Gonzales  
Vicar for Clergy

REDACTED

**From:**

**Date:** February 9, 2009

**Subject:** Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
Canonical Investigation

**Reference:** Email from REDACTED dated December 26, 2008.

Referenced email outlined several pending issues which were discussed during a meeting on December 22, 2008 and that needed to be resolved in order to conclude this investigation.

The purpose of this memorandum is to document that the pending issues have been resolved as follows:

- By Email dated January 6, 2009 REDACTED REDACTED, advised that, according to REDACTED records, REDACTED is the only plaintiff in regards to Manual Sanchez. Neither REDACTED REDACTED were found in a database search of plaintiffs or perpetrator information.  
REDACTED advised that a review of settlement information revealed that REDACTED settlement was above the median range.
- By Email dated February 5, 2009 REDACTED attorney, advised that she did not have any additional information.
- By Email dated January 6, 2009, REDACTED also advised that Sanchez' file shows Sanchez P and C files, VAM file, REDACTED correspondence, and REDACTED work product. There is no information solely available to REDACTED. Therefore, there is nothing that REDACTED as that the ACC does not have.

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Attorney Work Product

4. The letter written REDACTED, was previously translated by the investigator and it represents an accurate translation; however, the following information, which was previously reported by Investigative Report dated June 23, 2008, is noted:

- On September 27, 2007, Sanchez wrote an email t REDACTED Chair of the CMOB, in which he stated, "On May 15, 2007, I had a telephone conversation with REDACTED who was at that time in Miami, Florida. She freely admitted that she had accused me falsely when she told her story in the Chancery. I asked her to provide me with a handwritten letter attesting to her admission. She did so immediately, although the letter is not so strongly worded as was the conversation on the telephone. She told me that her step-daughter had been a liar all her life and continues to be dishonest even now that she is married. She volunteered to testify by telephone from Santo Domingo, where she presently resides, to anyone from the Chancery or from the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board. She can be reached at this number REDACTED REDACTED. *(It should be noted that the letter does not state that the daughter had been a liar all her life as Sanchez states; however, Sanchez later did accurately translate the letter which reads, in pari, that REDACTED was not sure that her daughter was telling the truth at the time because lately she had been telling them things that were not true.)*

On September 27, 2007, REDACTED, was re-contacted to confirm the information provided by Sanchez t REDACTED e via email. REDACTED reiterated that what she had told Sanchez was that, with time, she had doubts regarding whether or not his intentions were malicious, but at no time did she tell him that she had falsely accused him. She suggested to Sanchez that possibly through a dialogue between himself ar REDACTED the issue could be resolved.

She continued that she has no doubts that the incident with REDACTED nd Sanchez occurred, and what happened to REDACTED, as very traumatic for her. She never told Sanchez that Ivelisse had lied about the incident, but did, in the course of the conversation, tell him that her daughter, like most children, had, on occasion, not been completely honest with her.

She said Sanchez had called her sisters numerous times attempting to contact her and when he talked to her, he pressured her into writing a letter, which she did on the way to the airport. She stated that, based on the nature of their conversation and what Sanchez is now saying, he is not acting in good faith.

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Attorney Work Product

5. It is noted that independent investigation was conducted by Sanchez' attorney and he submitted four signed declarations from four women, who attended Sacred Heart during the same time period as REDACTED, asserting that they never experienced any inappropriate behavior on the part of Sanchez. One of the women REDACTED, was also interviewed by the investigator in this matter on two occasions and her statement was consistent with the information provided to Sanchez' attorney.

A by-product of reviewing school records to locate boys, who attended school at the same time as REDACTED, was locating records which revealed that some of the claims made by two of the women interviewed by Sanchez' attorney were not accurate. For example, REDACTED, reported that she was a classmate of REDACTED during 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and REDACTED was her best friend. She reported having seen REDACTED three years ago and REDACTED never told her anything about being abused. No school records were located for REDACTED and pupil classroom attendance records for REDACTED<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 1982-1983 and 1983-1984, respectively, did not show any record for REDACTED. Records show that Estrada's sister, REDACTED, attended Sacred Heart School in 1984-1985 and part of the 1985-1986 school year.

REDACTED was contacted on February 6, 2009 by telephone in El Paso, Texas. REDACTED was advised of the result of the records check which did not show her as a classmate of REDACTED; insisted that she attended school at Sacred Heart and started school at the same time as her sisters, REDACTED. REDACTED was advised that REDACTED was no longer a student at Sacred Heart for the 1984-1985 school year. She then stated that the person that she was referring to in her signed statement was not REDACTED, but possibly REDACTED. She was asked if she prepared the signed statement or if it was prepared for her by Sanchez's attorney. She advised that the statement was prepared by Sanchez's attorney and sent to her for her signature.

To summarize, in the course of this investigation, four complaints exist regarding improper behavior with young girls during confession, statements from three additional women support allegations about Sanchez having young girls sit on his lap, six additional women reported having interacted with Sanchez when they were students and never experienced any inappropriate behavior.

Additionally, to resolve the pending issues in this matter, three men, who were former students at Sacred Heart School, two of whom were classmates with REDACTED and one with REDACTED were interviewed. All three reported having gone to confession with Sanchez, but at no time were they ever asked to sit on his lap.



CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT  
ATTORNEY CLIENT WORK PRODUCT

December 6, 2003

Sacristy  
CMOB-064

*Manuel Sanchez*

REDACTED

, canonical auditor

The complaints lodged against Monsignor X were reviewed as well as the actions taken at the time they were made. As a result the following individuals were interviewed between October 28, 2003, and December 3, 2003:

REDACTED

Telephonic contact was made with X on September 15, 2003, to advise him of the status of this matter. He made two subsequent telephonic contacts and was advised since he was represented by counsel that he should discuss this with his attorney before submitting to an interview in this matter.

X is a European in his 70s who was ordained in Europe in 1954 and came from Europe to the Los Angeles Archdiocese in 1971. He served at a high school and three parishes in the Archdiocese before retiring in 2000. He arrived at XYZ in 1977 and became pastor there in 1980, serving in that capacity until his retirement. He no longer lives at the parish but does regularly assist there on Sundays when he is in the Los Angeles area.

There are four separate allegations that have been made against X. They are:

1. On July 6, 1989, REDACTED and her husband advised the vicar of clergy (Monsignor Thomas J. Curry) that in about 1986 X inappropriately touched their daughter.
2. During the July 6, 1989, meeting the REDACTED; also alleged that X asked two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession.
3. During the July 6, 1989, meeting the REDACTED also alleged that X was having an affair with a parishioner. On November 7, 1989, this was also independently alleged to Curry by REDACTED who was the youth minister at XYZ Church at the time.
4. On April 4, 2000, REDACTED; (born June 2, 1971) made an allegation to Father N that X had abused him in the sacristy of XYZ Church in approximately 1981.

REDACTED

- Allegation that X inappropriately touched

During the July 6, 1989, meeting with Curry the REDACTED made approximately 20 allegations regarding X, including the one regarding their daughter. X was their pastor at XYZ at the time and many of the allegations had to do with his administration of the parish. On July 26, 1989, Curry and Monsignor REDACTED met with REDACTED and her mother REDACTED, advised them that about three and a half years ago (she was 24 years old at the time of the interview but the question of her age at the time the alleged incident took place was not asked) she went to a youth group retreat and had a face-to-face confession with X. At this time he asked her to sit on his lap and she dismissed the request jokingly, however, during the confession he rubbed her leg. She left the church after that and did not return. When asked if there was anything they could do for her or X she said that she thought X was a good man but that he needed some type of help. She requested that they provide it for him but requested nothing for herself.

On July 6, 1989, Curry contacted Father P, an associate pastor at XYZ at the time. He told Curry that Mrs. REDACTED had advised him that a molestation of her daughter had taken place and the daughter had stopped attending church. P said that he had heard rumors about X but there was nothing to substantiate them and he had never seen anything improper.

On October 31, November 3 and 7, 2003, P was contacted telephonically. He related that he was at XYZ from July 1988 until June 1989 and that he and X did not agree on many issues and he requested to be transferred to another parish. X did not seek his counsel and P did not offer it to him. He recalled that the REDACTED made some type of allegation against X but understood that they had taken it to the chancery and that it had been investigated, resolved and the case closed. He could offer no insight into it and had no idea where the REDACTED currently were located. There were a lot of schisms in the parish at that time, some he felt were legitimate others were not. Some parishioners supported the school and others, including X, did not and X's relationship with the school principal was one of love/hate; Hispanics had issues with whites; some agreed with X about spending money on stained glass windows while others did not; and there were others. It was a changing community with an abundance of crime and gang activity and all these issues lent to the fact that many in the parish liked X while many others did not. He never observed X do anything inappropriate in a sexual context to either a minor or adult.

On October 28, 2003, Curry was telephonically contacted and advised he remembered very little about his investigation into X. He did recall that the couple that made the complaint was much more concerned about their perception that X was mismanaging the parish than their allegation regarding X abusing their daughter. He felt they brought the issue regarding the daughter up as almost an afterthought and he felt that was strange.

On October 28, 2003 REDACTED was interviewed regarding his contacts with REDACTED, and her mother REDACTED the current and past parish secretaries at XYZ Church. Based on his contact with them earlier this year regarding the REDACTED, allegation he felt they were honest forthright people that could be trusted.

On October 28, 2003 REDACTED REDACTED was contacted regarding the interview he and REDACTED conducted of REDACTED in 1989. He could add nothing to the original interview and as he recalls she was a believable person.

On November 7, 2003 REDACTED was contacted and vaguely remembers REDACTED and her parents but has no idea where they are now. As far as she knows they were reliable people.

On November 3, 2003, REDACTED REDACTED were interviewed together at the XYZ Parish office. REDACTED faintly remembers REDACTED at one time working in the parish office. She could not offer anything more regarding her or her family and has no idea as to her current whereabouts. REDACTED advised the REDACTED are not current parishioners and she could not locate any records pertaining to them.

In a memorandum dated July 13, 198 REDACTED mentions that he talked REDACTED (deceased)

at length regarding this matter. R served at XYZ from 1980 to 1985 and agreed that X might have had difficulties managing the parish but R had never seen any signs of impropriety.

On September 27, 1989, REDACTED interviewed X regarding this matter and he "vehemently denied any improprieties on his part". He acknowledged knowing th REDACTED and said that they were active parishioners and good friends of his. He suggested he speak to them regarding this and was cautioned against doing that. He said he was aware the daughter was not attending church and had mentioned that to the parents. He speculated that she made up the story as an excuse for not attending Mass. It was suggested he see a doctor to deal with the trauma of the allegations and he agreed.

X apparently did se REDACTED a psychologist, in the latter part of 1989 but it is not known on how many occasions or over what time period. REDACTED mentions in a memorandum dated November 30, 1989, that the doctor believes this allegation to be false.

On November 24, 2003, REDACTED, s, former vicar for clergy and current pastor at Saints Felicitas and Perpetua in San Marino, advised th REDACTED a psychologist that had been utilized as a therapist for priests. He is no longer used by the Archdiocese.

• Allegation that X asked two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession

This allegation was one of many originally raised by th REDACTED at the July 6, 1989, meeting with Curry. They advised that two years prior X asked two seventh grade girls (there are various references to these girls in the file as being in the sixth, seventh and eighth grade) at the parish school to sit on his lap during confession. They said Sister L, the school principal, was aware of the incident.

On July 7, 1989, REDACTED met with L who advised th REDACTED had five children in the parish school at one time but now only two were attending. L described the family as strict. In 1987 REDACTED told REDACTED that sometime around Easter X had asked each of her two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession and that he then fondled them. L believed that she told her supervisor at the time, REDACTED (deceased). After the initial mention of the allegation the parent never spoke to L about it again. She went on that she would not be surprised if the allegation was true as she found X impossible to work with and that the staff meetings were heated and X had no interest in the school.

Curry mentions in a letter to the Archbishop dated July 13, 1989, that he contacted REDACTED regional supervisor for elementary schools of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and that she doubted the incident took place. She knew there were difficulties at the school but thought L was dealing with many of her personal problems as well.

In an undated interview assumed to have taken place in September 1989, L and Sister R came to Curry's office. R worked in XYZ Parish with the SAYA program (this is probably the Soledad Enrichment Act or SEA, an alternative program that works with troubled youth and gang members). They related that recently the two girls central to the allegation came to school and announced their 13-year-old cousin had run away with a 21 year old man. The mother of the 13-year-old came to school to say the Horta girls were lying. REDACTED family then removed their girls from the school. These two girls were rebellious and troublesome at school and had two boyfriends that waited for them after school outside the school gates. Curry indicated that during their meeting L and R were more concerned with financial matters related to the school than th REDACTED and R noted that X tended to turn away from people that threatened his power.

On November 3, 2003, REDACTED could not recall th REDACTED family at XYZ. They were not able to locate the family in old parish directories.

On October 31, 2003, P advised he did not recall th REDACTED family.

12/09/2003 14:05 FAX

006

On November 7, 2003, M advised she faintly recalled the <sup>REDACTED</sup> family and believed they were active in the parish but had no idea as to their present location.

X in 1989 "vehemently denied any impropriety on his part" regarding this matter in an interview with Curry and <sup>REDACTED</sup> and in 2003 denied ever taking any liberties with minors during his career as a priest.

REDACTED

REDACTED

- Allegation that X abus REDACTED in the sacristy

On November 24 and December 3, 2003, Father N, associate pastor at XYZ Parish, was telephonically contacted regarding his meeting with REDACTED on April 23, 2003. He said that REDACTED came to see him at the parish that Wednesday because N noticed REDACTED in the vestibule of the church two or three weeks before, after a Sunday Mass. N approached REDACTED at that time as he looked despondent and REDACTED advised him that he had been away from the church and was now returning. Since Mass had just finished and N did not have much time he told REDACTED that if he wanted to talk to come see him later. REDACTED was not crying at this time. When REDACTED returned it was to the parish office on April 23. He appeared nervous and told N he had information that he had been carrying in silence too long but that he would not see N again and felt he could tell him. He told N that when he saw the name of Father I X (this is the deceased brother of the accused) on a parish conference room named in his honor all his memories came flowing back and he felt an honor like that should not be bestowed on an individual like X. When N determined the nature of REDACTED accusations he told REDACTED to contact REDACTED in the Assistance Ministry and did not hear any specifics of the allegations.

On December 2, 2003, REDACTED advised that N contacted her about REDACTED on April 23, 2003, and that she called REDACTED that day. The conversation with him was documented on a Clergy Misconduct form and states that in 1978-1981 a priest at the XYZ Church had abused him there. He was about ten years old at the time and his mother later told him the priest at the parish then was Father X. He could only describe him as a Mexican man and gave no age. REDACTED stated that the priest grabbed him from the rear and put his penis inside REDACTED and this happened where the left over bread and wine were taken. He further stated this occurred during the summertime and that he was wearing shorts and the priest wore robes. The initial report, amongst other things, contained the following information that he provided, he always needed attention; he was expelled from XYZ School in the fifth grade; he entered public school and became a gang member; he went to jail in the seventh grade; he hated authority; he has been out of jail for five years; and he tried to kill himself. He went on that he had used drugs, was jailed for fraud, was about to be sentenced for spousal abuse, had an anger problem, feared publicity regarding this and wanted to know if there were other victims of the priest.

On May 1, 2003 REDACTED acting in his capacity as a canonical auditor, and REDACTED a licensed psychologist working with the Assistance Ministry, interviewed REDACTED in a classroom at the XYZ Parish School. REDACTED described REDACTED as a profuse talker who readily changed subjects REDACTED mother is a teachers' aide and his father an alcoholic who abused every member of the family including the mother and he served jail time for that. The parents divorced several years ago. REDACTED has an older and younger brother and a sister that is either a bit younger or a bit older than he is. All children are now grown and all have emotional issues they are dealing with REDACTED sexually assaulted his sister in front of his younger brother when he was in the seventh grade. This seriously affected both the brother and sister. REDACTED has a conflicted relationship with his father. He claimed that his abuse involving the priest took place over a period of seven or eight weeks when he was in the fifth grade. The priest approached him from the rear in the XYZ sacristy as he was preparing to serve Mass. He would be facing the cabinet where the hosts and wine were kept and the priest would reach around and caress his face and press his body against REDACTED. This escalated over time to where the priest exposed his penis and had REDACTED hold it. When the priest finally tried to have anal intercourse with REDACTED and was unable he asked REDACTED to assist him. At this point REDACTED "drew the line". He left the church and did not return until recently when he came onto the parish grounds. The priest told REDACTED not to tell his parents as he (the priest) would deny it and the father would punish REDACTED severely. REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

In 1993 he told his mother he was abused as a child but did not tell her a priest was the abuser since the church means so much to her. Sometime in the last year he confided to a neighbor, who is a policeman, what happened and he told REDACTED that he would have to confront the priest to find healing. He also claimed this neighbor gave him a lie detector test. When he finally returned to XYZ N saw him crying and told him that he would be willing to listen to him and although they did not discuss the abuse then this led to the April 23 meeting. In the meantime REDACTED asked his mother who the "father" was during the relevant time period and she told him X. REDACTED strongest feelings during the interview were when he discussed his desire for the Archdiocese to rescue his brother REDACTED from the gang life he is currently living. He threatened that things would become ugly if his brother was not given a place to live and recover. Towards the end of the interview REDACTED's was shown nine photographs of priests. After first saying he did not want to try and identify the perpetrator he looked at them and picked out three photos and asked if X was one of them. These three wore glasses and the other six did not. When informed that one of them was X he selected the photo of X. He advised he had not reported the abuse to the police despite being given the number by REDACTED He was told they would have a better idea if there were other victims.

A review of REDACTED's cumulative pupil record shows that he entered XYZ School September 2, 1980, as a fourth grader coming from Madison School in Pomona. He attended XYZ that entire year as well as his entire fifth grade withdrawing June 11, 1982 when his enrollment information was sent to Roosevelt in Pomona. REDACTED

On June 29, 2003 REDACTED interviewed Sister F the principal at XYZ Parish School in 1981-82. This was the first year she was a school principal and she could not recall REDACTED as a student there. She had no recollection of a student being asked to leave the school at any time, especially during the middle of the year. She had no recollection of any incident involving students urinating into the dunk tank at the parish fiesta. It was a small school and she felt she would recall anything serious that happened during the two years she was there. She remembered the altar servers being in the sixth grade and older. Other than Sunday Mass they only served funeral Masses and the student body Mass on Friday mornings.

On November 3, 2003, REDACTED, was telephonically contacted at his home and advised he was a XYZ parishioner. In the early 1980s he was in charge of the dip tank at the parish fiesta. He could not recall the exact years the tank was at the fiesta but advised it was there for several years. He borrowed the tank from another Knights of Columbus council and stopped using it because people were no longer interested in it

and it was not making enough money to justify it. Nobody urinated in it to the best of his knowledge and that certainly was not the reason the fiesta terminated its being there. He would have known if someone had been identified as doing that. The name <sup>REDACTED</sup> meant nothing to him.

On November 5, 2003 <sup>REDACTED</sup> was telephonically contacted at her home in Moreno Valley. She stated that her family was parishioners at XYZ in the 1980s and that she worked with the parish altar servers in the early 1980s. The one requirement to be a server was that he had made his first communion and this was normally done in the second or third grade. All servers were required to wear long pants and a collared shirt when serving Mass. During the hot summer months they were sometimes allowed to wear tee shirts but always had to wear long pants. There was an effort to have six servers at each Mass but at times there were less than that. There were no records kept then as to who served what Masses. At a required Saturday training session the servers were told which Mass they would serve on that Sunday. If they were not at the Saturday meeting they did not serve the next day. Most of the servers served twice a month and it would be uncommon for a person to serve three Sundays in a row. It would have been very unusual for any individual to serve at the same Mass with the same priest for several consecutive Sundays. The sacristy was very busy between the Sunday Masses with all the servers and priests concluding one Mass and preparing for the next one. Besides them other people would frequently be in that area including a lady in the parish that took care of the sacristy. She could not recall her name. She thought two of the three doors into the sacristy were unlocked during Mass. She did not remember <sup>REDACTED</sup> but did recall some of the servers especially if they attended the parish school.

On November 3, 2003, when <sup>REDACTED</sup> were interviewed they did not remember the <sup>REDACTED</sup> family as having been parishioners at XYZ. They checked parish directories dating back to 1993, the oldest available, and could not locate the family in them. None of them remember <sup>REDACTED</sup> teachers, <sup>REDACTED</sup>. The kindergarten through eighth grade parish school closed in 1998. The parish fiesta is held in June and always has been as far as they knew. In 1981 the dates were June 19, 20 and 21. They did not recall anyone being identified as having urinated into the dip tank at the fiesta at any time.

When contacted on November 7, 2003, M did not remember a <sup>REDACTED</sup> at XYZ.

The associate pastor assigned to XYZ in 1981-1982 was Father R. Father I X, the pastor's brother was "in residence" there at that time and participated in parish ministry. Both are deceased. The associate pastors that come closest to being assigned to the parish during the appropriate time period that are available to be interviewed are Father R who served there from 1974 to 1976 and Father P from 1988 to 1989.

On November 4, 2003, R was telephonically contacted and advised he was at XYZ from 1974 until 1976. During that time period the sacristy was a very active place during the Sunday morning Mass period. To the best of his recollection each Mass had two or three altar servers and he could not recall any of them ever wearing shorts as it probably was not allowed. He recalled that a woman took care of the sacristy and was frequently in it but he could not recall her name. He could not remember if the sacristy doors were locked during Mass. There was a lot of activity throughout the parish during his tenure there.

During the aforementioned contacts with P in October and November he advised that while he was at XYZ there were between two and six altar servers at each Sunday Mass. Often servers would be scheduled and did not come so servers would be solicited from the congregation. He believed that servers were mandated to wear long pants while serving Mass and he has no idea if records exist showing who said or served Mass from that time period or before. Which servers worked with any particular priest on any given Sunday was happenstance as far as he knew. A server working with the same priest eight weeks in a row might be unusual. The Sunday morning sacristy was very active. The Masses flowed into each other and there were priests, altar servers and others passing through it. There was a woman who looked after the care and maintenance of the sacristy that was there frequently during the week but also appeared on Sunday mornings as well. At that time he believed that the doors to the sacristy were left unlocked during Sunday mornings and that the door to the driveway was often propped open, especially during the summer months. He did not recall a Gallegos family in the parish and as indicated earlier he never saw X do anything inappropriate of a sexual nature. He estimated X as being 5'7" or 5'8" tall.

REDACTED

In a document dated June 25, 2003 reviewed various XYZ Parish bulletins dating from January 1980 until July 11, 1982. These indicated that REDACTED I was an associate pastor in January 1980 but replaced by Father C in July 1980. The vicar for clergy files show C returned to Mexico in September 1980 although the November bulletin still shows him at the parish. In January 1981 a bulletin reads that Father R is the new associate pastor. A note in one bulletin indicated Father S was visiting from July-August 1981. The August 30, 1981, through August 29, 1982, bulletins listed Father I X (the pastor's brother) "in residence". The Sunday morning Mass schedule in November 1980 was 7:00, 9:30 and 11:00 with 1:00 and 5:00 Masses in the afternoon. This changed in October 1981 to Sunday mornings at 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 with afternoon Masses at 12:15, 1:30 and 5:00. Anslow also documented his visit to the parish and described the sacristy as an area about 20' by 10' with three closets and various cabinets that hold the supplies and other various things needed by the priests and altar servers to conduct the Mass. There are three entry doors to the sacristy one on the south side, one on the north and another from behind the altar. The door on the north exits into a driveway going to the church parking lot. He notes that Gallegos mentioned a metal cabinet to him that stored the hosts and wine and there is one there now, although that is not its present purpose. It is possible that it could have been utilized for that at one time.

On October, 15, 2003 REDACTED was telephonically contacted and said that he had contacted REDACTED a number of times on the telephone after their first meeting. He tried to provide him with a therapist and REDACTED was interested in one in his city of residence. He was given names of two in that locale and he never contacted them. He then wanted one in a near by city and a name was provided for one there and once again he did not follow through. He requested tattoo removal and he was told who to contact for this but he never did. He contacted REDACTED through his work as his home telephone was disconnected.

On October 15, 2003, telephonic contact was made with REDACTED but was terminated when he advised he retained REDACTED to represent him.

On December 3, 2003 REDACTED was interviewed and provided various forms documenting her contacts with Gallegos from April 23 until November 11, 2003. Her log indicates that she REDACTED talked with REDACTED left him messages or mailed him items on at least 18 separate occasions. He was offered the names of four different therapists in various locations that he suggested but he continually rejected them for differing reasons. One therapist, although no longer accepting new patients, agreed to see REDACTED and an appointment was agreed upon REDACTED os did not keep it. He was also provided literature and the name of the person to call to have his tattoos removed, which he requested, and he never acted on this. When he called REDACTED in November 11 he yelled with such anger and for such a long period REDACTED almost became ill. He refused to listen to her.

This matter has been discussed with Monsignor Craig A. Cox over the last several months. He advised that X has for many years returned to Europe during the summer months but does not know the exact dates. He believes X is 5'7" or 5'8" in height. He personally knew the associate pastor at XYZ in the early 1980s, Father R, and opined that he was a very good man with an excellent reputation. He felt that if R knew of any inappropriate activity on the part of X he would have discussed it with X or if necessary brought it to the attention of appropriate people in the chancery.

A public records check of Gallegos was conducted on August 19, 2003. This revealed that Gallegos had been arrested many times for various crimes, both felonies and misdemeanors, between May 17, 1990, and April 17, 2003, in San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties. He was convicted or pled guilty to at least six felonies for auto burglary and drug violations. There were more records indicating that others with the same name as the complainant were arrested but since these do not have identifying data on the entry it is not possible to determine if these records pertain to the complainant. From the data provided it is also not possible to tell how many years he was incarcerated. It is noted that on April 23, 2003, he advised he had served time for fraud and was at that time on probation for that violation and that he was to be sentenced for spousal abuse in the near future. Neither of these was identified on his record.

X was in Europe when this allegation was made and Cox sent him a letter there to inform him. In correspondence to Cox entitled "Deposition from X for the Vicar for Clergy For the Archdiocese of Los Angeles" dated June 9, 2003, he swore he "never touched any boy or girl or adult inappropriately in my



forty-plus years of priesthood". He was incredulous that anyone would make an accusation that would ruin his reputation. On June 17, 2003, REDACTED Cox interviewed X at the chancery for about 80 minutes. He willingly took a customary oath that is administered in situations like these. After being advised of the exact allegation he wanted to immediately confront his accuser. He once again repeated that in his many years as a priest he had never done anything inappropriate to either a child or an adult. He confirmed he retired from XYZ in 2000 but continues to help at Mass there when he is not in Europe. He maintains a room at the parish. He came to the parish in 1977 and was pastor from 1980 until his retirement. During July and August he would customarily go to Europe and arrange for visiting priests to help at the parish. He recalled Father T and Father M as two individuals that helped him. He advised that altar servers were only used at Sunday Masses as he did not want them to miss school during the week. If a family member was being married or died a server might assist at those Masses. There were four or five servers at each Sunday Mass and the Masses tended to run into each other so the sacristy was a busy area on Sunday mornings. It would have been possible for a priest to have been alone with a server but unusual for it to be for any significant amount of time. He pointed out that there were multiple doors that could be entered at any time by someone. The name REDACTED meant nothing to him.

On October 8, 2003, X was telephonically advised of the status of this matter. At that time he reiterated he did not know the complainant and when asked as to the status of the sacristy doors on Sunday mornings in the early 1980s he advised they were always unlocked.

On November 14, 2003, REDACTED was interviewed in his office. After a discussion of this matter he advised that in his opinion it would be against his client's best interest to submit to another interview and he would advise him of that. His rationale is that X has already denied any wrongdoing verbally and in writing and that he will stand on that. He opined that the only allegation that seems to have any credibility is the affair with REDACTED and that was in the distant past and no good would come to anyone by exposing it now.

On November 6, 2003, the web site [www.halls.md](http://www.halls.md) was visited. It displayed a Boys Height Growth Chart for children of "Mexican-American" race/ethnicity. This shows the average height for an 11 year old is 4'8". On the same date [www.babybag.com](http://www.babybag.com) was also visited and it had a table entitled Height & Weight Averages for Children. It listed the height for an 11 year old boy as 4'9 1/4".

#### Analysis and Observations

Allegation that X inappropriately touched

REDACTED

Allegation that X asked two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession

This allegation originally came to the attention of the chancery when the REDACTED included it in their litany of complaints against X on July 6, 1989. The girls' mother brought it to the attention of the principal of the parish school two years prior to that and the principal reported it to her superior (now deceased) who doubted it occurred and disregarded it. It is unclear how long after the alleged activity took place the mother advised the principal but it does not seem to have been a contemporaneous event. The mother

apparently never raised the issue again and kept her girls at the school for two more years and then withdrew them over what appears to be a relatively minor issue. The girls were characterized as rebellious and troublesome while at the school. The term fondled is somewhat ambiguous in this context considering the time period. In 1989 the user might have had the Webster Dictionary meaning in mind, "to caress or handle lovingly" whereas in 2003 used in this fashion it has sexual implications. Then it could have been used perhaps for stroking another's hair, patting their backs, etc. This would have been a boundary violation but once again X might have done it with no ill intent. And as M stated it was not necessarily uncommon for X to have youngsters sit on his lap.

The present location and status of any of the REDACTED, unknown and once again re-visiting this issue at this time would garner little, if anything, to further clarify this matter.

REDACTED

Allegation that X had an affair with

REDACTED

Allegation that X abused REDACTED in the sacristy

This allegation was made approximately 22 years after it supposedly happened. There are a plethora of reasons to doubt whether this occurred. They include:

1. When REDACTED made the initial complaint he said the priest penetrated him. When he was subsequently interviewed he said the priest was unable to have anal intercourse with him and asked for REDACTED assistance at which time he refused and left. This is a significant variance.
2. REDACTED claimed he was expelled in mid year from the parish school. Records indicate he went two full years to the school and was not expelled.
3. The reason he gives for his mid term expulsion was his urinating in the parish fiesta dunk (dip) tank. It was determined that if he did this nobody else knew about it and so it had no bearing on his leaving school. Also the fiesta is held in June which rules out a mid term departure.
4. The sacristy was an active venue during Sunday mornings and completely inhospitable for the activity he describes. With all of the individuals that had unfettered access to that space it is not credible to believe one would have perpetrated such an act there during that time period.
5. He claimed he was wearing shorts at the time of the offenses. It was determined that altar servers were not allowed to serve Mass in shorts.
6. REDACTED was about 4'8" tall at the time of the alleged activity whereas X stands close to 5'8". With this height difference it would be difficult, if not impossible, to engage in the alleged activity the way he described it.

- 7. The fact that Gallegos described the perpetrator as a Mexican when X is a European is not something a Mexican-American child would normally do.
- 8. Gallegos' criminal past and drug usage, including his self-admitted conviction on fraud charges, impugns his credibility.
- 9. His reluctance to accept the services offered by the Archdiocese yet continue to bargain for them over several months is curious activity.
- 10. His claim that a neighbor in law enforcement gave him a lie detector test makes no credible sense. And that the neighbor told him to confront the perpetrator but did not tell him to report it to authorities is also suspect.
- 11. The discrepancy between his description of his first meeting with N and how N describes it.

His choosing X in the photo line up is interesting but not telling since X served at the parish for so long that Gallegos could have seen him there any number of times.

X on hearing of this accusation immediately denied and denounced it; requested to confront his accuser; submitted to an interview; and swore in writing and verbally that he did not commit the alleged acts.

REDACTED

**From:** REDACTED  
**Sent:** Friday, December 26, 2008 2:21 PM  
**To:** REDACTED  
**Cc:**

**Subject:** MSGR MANÜEL SANCHEZ CMOB #064

REDACTED

On Monday 12-22-08, we met to review this case. It was decided that REDACTED has the canonical lead and that Sonny would provide investigative support for this case. We also concluded that the following work needs to be done before to conclude this investigation:

1. Double check to make sure that only REDACTED was part of the civil suits. If so, was his settlement in the median range?
2. REDACTED attorney needs to be contacted and asked if he found anything we need to know about.
3. The attorney representing the Archdiocese needs to be contacted to see if he found anything we need to know about.
4. The letter from REDACTED needs to be translated by someone other than the accused.
5. We need to ask 2 or 3 boys and 2 or 3 girls who made their first communion at about the same time as the complainants if Sanchez had just about everyone sit on his lap or just a few of the girls.

So, the status of this case is returned to Canonical Services for further investigation. Everyone agreed that the follow-up work could be completed quickly. So, I will have REDACTED ask everyone to bring their schedule with them to the January CMOB meeting so we can agendize a special meeting in February to review this case.

Thanks,  
REDACTED

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## Investigative Report

REDACTED

**To:**

Monsignor Gabriel Gonzales  
Vicar for Clergy

REDACTED

**From**

**Date:** June 23, 2008

**Subject:** Canonical Investigation of Monsignor Manuel Sanchez

**Reference:** Report of REDACTED Canonical Auditor, dated December 6, 2003, setting forth the details of canonical investigation of Monsignor Sanchez, which was conducted as a result of allegations of sexual abuse made by REDACTED against Sanchez.

**Predication:** The canonical investigation of Sanchez was reopened on April 11, 2006 and was prompted by new allegations against Sanchez by two adult females, REDACTED REDACTED who, on April 9, 2006, during a public demonstration at Sacred Heart Church, Pomona, California, claimed they were molested as minors by Sanchez.

**Summary of Investigation:** On April 12, 2006, the auditor met with Sanchez, at which time he denied knowing REDACTED or the nature of the allegations they were making. He also provided the names of REDACTED and REDACTED REDACTED, who he advised had been recently contacted by someone related to the two women, who was attempting to recruit them into making an allegation against him. In a subsequent telephone call, Sanchez provided the names of REDACTED REDACTED as persons who could provide information on his behalf. He specifically advised that he had been told by REDACTED that REDACTED had paid people to demonstrate on April 9, 2006. Sanchez requested that the auditor conduct interviews of the persons he identified.

The persons identified by Sanchez were interviewed. The information provided b REDACTED REDACTED revealed that she had been contacted on March 27 or 28, 2006, by the sister of REDACTED, to talk to her about the sexual abuse by

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Attorney Work Product

Sanchez of REDACTED also told her that REDACTED and possibly four or five other girls had been molested by Sanchez. REDACTED described the molestation of the girls as Sanchez having them sit on his lap while he fondled them. REDACTED interpreted REDACTED visit as an attempt to convince her that the allegations made by REDACTED were true and to recruit her to also claim she had been molested by Sanchez.

REDACTED, in her interview, advised that REDACTED was accompanied by several other persons, including some bodyguards, as part of the demonstration on April 9, 2006. She heard from a friend that REDACTED had paid his bodyguards \$100.00 for their services.

The others identified by Sanchez provided favorable statements regarding their own interaction with Sanchez, noting that they had never experienced any inappropriate behavior from him. The interviews were documented as separate reports and submitted to the main confidential file.

On April 15, 2006, REDACTED was briefly interviewed and acknowledged her participation in the April 9, 2006 demonstration. However, because of another appointment she was not available for a detailed interview. She advised that she would contact the auditor to arrange an interview with herself and REDACTED.

On April 24, 2006 REDACTED was again contacted at her residence. She advised she was not ready or comfortable with being interviewed at that time, but would be willing to do so at a later date. She said that she had been in contact with REDACTED REDACTED who had agreed to be interviewed, but also at a later date. REDACTED stated that she would contact the auditor to schedule a date for the interview once she was ready.

REDACTED did not provide any statement as to the nature of the abuse which she was alleging. The only information available describing what was possibly being alleged was provided by REDACTED on April 15, 2006, when she said she was told by REDACTED that the molestation involved Sanchez having the girls sit on his lap while he fondled them.

A review of the referenced report prepared by REDACTED revealed that similar allegations accusing Sanchez of having girls sit on his lap and fondling them had surfaced during a 1989 inquiry.

On November 13, 2006, REDACTED provided a statement regarding her claim of having been molested by Sanchez. She explained that when she was about seven or eight years old she went to confession for the first time in order to make her First Communion. She said all of the students were taken from school to the church for confession the week before they were scheduled to make their First Communion. She recalled that when she entered the confessional she was nervous and

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did not have anything to confess. Sanchez asked her to come around to his side and when she did, she noticed a chair to the left side of Sanchez. When she went to sit in the chair Sanchez told her not to sit in the chair, but in his lap. She sat in his lap as he told her and he put his hand under her dress. His actions made her even more nervous and scared. When his hand reached the edge of her panties she started crying and jumped off of his lap. Sanchez became angry with her, told her she had been bad and needed to go say three Our Fathers and two Hail Marys. He also told her not to say anything to anyone about what had happened. When she left the confessional she was crying, but no one asked her what had happened. She noted that there were teachers and teacher's aides outside who saw her crying.

On November 15, 2006, the auditor reported to the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board on this matter. The results of the investigation, to date, were reported and a summary of allegations that were made against Msgr. Manuel Sanchez in 1989 were also presented. Those allegations are summarized as follows:

1. **Allegation:** Msgr. Sanchez asked a girl to sit on his lap during confession and was rubbing her leg.

**Details:** On July 6, 1989, REDACTED and her husband advised Msgr. Thomas J. Curry, Vicar for Clergy, that in about 1986 Sanchez inappropriately touched their daughter REDACTED. On July 26, 1989, REDACTED Curry and REDACTED met with REDACTED age 24, and her mother, REDACTED reported that about three and a half years earlier she attended a youth retreat and had a face-to-face confession with Sanchez. According to REDACTED Sanchez asked her to sit on his lap and she dismissed the request jokingly. However, during the confession, he rubbed her leg. She left the church after that incident and did not return.

2. **Allegation:** Msgr. Sanchez asked a 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl to sit on his lap, while he rubbed her back, legs and tried to touch her breast.

**Details:** On July 6, 1989, REDACTED also alleged that Sanchez asked two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession. In response to the allegation, on July 7, 1989, Msgr. Curry met with REDACTED the school principal. She reported to Msgr. Curry that in 1987, REDACTED REDACTED told her that some time around Easter, Sanchez had asked each of her two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession and then fondled them.

**Note:** On April 28, 2006, REDACTED was located and interviewed via telephone. REDACTED said she could not recall the exact dates, but did remember making a report to the Principal about Sanchez fondling her daughter, REDACTED during confession. She said REDACTED was born in 1973 and now resides in Aguas Calientes, Mexico with her husband. She has

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another daughter, <sup>REDACTED</sup> born in 1975, who was also a student at Sacred Heart at the same time as <sup>REDACTED</sup> is also married and lives in Zacatecas, Mexico.

She continued that it was a common practice for the school to take the students to confession during the weekdays and Sanchez would hear their confessions. It was during a weekday confession, while at school, that <sup>REDACTED</sup> came home upset and frightened. <sup>REDACTED</sup> told her she did not want to go to confession with Sanchez because he insisted on face-to-face confessions and then he placed her on his lap. Once she was sitting on his lap, Sanchez began to rub her back, then her legs and then tried to touch her breast, but she did not allow him to do so. At first, she did not believe <sup>REDACTED</sup> but later, when she was present with <sup>REDACTED</sup> at church <sup>REDACTED</sup> for confession, she observed <sup>REDACTED</sup> coming out of the confessional crying. <sup>REDACTED</sup> told her Sanchez had done the same thing again. She immediately went to the confessional to speak to Sanchez, but he would not come out. Afterwards, she spoke to the secretary at the school and the Principal and told them what had happened. She made a request of the Principal that her daughters not go to confession with Sanchez, but another priest, possibly <sup>REDACTED</sup>

<sup>REDACTED</sup>

3.

On November 30, 2006 <sup>REDACTED</sup> the former Principal at Sacred Heart School reported she had very good recollection about the complaint made by <sup>REDACTED</sup> regarding her daughter. She noted that it occurred about the same time period as information which she reported to Msgr. Curry about Sanchez's relationship with <sup>REDACTED</sup>. She said she was told by several persons, whose names she could not recall, except for <sup>REDACTED</sup>, that Sanchez had been observed on



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several occasions going to an upstairs room in the Beta Center to visit REDACTED. According to what she was told, Sanchez would go to the center at about 11:00 p.m. and leave around 3:00 a.m. or 4:00 a.m.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

On January 27, 2007, the auditor, in the presence of Msgrs. Gabriel Gonzales and Michael Meyers, informed Sanchez of the allegations made by REDACTED accusing him of having fondled her during confession when she was a child and that the same had happened to her friend, REDACTED. The auditor also informed Sanchez of the most recent information from REDACTED, who had accused him of similar behavior in the past, and of the information reported by REDACTED about her sitting on his lap. Sanchez was not asked to respond, but he did say that he had never had anyone sit on his lap, as he was being accused. Sanchez asked the auditor to confirm that REDACTED had said the same as the others. He was advised that she reported the same behavior, but that she was not offended. After advising Sanchez of the allegations against him, the auditor was excused from the meeting and Msgrs. Gonzales and Meyers met privately with Sanchez to inform him that his faculties were being revoked.

Later, on the same date, and several days afterwards, Sanchez contacted the auditor by telephone. Sanchez vehemently asserted that he had not done what he was being accused of, and that the women who accused him are all acquaintances who had conspired against him. Sanchez requested that REDACTED be re-<sup>REDACTED</sup> interviewed for information which supports his claim that the statements provided by REDACTED and others are false and a conspiracy against him.

On June 13, 2007, after several attempts to contact REDACTED by telephone, she was re-interviewed at her parents' residence. She acknowledged that she had spoken

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to Sanchez specifically about the allegations made by REDACTED. She said Sanchez told her they had accused him of having them sit in his lap and fondling them. She said he did not tell her where the incidents occurred or the circumstances. The information provided by REDACTED was essentially the same as her previous statement in April 2006. However, she was emphatic in expressing her support for Sanchez and noted that she was born in 1971 and remembers knowing Sanchez all of her life. She said she has two brothers and two sisters and they were all in shock when they heard the allegations against Sanchez. She noted that Sanchez and his brother, REDACTED, were frequent visitors to their home when she was growing up and she never felt uncomfortable around them. She expressed that she trusted Sanchez to the point that she would entrust her own children to be in his care. She emphatically stated that she does not believe the allegation against Sanchez and what he is accused of doing does not represent the "Father" she knows.

REDACTED opined that REDACTED were close friends with REDACTED because during her conversation with REDACTED in 2006 REDACTED told her she had met with REDACTED and he had cried in her arms. REDACTED; was asked if she specifically knew if the REDACTED were friends with REDACTED. She acknowledged that it was an assumption on her part because of her conversation with REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

On July 5, 2007, REDACTED, former classmate of REDACTED and REDACTED, was interviewed. She was not aware of the allegations against Sanchez and noted that in her own interaction with Sanchez nothing of an inappropriate nature had ever occurred. She recalled Sanchez having her sit on his lap on numerous occasions, in what she described as a church-related setting, with other people present. She estimated that she was in the sixth grade when Sanchez had her sit on his lap. She did not recall going to confession with Sanchez, but said that she thought she must have.

She was asked if she was present at a party with REDACTED about ten years ago when the topic of them being molested by Sanchez was discussed. She was emphatic that she did not attend the party and noted that she has not seen any of her former classmates since 1985.

On July 6, 2007, REDACTED was re-interviewed to determine if she was personally acquainted with any of the women who had accused Sanchez of molestation or inappropriate behavior related to him having them sit on his lap. She acknowledged that she knew REDACTED from their mutual involvement in the parish youth group, but noted that REDACTED was in the Spanish group and she was in the English group, which limited their interaction. She said they did talk on occasion, but never about the current topic.

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She was not acquainted with REDACTED however, the surnames did sound familiar as families that were active at Sacred Heart.

She said that it was common for Sanchez to have young girls sit on his lap, including herself. She saw him have girls sit on his lap and noted that it was part of his "M. O." with the girls. Regarding herself, she described sitting in Sanchez's lap as a common and spontaneous occurrence. She opined that his actions never seemed contrived and she did not view them as inappropriate. She added that she would have to admit that as she got older, about the age of sixteen, it felt more uncomfortable.

REDACTED was asked if Sanchez ever rubbed her leg while she was sitting on his lap. She said Sanchez would touch her leg and at that point she would think, "Okay, this has gone far enough" and jump off.

On July 7, 2007, REDACTED, former Principal at Sacred Heart School from 1981 through 1983, was interviewed. She stated that in her interaction with parents, teachers and students, nothing was ever reported to her about Sanchez.

On July 28, 2007, REDACTED contacted the auditor by telephone to advise the correct name of the former teacher at Sacred Heart was REDACTED and not REDACTED and REDACTED. She added that Sanchez was very close to the REDACTED family and it was rumored that Sanchez paid the tuition at Sacred Heart for the REDACTED.

On August 7, 2007, REDACTED former teacher at Sacred Heart School from 1981 through 1983, was interviewed by telephone. REDACTED was advised of the ongoing canonical investigation of Sanchez, which was initiated as a result of allegations made by REDACTED. She recalled REDACTED being in her fifth grade class and described him as outgoing, funny, cute and basically a nice little boy. However, he could at times be a typical fifth grader, and be talking when he shouldn't. She did not recall REDACTED ever saying anything to her about any problems with Sanchez.

REDACTED volunteered, without being asked, that she did recall an incident during confession involving REDACTED. She explained that it was customary for the teachers to walk the students to the church for confession and afterwards walk them back to school. One day after returning to the school, REDACTED who was either a sixth or seventh grader, approached her and asked to talk to her. REDACTED was upset because Sanchez had asked her to sit on his lap during confession. She immediately took REDACTED to the Principal REDACTED who spoke to REDACTED privately. Afterwards she, REDACTED spoke to REDACTED and was told that she had confronted Sanchez, asking him what he was doing and what he was thinking. REDACTED told her Sanchez's explanation was that he was just trying to comfort REDACTED.

On July 10, 2007, REDACTED, advised she was classmates with REDACTED and knew REDACTED but not well.

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She last saw REDACTED in ninth or tenth grade when they all attended Ganesha High School in Pomona. She was very close friends with REDACTED and on occasion would spend the night at her house. Prior to the interview with the auditor, she had never heard anything about REDACTED having been molested by Sanchez. She said REDACTED never said anything to her about being molested and reiterated that she has not seen her since high school.

Regarding her own experiences with Sanchez, she recalled that on occasion he would be present on the school campus and during recess she would go and say "hi" to him and sit on his lap. She also recalled that she started going to confession with him in about fourth grade and she did not like the screen in the confessional booth, so she would have face-to-face confessions with Sanchez. She said during confession, Sanchez would have her sit on his lap. She said Sanchez never did anything that she would have considered inappropriate and if he had, she would have immediately told her father. She added that her father was the Physical Education teacher at Sacred Heart.

On September 11, 2007, REDACTED was interviewed by the auditor and REDACTED regarding the information provided by REDACTED. REDACTED was advised that, according to REDACTED, she had immediately taken REDACTED to her, REDACTED office and reported the incident. REDACTED was provided a brief description of the various allegations against Sanchez, and that a similar complaint involving confession and Sanchez having a girl sit on his lap, had been reported by a parent to the school principal in 1987.

REDACTED said she had absolutely no recollection of what REDACTED said had occurred.

On October 2, 2007, Father Christopher Ponniet was interviewed about information he provided to Monsignor Curry in 1989 in which he said that he had heard rumors about Sanchez, but they were not substantiated and that someone at First Confessions had mentioned being uncomfortable with Sanchez. He was asked for the source of the rumors, what he was told and if he recalled the identity of the person who mentioned being uncomfortable at First Confessions.

Father Ponniet advised that the rumors were in reference to the mother of two girls who had made a report to REDACTED regarding Sanchez's behavior during confession. He said the source of the information was REDACTED. He noted that REDACTED the youth minister, seemed to know specifics about the accusations.

In reference to First Confessions, he said he could not recall specifically who mentioned something to him, but speculated that it might have been in reference to the general rumors that were circulating. He added that he and REDACTED were in charge of preparing students for First Confessions and they changed confessions to be

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held in plain public view in the sanctuary area. He was not sure of the exact year that the change was made, but said it was possibly in May 1989.

Father Ponnet said that while he heard innuendos about misconduct on the part of Sanchez, he never saw anything directly.

Father Ponnet advised that he was aware of the ongoing investigation, because three to four months ago, Sanchez called him "out of the blue" and told him someone had accused him of misconduct. He said Sanchez's description of the allegations was generic in nature and Sanchez did not provide any specifics. Sanchez told him that someone might be contacting him in connection with the investigation. Sanchez asked him if he had seen anything happen. He told Sanchez that he did not think that it was appropriate to be discussing the matter with him, or to be giving details. He added that he got the impression that the purpose of Sanchez's contacting him was to try to influence his statement.

It is noted that during the course of this investigation, Sanchez has offered names of witnesses who, according to Sanchez, could in some way substantiate his claims of a conspiracy against him. The statements provided by some of those witnesses have been previously noted in this report. Additionally, Sanchez sent letters and email communications to Monsignor Gonzalez and REDACTED Chair of the Clergy Misconduct Board (CMOB), providing information regarding his case. The following is a summary of some of the information provided by Sanchez and the investigation conducted to verify his claims:

- On September 24, 2007, Sanchez wrote an email to Monsignor Gabriel Gonzales asking that he provide the CMOB a copy of a letter written by REDACTED in May 2007 containing an apology for defaming him.

On September 26, 2007, REDACTED was interviewed and confirmed that she had talked to Sanchez by telephone in May 2007. Sanchez told her that he had been trying to locate her to ask for forgiveness because he had been too harsh and demanding with her. He told her that a young man, whom he described as a drug addict who was only trying to get money from the church, had falsely accused him of molestation and the previous information involving her daughter REDACTED had surfaced. She said Sanchez never mentioned anything about also having been accused by two women. She said Sanchez appeared very anguished and was looking for her support.

She felt sorry for Sanchez and told him that maybe she too had done wrong by reporting him to his supervisor because of the incident involving REDACTED and that she probably should have talked to him directly. She said that after so many years she has doubts about whether Sanchez's actions towards REDACTED were done with malicious intent. She conveyed her

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feelings to Sanchez and wrote him a letter, but at no time did she apologize for having defamed him. She reiterated that, with time, she has had doubts regarding Sanchez's intentions, but at the time of the incident, she was very angry. She added that her husband does not share her feelings regarding Sanchez's intentions.

- On September 27, 2007, Sanchez wrote an email to REDACTED Chair of the CMOB, in which he stated, "On May 15, 2007, I had a telephone conversation with REDACTED who was at that time in Miami, Florida. She freely admitted that she had accused me falsely when she told her story in the Chancery. I asked her to provide me with a handwritten letter attesting to her admission. She did so immediately, although the letter is not so strongly worded as was the conversation on the telephone. She told me that her step-daughter had been a liar all her life and continues to be dishonest even now that she is married. She volunteered to testify by telephone from Santo Domingo, where she presently resides, to anyone from the Chancery or from the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board. She can be reached at this number: REDACTED REDACTED

On September 27, 2007, REDACTED was re-contacted to confirm the information provided by Sanchez to REDACTED via email. REDACTED reiterated that what she had told Sanchez was that, with time, she had doubts regarding whether or not his intentions were malicious, but at no time did she tell him that she had falsely accused him. She suggested to Sanchez that possibly through a dialogue between himself and REDACTED the issue could be resolved.

She continued that she has no doubts that the incident with REDACTED and Sanchez occurred, and what happened to REDACTED was very traumatic for her. She never told Sanchez that REDACTED had lied about the incident, but did, in the course of the conversation, tell him that her daughter, like most children, had, on occasion, not been completely honest with her.

She said Sanchez had called her sisters numerous times attempting to contact her and when he talked to her, he pressured her into writing a letter, which she did on the way to the airport. She stated that, based on the nature of their conversation and what Sanchez is now saying, he is not acting in good faith.

- Sanchez provided an English translation of a letter dated February 6, 2007, addressed to "To whom it may concern" from former Sacred Heart parishioner REDACTED. The letter was written in support of Sanchez and to create doubt regarding the credibility of REDACTED. The letter specifically states, "Four of our

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children were attending the parochial school at Sacred Heart during the same period as were the girls who accused Father Sanchez of molesting them. My daughters will testify that Father never invited them or anyone they knew inside or outside of the confessional to sit on his lap. They cannot imagine how those girls can make such outlandish statements.”

On October 22, 2007, REDACTED were contacted by telephone to verify they had written the aforementioned letter. REDACTED confirmed that she and her husband wrote the letter to provide support to Sanchez related to the allegations made against him.

REDACTED was asked about the letter making reference to her children going to Sacred Heart during the same time period as the girls who accused Sanchez, and if she was referring to REDACTED. REDACTED . She said that she had never heard the names of REDACTED and was not aware that other girls had accused Sanchez. She said Sanchez did not tell them about any girls, other than REDACTED, REDACTED, having accused him of abuse. She said the letter was only to provide support to Sanchez related to the allegations made against him by REDACTED and her daughter, REDACTED.

It noted that on November 20, 2007, Sanchez was interviewed in the presence of his attorney REDACTED, at which time Sanchez was asked for a copy of the REDACTED original letter written in Spanish. By letter dated February 6, 2008, Sanchez’s attorney provided a copy of the original letter.

On February 11 & 12, 2008, REDACTED were again contacted to confirm that they were the authors of the letter provided by Sanchez’s attorney. They both stated they had written the letter, but acknowledged that at the time the letter was written in 2007 they had no knowledge that Sanchez had been accused by other girls. They could not provide a plausible explanation as to why the letter makes reference to the “girls who accused Sanchez”. REDACTED said that the original letter, signed by her and her husband, had just been mailed on Thursday of the previous week. She explained that they had never provided Father Sanchez the original letter and only sent him a translation of the letter. She said they did not think that there would be any need for them to send the signed original. REDACTED said that, initially, he was going to provide a handwritten letter, but later solicited the assistance of a personal acquaintance, who is a doctor. The doctor prepared the original version in Spanish and she also prepared a translated copy which was sent to Sanchez. REDACTED was not willing to provide the name of the doctor.

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As previously noted, on November 20, 2007, Sanchez was interviewed in the presence of his attorney. Monsignors Michael W. Meyers and REDACTED were also present. The interview was audio tape-recorded by the investigator and REDACTED, and later transcribed.

During the interview, Sanchez was informed of the identity of each of the persons who made specific allegations of sexual misconduct against him, the nature of those allegations and the identity of women who had reported that he had them sit on his lap as young girls, but were not offended by the behavior. The following points are noted regarding Sanchez's responses:

- He did not remember REDACTED and denied the specific allegations made against him by REDACTED
- He denied knowing REDACTED
- He denied knowing the REDACTED family and that any parent ever complained about his behavior or attempted to talk to him.
- He acknowledged knowing REDACTED but denied the allegation about asking her to sit on his lap or touching her leg. His attorney did not allow him to answer if REDACTED went to confession with him.
- He acknowledged knowing REDACTED, but denied that he ever had her sit on his lap.
- He denied knowing REDACTED
- He denied knowing the REDACTED or remembering their father, who was a PE teacher at the school.
- He did not remember REDACTED ever talking to him about a complaint made by any student.
- He denied ever having any girl sit on his lap during confession or at any time.
- He admitted to providing some input to the letter written by the REDACTED

By letter dated December 21, 2007 to Monsignor Gonzales, REDACTED provided the results of a polygraph examination taken by Sanchez on November 28, 2007, which in the opinion of the examiner revealed that there was no deception by Sanchez during the examination. The credentials of the examiner as a certified polygraph examiner were investigated and it was determined, not only that he was not a certified examiner, but that he had previously been indicted by the California Department of Consumer Affairs for fraudulent business practices. The results of the inquiry regarding the examiner and observations regarding the validity of the examination were submitted by separate memorandum dated January 11, 2008.

By letter dated December 21, 2007, REDACTED was provided the original transcript of the interview with Sanchez. It was requested that the document be reviewed to ensure that it accurately reflected the questions asked of Monsignor Sanchez and his



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responses. Additionally, it was requested that the accuracy of the document be acknowledged by each page being initialed and the last page being signed by Sanchez.

It is noted that prior to the transcript being sent to REDACTED, it was reviewed by the investigator and compared with the contents of the audio recording of the interview. The transcript, with the exception of minimal typographical errors or portions marked as unintelligible, is a verbatim transcription of the interview.

By letter dated February 21, 2008, REDACTED returned a copy of the original transcript with an attachment from Sanchez with three pages of "corrected answers". As previously noted the document provided to Sanchez was a verbatim transcription of the interview; however, in some instances, Sanchez crossed out the question or statement made by the investigator and his original answer to the question. The "corrected answers" noted by Sanchez were changes to his original answers or clarifications of his responses. For example, Sanchez admitted to telling the REDACTED what to say in their letter supporting him, but changed his answer to just "No" in his corrections.

On January 14, 2008, REDACTED was interviewed in the presence of his attorney, REDACTED. It is noted that REDACTED signed a mediation document on May 11, 2004 in which he alleged that in 1980-1981 he was sexually abused by Sanchez in the sacristy of the church and other places on church grounds at Sacred Heart Parish in Pomona, California. In his signed statement, REDACTED alleged that Sanchez abused him by doing the following:

- Sanchez penetratir REDACTED anus with his penis one time.
- Fondling REDACTED; genitals over his clothes on multiple occasions.
- Fondling REDACTED; buttocks over his clothes on multiple occasions.
- Rubbing his body against REDACTED on multiple occasions.
- Rubbing and massaging REDACTED body over his clothes on multiple occasions.
- Caressing REDACTED face; skin to skin, on multiple occasions.
- Giving REDACTED wine.

REDACTED provided a statement reaffirming his original allegations regarding the sexual abuse of which he accused Sanchez. He noted that giving him wine was not like it sounded, but it involved Sanchez allowing the altar boys to have small quantities of wine if they wished.

REDACTED clarified that "not too much happened in the sacristy" and that most of the allegations involving touching or rubbing against him occurred in areas around the church grounds and in the equipment room of the school. REDACTED stated that he was anally raped by Sanchez one time and the incident occurred in a room located in the area of the sacristy. REDACTED was shown photographs and a sketch of the floor plan of the sacristy. His reaction to the photographs and the sketch was to ask why a floor plan of

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how the sacristy area looked in 1980-1981 was not shown to him. He said that in 2006 he confronted Sanchez in the sacristy and it did not appear as he remembered it from when he was an altar boy. He said that, prior to 2006, he had not been back to or seen the sacristy since he was anally raped by Sanchez and was certain there was a room off to one side. He recalled that the room was used to store wine, communion hosts and some chairs were stacked up against one wall.

On January 18, 2008, REDACTED a former neighbor of REDACTED reported that in approximately 2003, following a confrontation between him and REDACTED REDACTED apologized, and emotionally opened up to him about his life and attributed some of his problems to having been "violated by a priest" when he was an altar boy. He said REDACTED did not go into any details about what he meant by having been violated. He told REDACTED that in order for him to deal with what had happened, he needed to confront the situation directly and suggested to him that he talk to someone at the church. The following day he drove REDACTED to Sacred Heart and left him there.

REDACTED added that REDACTED later told and discussed the abuse issue with REDACTED REDACTED who is a chaplain for the Chino Police Department.

On January 18, 2008, REDACTED mother of REDACTED was interviewed. REDACTED was asked if REDACTED ever told her anything about having been abused by Sanchez and, if so, when and what had happened. She said that REDACTED did tell her, but only after he was an adult and she estimated that it was some time between five to ten years ago. REDACTED became very emotional and started to cry, saying that REDACTED did not go into a lot of detail, but told her that when he was about ten years old, Sanchez had penetrated him in his backside. She noted that her reaction at the time, as in other situations with REDACTED, she felt helpless in knowing how to help him.

REDACTED advised that she and her family were very close to Sanchez. She added that they were probably closer to him, referring to seeking him out and sharing family information, than Sanchez was to them. She said that she talked to Sanchez about problems her family was experiencing because of the controlling, REDACTED REDACTED. Afterwards, at the invitation of Sanchez, she and her ex-husband accompanied Sanchez to a retreat in San Diego.

On March 3, 2008, REDACTED, Sacred Heart Church was contacted to determine if there were any storage rooms in the vicinity of the sacristy, as described by REDACTED. She advised that a room, which was previously the office of the Director of Religious Education (DRE), was being used for storage and is located just outside of and adjacent to the sacristy. During the interview with Sanchez, he was also shown the same photographs and sketch of the sacristy floor plan that was shown to REDACTED. Sanchez identified a small room, within the sacristy, which had been previously observed by the investigator and noted on the sketch as the "janitor's room", as previously being the office of the CCD Director. The room identified by REDACTED was physically observed by the investigator and it was not located within the sacristy or

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identical to the room identified by Sanchez as the office of the CCD Director. Sanchez also advised that there were no rooms in the church that were used for the storage of chairs and tables.

By letter dated April 11, 2008, addressed to Monsignor Gonzales, REDACTED provided signed declarations from REDACTED attesting to having attended Sacred Heart School during the same time period as REDACTED and REDACTED and/or having been classmates/friends. They also stated they never saw Sanchez act improperly toward any girl or saw any girl sitting on his lap. REDACTED also provided a sworn declaration made by REDACTED in support of Sanchez and attesting to a number of aspects of her knowledge of the allegations made by REDACTED and REDACTED and to never having seen Sanchez with girls sitting on his lap or hearing any gossip among the girls, that he ever asked any of them to do that, nor that he ever touched any of them in any inappropriate way.

All of the aforementioned signed statements are included as part of the confidential file in this matter.

**Observations/Findings:** It is noted that the canonical investigation regarding Sanchez was reopened following allegations made by two women in April 2006 that they had been molested as minors by Sanchez. The nature of those allegations was not immediately known; however, in November 2006, one of the two women provided a statement that she had been molested during confession. The behavior she described was similar to previous reports that were documented and filed in 1989. The observations/findings that follow are based on information gleaned from file documents, the previous investigation conducted by REDACTED and investigation conducted since April 2006:

- The allegations made by REDACTED which was the basis for reopening this investigation, are consistent with allegations which were previously made by the mother of REDACTED in 1987 and REDACTED in 1989. Support of the allegation involving REDACTED was provided by a former teacher who claimed she made a report to the Principal about Sanchez sometime in 1982 or 1983.
- In documents submitted to the Vicar for Clergy and during a recorded interview, Sanchez has consistently denied the allegations, specifically stating that he never had women sit on his lap in the confessional or outside. Five women provided statements to the contrary, based on their personal experiences.
- Sanchez has claimed that the women involved in the allegations against him know each other and conspired against him with false accusations. Investigation revealed that two of the women REDACTED are

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acquainted, but no information was developed that they were acquainted with or in any way associated with REDACTED

- REDACTED, former classmates of REDACTED REDACTED also provided statements which refute Sanchez's claim that he never had any women sit on his lap in the confessional or outside. REDACTED were not aware of the ongoing investigation and the allegations made by REDACTED and had not been in recent contact with them.
- Violations of California Penal Code - Consultation with the Child Protection Section of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) regarding the specific behavior of which Sanchez is accused, i.e., having young girls sit on his lap and fondle, attempt to fondle, touch under clothing or over clothing was within the scope of 288(a) PC (Lewd act with a minor) or 243.4(d) (Sexual Battery). The behavior claimed by REDACTED would fall within the scope of 288(a) PC and the behavior alleged by REDACTED would be within 243.4(d).
- The allegations made by REDACTED mother were reported in 1987 by the school principal to the regional supervisor. No information is available as to what action was taken. The allegations surfaced again in 1989 during inquiries related to Sanchez being accused of having an affair with a married parishioner. The regional supervisor stated she doubted the incident took place and noted that the principal was dealing with many of her own personal problems as well REDACTED; contact information was available, but no interview of REDACTED was pursued, nor was the matter reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
- The initial investigation related to the allegations made by REDACTED focused on the plausibility of REDACTED being anally raped in the sacristy, which was described as an active venue during Sunday mornings and completely inhospitable for the activity described by REDACTED. Based on information contained in the mediation document signed by REDACTED in May 2004 and his interview in 2008, in which he described the location where he claims he was raped by Sanchez as a storage room with chairs, the activity described by REDACTED would be more plausible from the aspect of privacy. Based on REDACTED, description and location of the room, it is possible that he was referring to the room identified to the investigator by the parish business manager as a current storage room, previously used as an office by the DRE.
- The final point is that there is no physical evidence to prove or disprove the allegations against Sanchez and the ultimate decision regarding

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whether or not the allegations have any validity might come down to the credibility of Sanchez versus the accusers/witnesses.

The following concerns related to the credibility of REDACTED and Sanchez surfaced during the course of the investigation:

REDACTED

During the first investigation REDACTED noted that the allegation was made approximately twenty-two years after it supposedly happened and there were a plethora of reasons to doubt whether it occurred, including the following:

- REDACTED made allegations during his initial complaint about having been penetrated by a priest that were inconsistent with allegations in a subsequent interview.
- REDACTED claimed he was expelled in mid-year from the parish school. The school records revealed that he attended for two full years and was not expelled.
- REDACTED criminal past and REDACTED including his self-admitted conviction on fraud charges, impugns his credibility.
- The sacristy was an active venue during Sunday mornings and completely inhospitable for the activity REDACTED described. *(Note: Subsequent investigation revealed the most egregious act described by REDACTED the anal penetration, did not occur in the sacristy, but in a room adjacent to the sacristy)*
- REDACTED claimed he was wearing shorts at the time of the offenses. Investigation revealed that altar servers were not allowed to serve Mass in shorts.
- REDACTED was about 4'8" tall at the time of the alleged activity whereas Sanchez stands close to 5'8". REDACTED opined that with this height difference, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to engage in the alleged activity the way REDACTED described.

REDACTED

- REDACTED participated in a demonstration at Sacred Heart in which she handed out leaflets alleging that she had been molested by Sanchez, but has not been willing to provide a statement to the investigator.
- In a signed statement provided by REDACTED she said she did not believe REDACTED because she knew the girls, referring to REDACTED REDACTED they were associated with gang members and REDACTED boyfriend was in prison.
- During the interview with REDACTED, he said that he was aware that the investigator had attempted to locate REDACTED He said

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REDACTED had contacted him about being interviewed by the investigator and he told her that as far as her decision about being interviewed, it was her decision not his. He volunteered that he was subsequently contacted by REDACTED asking him for some money. He offered to allow REDACTED to earn some money by working in his restaurant. She was not pleased with his offer and refused.

Sanchez

- During the interview with REDACTED, she described Sanchez, based on her personal observations of his association with REDACTED and her confrontation with him regarding her suspicions of an affair, as a blatant liar.
- Sanchez advised REDACTED by email that he had talked to REDACTED by telephone and that she had freely admitted that she had falsely accused him and that her daughter had lied. REDACTED was interviewed and denied having said what Sanchez attributed to her. She noted that based on the nature of their conversation, he was not acting in good faith.
- Sanchez provided a letter purportedly written by REDACTED supporting him against allegations made by REDACTED. Based on previous materials submitted by Sanchez, the letter appeared to have been possibly written by Sanchez. During the interview with Sanchez, he admitted to telling the REDACTED what to say in the letter, but later after reviewing the interview transcript, he changed his answer, denying he had done so. REDACTED were not able to provide a plausible answer to why they made references in their letter to the "girls who accused Sanchez" when at the time the letter was written, they were not aware that Sanchez had been accused by other girls beside REDACTED.
- Sanchez denied knowing REDACTED, but shortly after being informed of their allegations, he prepared or had a letter prepared by the REDACTED stating that their daughters went to school with the girls who accused Sanchez. If he did not know REDACTED how would he have known that the REDACTED children were classmates of REDACTED. As previously noted, the REDACTED were unaware that REDACTED had accused Sanchez at the time the letter was written.
- Sanchez also denies knowing REDACTED but REDACTED mother REDACTED REDACTED advised that she and her family had been very close to Sanchez. She added that Sanchez was aware of their family problems and she and her ex-husband had gone on a retreat to San Diego with Sanchez when they were parishioners at Sacred Heart.
- Regarding the polygraph examination, it is not known if Sanchez selected the examiner or if he was selected by REDACTED but the utilization of an

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Attorney Work Product**

examiner who is not a recognized certified examiner and is someone who has been indicted for fraudulent business practices is a cause for concern.

**Witness Interviews:** Separate detailed interview reports have been prepared for the following persons:

REDACTED

REDACTED

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Attorney Work Product**

REDACTED



February 2007

**Deposition of Msgr. Manuel Sanchez**

After serving the Church as a priest for 53 years, some false accusations have been made against me that have the ability to destroy my life and reputation. I think that I have been treated unjustly and unfairly by my Archbishop and the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board. Twenty or so years ago, Msgr. Curry, at that time Vicar for Clergy, informed me of certain allegations against me made by a REDACTED . I was told only a portion of her allegations and prohibited by Msgr. Curry from contacting her. Never was I informed of the whole content of her claims against me by the Chancery. Now the Chancery is condemning me without giving me a fair opportunity to defend myself. I have been deprived of all my privileges of exercising and practicing as a Catholic priest "urbi et orbe," anywhere in the world.

Twenty years ago, the above charges against me were reviewed by The Vicar for Clergy and the Archbishop; and apparently, they considered that these accusations against me were completely irrelevant. I wanted to confront my accuser, REDACTED at that time; however, she disappeared from my parish, and I was advised by the Vicar for Clergy not to try to contact her.

See Document #1 and Document #2. I didn't know about those two documents which had been written 20 years ago until my lawyer, REDACTED , recently turned over copies to me. Should the Chancery have advised me of all these allegations against at the time they were made, I would have had the opportunity to defend myself. These allegations are completely false and heinous. The copies of two of those documents that are included in this deposition will be analyzed later.

In order to take seriously any accusation, you have to know the credibility of the person from whom the charges are coming. REDACTED , in Document #1, said so many lies about me and my ministry that that I have no doubt that she was afraid that if I found out about them, the truth would have come to light. She convinced the Vicar for Clergy not to show her testimony to me. To me, it should be clear to everyone that her stories were built upon sand. If the Vicar for Clergy believed her, he should have convinced her to make these allegations in my presence. Among other things, REDACTED had accused me of asking her 20 year old daughter to sit on my lap during confession. I testified at that time, as well as now, that I never asked any girl or woman to sit on my lap in or outside of the confessional. I emphasize that should the Vicar for Clergy have believed any of the accusations included in

Document 1 or 2, he should have insisted that <sup>REDACTED</sup> testify in front of me and not grant her desire to keep her allegations secret. Because of this action on the part of the Vicar for Clergy, I assumed at that time that the case had been satisfied.

Was it appropriate for <sup>REDACTED</sup> to present this case o<sup>REDACTED</sup> without analyzing her credibility and knowing the circumstances in which the accusations took place?

Let me innumerate some of the incredible things told b<sup>REDACTED</sup> to Msgr. Curry. She claimed that she was working three days a week in the parish from 9AM to 7:30 PM; this is not true. She never worked there at all. She said that I was opposed to Spanish Masses at St. Joseph Parish in Pomona. I would have been most happy to accommodate her, but I had nothing to do with that parish whatsoever. My opinion is that <sup>REDACTED</sup> was very angry at me because I prohibited her from the inappropriate methods and extravagances she wanted to display in the prayer group: for example, having all the participants fall down during prayers when she claimed to be using "special powers."

She claimed that I wanted only money from the people and I was a bad administrator. Did anyone from the Chancery go and check out the parish and the addition of the new buildings which I constructed during the time that I was Pastor without asking for any financial help whatsoever from the Diocese?

<sup>REDACTED</sup> was limitedly involved in the parochial school, and she claimed that she was a very close friend of <sup>REDACTED</sup> Principal of Sacred Heart School. The testimony of <sup>REDACTED</sup> regarding the alleged accusation of the girls in the school was dismissed by <sup>REDACTED</sup> the School Supervisor at that time, who investigated the charges and found them lacking any credibility. Also, <sup>REDACTED</sup> Chris Ponnet and <sup>REDACTED</sup> both Assistants at Sacred Heart, also came to the same conclusion. Should any of the accusations by the girls have been found to have any veracity, each one of the afore mentioned persons would have had the obligation to notify me.

The parents and the principal were against me because I did not sufficiently support the school, according to them. Having under twenty students from the community in the parochial school and more than 1,500 in the CCD Program for Public School children, I had to care for both proportionately. I was not giving all the money to the school because I was constructing rooms to accommodate all of the students, as well as, the seven hundred parents that were receiving a Catholic education as it is the will of The Holy See.

The remainder of <sup>REDACTED</sup> accusations can be proven counterfactual.

I built nine offices and seven meeting halls, one with the capacity for three hundred people, without asking for one cent from the Diocese. <sup>REDACTED</sup> and her husband

claim that I was not well-received in the other parishes where I served. Could she prove that I did a poor job in Los Nietos Parish in Los Angeles and Saint Helen's Parish in South Gate? Actually, I have served the community of Sacred Heart for thirty years. I love that community, and I have all the indications and a whole wall filled with commendations to indicate that the community has always respected and loved me in return.

Now, let's come to the present time and put my case up to date. I have been accused by this man, REDACTED that I brutally sodomized him over 24 years ago in the sacristy here in Sacred Heart Church. He claims that this incident occurred when I was completely vested just before going to say the Mass. Obviously, no one believed this wild tale. Logistically, it would have been quite impossible to have been alone with him in that place. There are three doors leading into this room which are invariably open to the public, and the sacristy is always filled with altar servers, readers and Ministers of the Eucharist.

On March 27, 2006, REDACTED came to the church very anxious to manifest and to try to revive his case against me. Almost two years had passed since he made his allegation. When he came to the sacristy, he didn't recognize me nor did I recognize him. As a matter of fact, he asked me at that time if I was Father Sanchez. He obviously wanted to reinforce his "cause." He brought with him fewer than ten people who, according to REDACTED, had been paid \$100.00 each for demonstrating with him. She knew REDACTED when she was working for the school, and she has a son the same age as REDACTED who knew him when they were in parochial school together. His name is REDACTED REDACTED agree that REDACTED was a troublemaker. REDACTED confronted him on March 27<sup>th</sup>. She later told me that she said to him, "How do you dare say that about Father Sanchez? I know you, and I know that Father Sanchez is not capable of molesting anybody." My son REDACTED knows you, as well." REDACTED is willing to testify on my behalf is necessary.

Along with the people who came with REDACTED were several of the girls who had attended Sacred Heart School with him. They claim that I asked them to sit on my lap in the confessional some twenty-four years ago. I demanded that REDACTED REDACTED at that time, hire a detective to investigate and clarify this accusation immediately. The Chancery hired REDACTED for this assignment. Ten months passed before REDACTED was able to obtain any information from these girls. He informed me by telephone that they refused to cooperate with him. At that point, his opinion was that they had no case against me. In my naiveté, I insisted that he continue to try to contact them and clear up this matter. Should I have not been certain and secure in my innocence, I would not have insisted on several occasions that REDACTED continue his investigation.

REDACTED (work number) was one of the girls who was in Sacred Heart School at the same time with the girls who accused me. They had asked her to join them in the accusation against me. She vehemently

refused to do so. She reported to me in person that the reputation of these girls was highly suspect. REDACTED offered to get together a group of other former female classmates who were also in school with REDACTED to testify that I never asked any of them inside or outside the confessional to sit in my lap.

On those occasions when I was accused by REDACTED the Chancery Office suggested that I might wish to go to Spain and "rest" for a while. I preferred to stay and defend my honor and my reputation. My feelings remain the same with the accusations made against me by the women friends of REDACTED

What can I do to defend myself against these false accusations which have completely robbed me of my dignity as a priest and as a man? I have been denied my privileges here and throughout the world. I have been treated as though I am guilty without having the possibility of defending myself. As a priest, I have spent my entire life serving the people. What will my community of Sacred Heart, where I have spent thirty years, think of me? When I go back to Spain, what am I supposed to say to my family and fellow priests?

I cannot imagine how my punishment can be justified in the eyes of the Church without any verification whatsoever.

February 8, 2007

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Manuel Sanchez



COPY

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 MEMORANDUM
 

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TO: Cardinal Roger M. Mahony

FROM: REDACTED  
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board

RE: Recommendation of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board  
Monsignor Manuel Sanchez (CMOB 064-01)

DATE: November 28, 2006

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The Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board returned to the case of Monsignor Manuel Sanchez on October 25, 2006 and November 15, 2006. I've attached copies of two previous memos concerning Monsignor Sanchez, dated November 12, 2003 and December 22, 2003.

Msgr. Sanchez is now 76 years of age and lives in retirement in Palos Verdes. His faculties have not been removed and he says Mass from time to time at Sacred Heart Church in Pomona and possibly in other parishes.

Fliers were distributed at Sacred Heart on Sunday, March 26, 2006. They were signed by two women, REDACTED who claimed they were abused by Monsignor Sanchez when they were minors. REDACTED the plaintiff in the Superior Court case filed in 2003 and the person whose complaint was investigated by REDACTED and considered by the Board in November and December of 2003 (as stated in the memos referred to above), was referred to in the flyer and was present and assisted in passing out the fliers. REDACTED of SNAP was also present. Further REDACTED confronted Monsignor Sanchez the week before, on March 19, 2006, and accused him of molesting him when he was eight years old. REDACTED claimed that Monsignor Sanchez reacted emotionally to the accusation and started crying – that he put his head down and walked away without denying the charges. A witness to the confrontation denies that this occurred. The accusations of REDACTED and the demonstration at Sacred Heart Church on March 26 were reported in the local press.

A new canonical preliminary investigation was opened and REDACTED was designated as auditor to conduct the investigation. He reported to the Board on October 25, 2006 and November 15, 2006. He stated that he had made several attempts to interview the two women but had been unsuccessful in obtaining their cooperation thus far. However, he obtained the names of some other women who may have been fondled by Monsignor Sanchez when they were

Memorandum Regarding Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
November 28, 2006  
Page 2

minor REDACTED is pursuing his investigation to interview REDACTED  
REDACTED and to identify, locate and interview the other women and will keep the Board advised  
of the progress of his investigation.

In addition to the two new accusations and the possibility of others, a review of the file discloses  
that additional information has been provided about the claims of REDACTED since the Board  
considered his case in 2003. REDACTED attorney, submitted a mediation  
brief which sets out the allegations in greater detail. When the case was presented to the Board,  
it was believed that all of the incidents complained of occurred in the sacristy on Sundays and  
that this was highly improbable due to the many people present in or passing through the sacristy  
at that time. The brief, however, states that the abuse took place in the sacristy and other places  
on church grounds and that the alleged rape occurred in a separate room where the wine is kept  
along with a lot of chairs. This account is more plausible.

REDACTED claim was first reported to REDACTED at Sacred Heart REDACTED was  
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REDACTED sought to interview him in October, 2003, but did not proceed after he learned that REDACTED  
REDACTED was represented by counsel. As yet REDACTED has not been interviewed by our  
auditor. A request will be made to REDACTED to permit REDACTED to interview REDACTED  
REDACTED

The members of the Board discussed the case at length and expressed concern that the  
investigation should be pursued vigorously to obtain complete information from all complainants  
and witnesses. In the interim, it was the consensus that Monsignor Sanchez's faculties be  
suspended pending the results of the investigation, that he undergo a psychological assessment  
(which has never been conducted), and that the pastors of parishes in which he has acted or may  
act as supply priest be advised that he is not permitted to engage in ministry. It was also the  
consensus that no further announcement need be made in Sacred Heart Parish at this time.

cc: Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales

*I concur in the recommendations.*

*Roger Carl. Mackay*

*29 Nov. 2006*

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**Attorney Work Product**

**Case CMOB 064 – Summary of Previous Allegations**

The following is a summary of allegations that were made against Msgr. Manuel Sanchez prior to, and not associated with, the allegations made by REDACTED

1. **Allegation:** Msgr. Sanchez asked a girl to sit on his lap during confession and was rubbing her leg.

**Details:** On July 6, 1989, REDACTED and her husband advised Msgr. Thomas J. Curry, Vicar for Clergy, that in about 1986 Sanchez inappropriately touched their daughter REDACTED. On July 26, 1989 REDACTED Curry and REDACTED met with REDACTED, age 24, and her mother. REDACTED reported that about three and a half years earlier she attended a youth retreat and had a face-to-face confession with Sanchez. According to REDACTED Sanchez asked her to sit on his lap and she dismissed the request jokingly. However, during the confession he rubbed her leg. She left the church after that incident and did not return.

2. **Allegation:** Msgr. Sanchez asked a 6<sup>th</sup> grade girl to sit on his lap, while he rubbed her back, legs and tried to touch her breast.

**Details:** On July 6, 1989, the REDACTED also alleged that Sanchez asked two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession. In response to the allegation, on July 7, 1989, Msgr. Curry met with REDACTED the school principal. She reported to Msgr. Curry that in 1987 REDACTED REDACTED told her that some time around Easter, Sanchez had asked each of her two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession and then fondled them.

On April 28, 2006 REDACTED was located and interviewed via telephone. REDACTED said she could not recall the exact dates, but did remember making a report to the Principal about Father Sanchez fondling her daughter, REDACTED, during confession. She said REDACTED was born in 1973 and now resides in Aguas Calientes, Mexico with her husband. She has another daughter REDACTED, born in 1975, who was also a student at Sacred Heart at the same time as Sara. REDACTED also married and lives in Zacatecas, Mexico.

She continued that it was a common practice for the school to take the students to confession during the weekdays and Father Sanchez would hear their confessions. It was during a weekday confession while at school that REDACTED came home upset and frightened. REDACTED told her she did not want to go to confession with Father Sanchez because he insisted on

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**Attorney Work Product**

face to face confessions and then he placed her on his lap. Once she was sitting on his lap, Father Sanchez began to rub her back, then her legs and then tried to touch her breast, but she did not allow him to do so. At first, she did not believe <sup>REDACTED</sup>, but later, when she was present with <sup>REDACTED</sup> at church for confession, she observed <sup>REDACTED</sup> coming out of the confessional crying. <sup>REDACTED</sup> told her Father Sanchez had done the same thing again. She immediately went to the confessional to speak to Father Sanchez, but he would not come out. Afterwards, she spoke to the secretary at the school and the Principal and told them what had happened. She made a request of the Principal that her daughters not go to confession with Father Sanchez, but another priest, possibly <sup>REDACTED</sup>

3. <sup>REDACTED</sup>





MEMORANDUM

COPY

TO: Cardinal Roger M. Mahony

FROM: REDACTED

RE: Recommendation of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board  
 Monsignor Manuel Sanchez (CMOB 064-01)

DATE: November 28, 2006

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Memorandum Regarding Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
November 28, 2006  
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consensus that no further announcement need be made in Sacred Heart Parish at this time.

cc: Msgr. Gabriel Gonzales



MEMORANDUM

TO: Cardinal Roger Mahony

FROM: REDACTED

RE: *Recommendation of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board  
Monsignor Manuel Sanchez (CMOB 064-01)*

DATE: 22 December 2003

The Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board discussed the case of Monsignor Manuel Sanchez on December 10, 2003. We sent you an earlier memorandum on this case dated November 12, 2003. As noted therein, the complaint involves the alleged molestation of a young boy in the sacristy at Sacred Heart Parish in Pomona in 1981-82.

REDACTED investigator retained by the Archdiocese, conducted a very thorough investigation. His report is attached. While it is not my intent to attach the investigator's report as a matter of course, in this case I did want you to see an example of REDACTED work. As the report indicates REDACTED interviewed a number of people -- laity, religious and priests. We asked him to investigate not only the new complaint of abuse of a minor boy, but also other complaints that had been raised against Monsignor Sanchez for misconduct or boundary violations with minors and with an adult in past years.

REDACTED does not find any evidence of anything other than boundary violations with regard to the previous complaints related to the contact Monsignor Sanchez had with minor girls. There is evidence that he was a highly affectionate person and that at times he may have expressed this affection innocently but without understanding how it might be uncomfortable or offensive to others. With regard to the past allegation of an inappropriate relationship with an adult woman, this allegation has greater credibility, although there is no certainty as to exactly what may have happened. After discussion, the members of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board are satisfied that there was no need to do any further investigation related to that particular issue.

REDACTED report details the information he obtained concerning the new allegation of misconduct with a minor boy. From this information, it appears that the alleged misconduct is highly improbable. There are elements of the charge that are not consistent or that strain credibility. The alleged abusive activity supposedly took place in the sacristy on Sundays. However, the investigation reveals that there are many people present in or passing through the sacristy on Sundays. In view of this, it is very unlikely that a perpetrator would engage in the activity being complained of for fear of being caught in the act.

After a thorough discussion, the CMOB found that there is insufficient evidence to establish the truth of the allegation and recommend that the file be closed unless new relevant information is received. Monsignor Sanchez is retired and the Board does not recommend the removal of faculties or any restriction placed on his ability to help out occasionally in his retirement.

*Memorandum Regarding Monsignor Manuel Sanchez  
Page 2*

However, the Board does recommend that the Vicar for Clergy meet with Monsignor Sanchez and discuss the concerns about fully and completely respecting ministerial boundaries, put him under obedience to fully abide by Archdiocese regulations on maintaining proper boundaries, and warn him that any future violation of such boundaries will result in a prohibition of public ministry.

Thank you.

cc: Msgr. Craig A. Cox

Attachment

*I concur fully in all your  
recommendations,  
+ Roger Card. Mahony  
23 December 2003*




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## MEMORANDUM

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TO: Cardinal Roger M. Mahony

FROM: REDACTED REDACTED  
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board

RE: *Recommendation of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board  
Monsignor Manuel Sanchez (CMOB 064-01)*

DATE: November 12, 2003

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The Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board discussed the case of Monsignor Manuel Sanchez on October 22, 2003. Msgr. Sanchez is a retired Hispanic pastor emeritus, age 73, who was ordained in 1954 and incardinated in the Los Angeles Archdiocese in 1976.

In April, 2003 REDACTED received a call from a concerned priest relating that a 32 year old man told him he had been abused by Msgr. Sanchez in 1981-82 at the age of 7-10 years when he was an altar boy. He said that Msgr. Sanchez would approach the boy from behind while in the sacristy and caress his face, press his body against the boy, expose himself and have the boy hold his penis. He said that the boy told him that Msgr. Sanchez attempted anal intercourse but was stopped by him. The boy said that this occurred on weekends over a period of 7-8 weeks. Msgr. Sanchez was confronted and strongly denies the allegations and wants to meet personally with the complainant.

Prior complaints had been made about Msgr. Sanchez in 1989. At that time it was alleged that he had asked several teenage girls to sit on his lap during confession and that he then fondled or touched them inappropriately. REDACTED

REDACTED : Msgr. Sanchez was confronted about these accusations at the time and strongly denied them. There were also a number of other problems at the parish. Msgr. Curry REDACTED spoke to the people involved and concluded that nothing of significance really happened. No psychological assessment of Msgr. Sanchez was made and no action was taken at the time.

Msgr. Cox directed REDACTED the investigator hired by the Archdiocese, to investigate the allegations. REDACTED made an interim report to the Board at its October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. He stated that his review of the C-File showed that counseling had been offered to the young man through REDACTED and REDACTED, and that he had been interviewed by REDACTED REDACTED and REDACTED REDACTED spoke to the young man by telephone on October 15, 2003. He was immediately informed by the young man that he was represented by counsel and REDACTED REDACTED did not pursue the conversation further.

Msgr. Sanchez has retained attorney REDACTED to represent him and is eager to cooperate. He is not living at the parish and is not involved in parish activities.

*Memorandum Regarding Monsignor Manuel Sanchez*  
*November 12, 2003*  
*Page 2*

Recommendation: It was the consensus of the Board that Msgr. Sanchez undergo a psychological assessment, that his activities be restricted – i.e., that he not be involved in public ministry – pending the results of the assessment, and that <sup>REDACTED</sup> investigate the matter further and report his findings to the Board. It was also the consensus of the Board that there is no need to notify the parish until the Board considers the case further.

cc: Msgr. Craig A. Cox

*I understand that additional investigation may develop further information useful to the Board. I prefer to wait until the Board has been able to consider any further information.*

*+ Roger Carl Mahoy*  
*20 Nov. 2003*

CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED  
 INVESTIGATIVE REPORT  
 ATTORNEY CLIENT WORK PRODUCT

December 6, 2003

Canonical Investigation of Monsignor Manuel Sanchez

Report of REDACTED canonical auditor

The complaints lodged against Monsignor Manuel Sanchez were reviewed as well as the actions taken at the time they were made. As a result the following individuals were interviewed between October 28, 2003, and December 3, 2003:

REDACTED

Telephonic contact was made with Sanchez on September 15, 2003, to advise him of the status of this matter. He made two subsequent telephonic contacts and was advised since he was represented by counsel that he should discuss this with his attorney before submitting to an interview in this matter.

Sanchez is a 73-year-old Spanish-American who was ordained in Spain in 1954 and came from Spain to the Los Angeles Archdiocese in 1971. He served at a high school and three parishes in the Archdiocese before retiring February 1, 2000. He arrived at Sacred Heart in 1977 and became pastor there in 1980, serving in that capacity until his retirement. He no longer lives at the parish but does regularly assist there on Sundays when he is in the Los Angeles area.

There are four separate allegations that have been made against Sanchez. They are:

1. On July 6, 1989, REDACTED and her husband advised the vicar of clergy (Monsignor Thomas J. Curry) that in about 1986 Sanchez inappropriately touched their daughter REDACTED.
2. During the July 6, 1989, meeting the REDACTED also alleged that Sanchez asked two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession. REDACTED
3. REDACTED
4. On April 4, 2003, REDACTED, (1971) made an allegation that REDACTED REDACTED that Sanchez had abused him in the sacristy of Sacred Heart Church in approximately 1981.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED



REDACTED

- Allegation that Sanchez asked two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession

This allegation was one of many originally raised by REDACTED at the July 6, 1989, meeting with Curry. They advised that two years prior Sanchez asked two seventh grade girls (there are various references to these girls in the file as being in the sixth, seventh and eighth grade) at the parish school to sit on his lap during confession. They said REDACTED the school principal, was aware of the incident.

On July 7, 1989, Curry met with REDACTED who advised that REDACTED had five children in the parish school at one time but now only two were attending. REDACTED described the family as strict. In 198 REDACTED told REDACTED that sometime around Easter Sanchez had asked each of her two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession and that he then fondled them. REDACTED believed that she told her supervisor at the time, REDACTED (deceased). After the initial mention of the allegation the parent never spoke to REDACTED about it again. She went on that she would not be surprised if the allegation was true as she found Sanchez impossible to work with and that the staff meetings were heated and Sanchez had no interest in the school.

Curry mentions in a letter to the Archbishop dated July 13, 1989, that he contacted REDACTED regional supervisor for elementary schools of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and that she doubted the incident took place. She knew there were difficulties at the school but thought REDACTED was dealing with many of her personal problems as well.

In an undated interview assumed to have taken place in September 1989, REDACTED and REDACTED REDACTED came to Curry's office. REDACTED worked in Sacred Heart Parish with the SAYA program (this is probably the Soledad Enrichment Act or SEA, an alternative program that works with troubled youth and gang members). They related that recently the two girls central to the allegation came to school and announced their 13-year-old cousin had run away with a 21 year old man. The mother of the 13-year-old came to school to say the REDACTED girls were lying. The REDACTED family then removed their girls from the school. These two girls were rebellious and troublesome at school and had two boyfriends that waited for them after school outside the school gates. Curry indicated that during their meeting REDACTED and REDACTED were more concerned with financial matters related to the school than the REDACTED, and REDACTED noted that Sanchez tended to turn away from people that threatened his power.

On November 3, 2003, REDACTED could not recall the REDACTED family at Sacred Heart. They were not able to locate the family in old parish directories.

On October 31, 2002<sup>REDACTED</sup> advised he did not recall the <sup>REDACTED</sup> family.

On November 7, 2002<sup>REDACTED</sup> advised she faintly recalled th<sup>REDACTED</sup> family and believed they were active in the parish but had no idea as to their present location.

Sanchez in 1989 "vehemently denied any impropriety on his part" regarding this matter in an interview with Curry and <sup>REDACTED</sup> and in 2003 denied ever taking any liberties with minors during his career as a priest.

REDACTED

REDACTED

• Allegation that Sanchez abused REDACTED in the sacristy

On November 24 and December 3, 2003 REDACTED associate pastor at Sacred Heart Parish. was telephonically contacted regarding his meeting with REDACTED on April 23, 2003. He said that REDACTED came to see him at the parish that Wednesday because REDACTED notice REDACTED in the vestibule of the church two or three weeks before, after a Sunday mass. REDACTED approached REDACTED at that time as he looked despondent and REDACTED advised him that he had been away from the church and was now returning. Since mass had just finished and REDACTED did not have much time he told REDACTED that if he wanted to talk to come see him later. REDACTED was not crying at this time. When REDACTED returned it was to the parish office on April 23. He appeared nervous and told REDACTED he had information that he had been carrying in silence too long but that he would not see REDACTED again and felt he could tell him. He told REDACTED that when he saw the name of REDACTED (this is the deceased brother of the accused) on a parish conference room named in his honor all his memories came flowing back and he felt an honor like that should not be bestowed on an individual like Sanchez. When REDACTED determined the nature of REDACTED accusations he told REDACTED to contact REDACTED and did not hear any specifics of the allegations.

On December 2, 2003 REDACTED advised that REDACTED contacted her about REDACTED on April 23, 2003, and that she called REDACTED that day. The conversation with him was documented on a Clergy Misconduct form and states that in 1978-1981 a priest at the Sacred Heart Church had abused him there. He was about ten years old at the time and his mother later told him the priest at the parish then was Father Sanchez. He could only describe him as a Mexican man and gave no age. REDACTED stated that the priest grabbed him from the rear and put his penis inside REDACTED and this happened where the left over bread and wine were taken. He further stated this occurred during the summertime and that he was wearing shorts and the priest wore robes. The initial report, amongst other things, contained the following information that he provided, he always needed attention; he was expelled from Sacred Heart School in the fifth grade; he entered public school and became a gang member; he went to jail in the seventh grade; he hated authority; he has been out

of jail for five years; REDACTED was jailed for fraud, was about to be sentenced for spousal abuse, had an anger problem, feared publicity regarding this and wanted to know if there were other victims of the priest.

On May 1, 2003, REDACTED acting in his capacity as a canonical auditor, and REDACTED, a licensed psychologist working with REDACTED, interviewed REDACTED, in a classroom at the Sacred Heart Parish School. REDACTED described REDACTED as a profuse talker who readily changed subjects. REDACTED mother is a teachers' aide and his father an alcoholic who abused every member of the family including the mother and he served jail time for that. The parents divorced several years ago REDACTED has an older and younger brother and a sister that is either a bit younger or a bit older than he is. All children are now grown and all have emotional issues they are dealing with REDACTED D REDACTED when he was in the seventh grade. This seriously affected both the brother and sister. REDACTED has a conflicted relationship with his father. He claimed that his abuse involving the priest took place over a period of seven or eight weeks when he was in the fifth grade. The priest approached him from the rear in the Sacred Heart sacristy as he was preparing to serve mass. He would be facing the cabinet where the hosts and wine were kept and the priest would reach around and caress his face and press his body against REDACTED. This escalated over time to where the priest exposed his penis and had REDACTED hold it. When the priest finally tried to have anal intercourse with REDACTED and was unable he asked REDACTED to assist him. At this point REDACTED "drew the line". He left the church and did not return until recently when he came onto the parish grounds. The priest told REDACTED not to tell his parents as he (the priest) would deny it and the father would punish REDACTED severely. After this he became disruptive in school and mid-way through the sixth grade he was expelled from the parish school. The final act that resulted in his expulsion was when he was caught urinating in the dunk tank at the parish fiesta. He enrolled in the public school but only attended that school the rest of the year and then changed schools again the next year for junior high school REDACTED.

REDACTED  
REDACTED

REDACTED marrying and having children have motivated him REDACTED and to turn his life around. In 1993 he told his mother he was abused as a child but did not tell her a priest was the abuser since the church means so much to her. Sometime in the last year he confided to a neighbor, who is a policeman, what happened and he told REDACTED that he would have to confront the priest to find healing. He also claimed this neighbor gave him a lie detector test. When he finally returned to Sacred Heart REDACTED saw him crying and told him that he would be willing to listen to him and although they did not discuss the abuse then this led to the April 23 meeting. In the meantime REDACTED, asked his mother who the "father" was during the relevant time period and she told him Sanchez. REDACTED strongest feelings during the interview were when he discussed his desire for the Archdiocese to rescue his brother REDACTED from the gang life he is currently living. He threatened that things would become ugly if his brother was not given a place to live and recover. Towards the end of the interview REDACTED was shown nine photographs of priests. After first saying he did not want to try and identify the perpetrator he looked at them and picked out three photos and asked if Sanchez was one of them. These three wore glasses and the other six did not. When informed that one of them was Sanchez he selected the photo of Sanchez. He advised he had not reported the abuse to the police despite being given the number by REDACTED. He was told they would have a better idea if there were other victims.

A review of REDACTED cumulative pupil record shows that he entered Sacred Heart School September 2, 1980, as a fourth grader coming from Madison School in Pomona. He attended Sacred Heart that entire year as well as his entire fifth grade withdrawing June 11, 1982, when his enrollment information was sent to Roosevelt in Pomona. REDACTED

On June 29, 2003, REDACTED interviewed REDACTED the principal at Sacred Heart Parish School in 1981-82. This was the first year she was a school principal and she could not recall REDACTED as a student there. She had no recollection of a student being asked to leave the school at any time, especially during the middle of the year. She had no recollection of any incident involving students urinating into the dunk tank at the parish fiesta. It was a small school and she felt she would recall anything serious that happened during the two years she was there. She remembered the altar servers being in the sixth grade and older. Other than Sunday Mass they only served funeral Masses and the student body Mass on Friday mornings.

On November 3, 2003, REDACTED was telephonically contacted at his home and advised he was a Sacred Heart parishioner. In the early 1980s he was in charge of the dip tank at the parish fiesta. He could not recall the exact years the tank was at the fiesta but advised it was there for several years. He borrowed the tank from another Knights of Columbus council and stopped using it because people were no longer interested in it and it was not making enough money to justify it. Nobody urinated in it to the best of his knowledge and that certainly was not the reason the fiesta terminated its being there. He would have known if someone had been identified as doing that. The name REDACTED meant nothing to him.

On November 5, 2003, REDACTED was telephonically contacted at her home in Moreno Valley. She stated that her family had lived in Pomona and were parishioners at Sacred Heart in the 1980s and that she worked with the parish altar servers in the early 1980s. The one requirement to be a server was that he had made his first communion and this was normally done in the second or third grade. All servers were required to wear long pants and a collared shirt when serving Mass. During the hot summer months they were sometimes allowed to wear tee shirts but always had to wear long pants. There was an effort to have six servers at each Mass but at times there were less than that. There were no records kept then as to who served what Masses. At a required Saturday training session the servers were told which Mass they would serve on that Sunday. If they were not at the Saturday meeting they did not serve the next day. Most of the servers served twice a month and it would be uncommon for a person to serve three Sundays in a row. It would have been very unusual for any individual to serve at the same Mass with the same priest for several consecutive Sundays. The sacristy was very busy between the Sunday Masses with all the servers and priests concluding one Mass and preparing for the next one. Besides them other people would frequently be in that area including a lady in the parish that took care of the sacristy. She could not recall her name. She thought two of the three doors into the sacristy were unlocked during Mass. She did not remember REDACTED but did recall some of the servers especially if they attended the parish school.

On November 3, 2003, when REDACTED were interviewed they did not remember the REDACTED family as having been parishioners at Sacred Heart. They checked parish directories dating back to 1993, the oldest available, and could not locate the family in them. None of them remembered REDACTED teachers. REDACTED The kindergarten through eighth grade parish school closed in 1998. The parish fiesta is held in June and always has been as far as they knew. In 1981 the dates were June 19, 20 and 21. They did not recall anyone being identified as having urinated into the dip tank at the fiesta at any time.

When contacted on November 7, 2003, REDACTED did not remember a REDACTED family at Sacred Heart.

REDACTED or assigned to Sacred Heart in 1981-1982 was REDACTED, the pastor's brother, was "in residence" there at the time and participated in parish ministry. Both are deceased. The associate pastors that come closest to being assigned to the parish during the appropriate time period that are available to be interviewed are REDACTED who served there from 1974 to 1976 and Father Chris Ponnet from 1988 to 1989.

On November 4, 2003, REDACTED was telephonically contacted and advised he was at Sacred Heart from 1974 until 1976. During that time period the sacristy was a very active place during the Sunday morning Mass period. To the best of his recollection each Mass had two or three altar servers and he could not recall any of them ever wearing shorts as it probably was not allowed. He recalled that a woman took care of the sacristy and was frequently in it but he could not recall her name. He could not remember if the sacristy doors were locked during Mass. There was a lot of activity throughout the parish during his tenure there.

During the aforementioned contacts with Ponnet in October and November he advised that while he was at Sacred Heart there were between two and six altar servers at each Sunday Mass. Often servers would be scheduled and did not come so servers would be solicited from the congregation. He believed that servers were mandated to wear long pants while serving Mass and he has no idea if records exist showing who said or served Mass from that time period or before. Which servers worked with any particular priest on any given Sunday was happenstance as far as he knew. A server working with the same priest eight weeks in a row might be unusual. The Sunday morning sacristy was very active. The Masses flowed into each other

and there were priests, altar servers and others passing through it. There was a woman who looked after the care and maintenance of the sacristy that was there frequently during the week but also appeared on Sunday mornings as well. At that time he believed that the doors to the sacristy were left unlocked during Sunday mornings and that the door to the driveway was often propped open, especially during the summer months. He did not recall a <sup>REDACTED</sup> family in the parish and as indicated earlier he never saw Sanchez do anything inappropriate of a sexual nature. He estimated Sanchez as being 5'7" or 5'8" tall.

In a document dated June 25, 2003 <sup>REDACTED</sup> reviewed various Sacred Heart Parish bulletins dating from January 1980 until July 11, 1982. These indicated that <sup>REDACTED</sup> was an associate pastor in January 1980 but replaced by <sup>REDACTED</sup> in July 1980. The vicar for clergy files show <sup>REDACTED</sup> returned to Mexico in September 1980 although the November bulletin still shows him at the parish. In January 1981 a bulletin reads that <sup>REDACTED</sup> is the new associate pastor. A note in one bulletin indicated <sup>REDACTED</sup> was visiting from July-August 1981. The August 30, 1981, through August 29, 1982, bulletins listed <sup>REDACTED</sup> "in residence". The Sunday morning Mass schedule in November 1980 was 7:00, 9:30 and 11:00 with 1:00 and 5:00 Masses in the afternoon. This changed in October 1981 to Sunday mornings at 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 with afternoon Masses at 12:15, 1:30 and 5:00. <sup>REDACTED</sup> also documented his visit to the parish and described the sacristy as an area about 20' by 10' with three closets and various cabinets that hold the supplies and other various things needed by the priests and altar servers to conduct the mass. There are three entry doors to the sacristy one on the south side, one on the north and another from behind the altar. The door on the north exits into a driveway going to the church parking lot. He notes that <sup>REDACTED</sup> mentioned a metal cabinet to him that stored the hosts and wine and there is one there now, although that is not its present purpose. It is possible that it could have been utilized for that at one time.

On October, 15, 2003 <sup>REDACTED</sup> was telephonically contacted and said that he had contacted <sup>REDACTED</sup> a number of times on the telephone after their first meeting. He tried to provide him with a therapist and <sup>REDACTED</sup> was interested in one in Pomona. He was given names of two in Pomona and he never contacted them. He then wanted one in Ontario and a name was provided for one there and once again he did not follow through. He requested tattoo removal and he was told who to contact for this but he never did. He contacted <sup>REDACTED</sup> through his work as his home telephone was disconnected.

On October 15, 2003, telephonic contact was made with <sup>REDACTED</sup> but was terminated when he advised he retained <sup>REDACTED</sup> to represent him.

On December 3, 2003 <sup>REDACTED</sup> was interviewed and provided various forms documenting her contacts with <sup>REDACTED</sup> from April 23 until November 11, 2003. Her log indicates that she or <sup>REDACTED</sup> talked with <sup>REDACTED</sup> left him messages or mailed him items on at least 18 separate occasions. He was offered the names of four different therapists in various locations that he suggested but he continually rejected them for differing reasons. One therapist, although no longer accepting new patients, agreed to see <sup>REDACTED</sup> and an appointment was agreed upon. <sup>REDACTED</sup> did not keep it. He was also provided literature and the name of the person to call to have his tattoos removed, which he requested, and he never acted on this. When he called <sup>REDACTED</sup> on November 11 he yelled with such anger and for such a long period <sup>REDACTED</sup> almost became ill. He refused to listen to her.

This matter has been discussed with Monsignor Craig A. Cox over the last several months. He advised that Sanchez has for many years returned to Spain during the summer months but does not know the exact dates. He believes Sanchez is 5'7" or 5'8" in height. He personally knew the associate pastor at Sacred Heart in the early 1980s, <sup>REDACTED</sup>, and opined that he was a very good man with an excellent reputation. He felt that if Kalston knew of any inappropriate activity on the part of Sanchez he would have discussed it with Sanchez or if necessary brought it to the attention of appropriate people in the chancery.

A public records check of <sup>REDACTED</sup> was conducted on August 19, 2003. This revealed that <sup>REDACTED</sup> had been arrested many times for various crimes, both felonies and misdemeanors, between May 17, 1990, and April 17, 2003, in San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties. He was convicted or pled guilty to at least six felonies for auto burglary and drug violations. There were more records indicating that

others with the same name as the complainant were arrested but since these do not have identifying data on the entry it is not possible to determine if these records pertain to the complainant. From the data provided it is also not possible to tell how many years he was incarcerated. It is noted that on April 23, 2003, he advised he had served time for fraud and was at that time on probation for that and that he was to be sentenced for spousal abuse in the near future. Neither of these was identified on his record.

Sanchez was in Spain when this allegation was made and Cox sent him a letter there to inform him. In correspondence to Cox entitled "Deposition from Manuel Sanchez for the Vicar for Clergy For the Archdiocese of Los Angeles" dated June 9, 2003, he swore he "never touched any boy or girl or adult inappropriately in my forty-nine years of priesthood". He was incredulous that anyone would make an accusation that would ruin his reputation. On June 17, 2003, REDACTED and Cox interviewed Sanchez at the chancery for about 80 minutes. He willingly took a customary oath that is administered in situations like these. After being advised of the exact allegation he wanted to immediately confront his accuser. He once again repeated that in his 49 years as a priest he had never done anything inappropriate to either a child or an adult. He confirmed he retired from Sacred Heart in February 2000 but continues to help at Mass there when he is not in Spain. He maintains a room at the parish. He came to the parish in 1977 and was pastor from 1980 until his retirement. During July and August he would customarily go to Spain and arrange for visiting priests to help at the parish. He recalled REDACTED and REDACTED as two individuals that helped him. He advised that altar servers were only used at Sunday Masses as he did not want them to miss school during the week. If a family member was being married or died a server might assist at those Masses. There were four or five servers at each Sunday Mass and the Masses tended to run into each other so the sacristy was a busy area on Sunday mornings. It would have been possible for a priest to have been alone with a server but unusual for it to be for any significant amount of time. He pointed out that there were multiple doors that could be entered at any time by someone. The name REDACTED meant nothing to him.

On October 8, 2003, Sanchez was telephonically advised of the status of this matter. At that time he reiterated he did not know the complainant and when asked as to the status of the sacristy doors on Sunday mornings in the early 1980s he advised they were always unlocked.

On November 14, 2003, REDACTED was interviewed in his office. After a discussion of this matter he advised that in his opinion it would be against his client's best interest to submit to another interview and he would advise him of that. His rationale is that Sanchez has already denied any wrongdoing verbally and in writing and that he will stand on that. REDACTED  
REDACTED

On November 6, 2003, the web site [www.halls.md](http://www.halls.md) was visited. It displayed a Boys Height Growth Chart for children of "Mexican-American" race/ethnicity. This shows the average height for an 11 year old is 4'8". On the same date [www.babybag.com](http://www.babybag.com) was also visited and it had a table entitled Height & Weight Averages for Children. It listed the height for an 11, year old boy as 4'9 1/4".

Analysis and Observations

Allegation that Sanchez inappropriately touched REDACTED  
REDACTED made this allegation three and a half years after the incident occurred. She was a young adult when she claimed Sanchez rubbed her leg REDACTED advised that Sanchez was a "touchy-feely" person and would on occasion touch people, including herself, with no ill intent. Priests that served with Sanchez observed nothing they considered inappropriate. Sanchez more than once denied this type of activity at any time and specifically this incident. It is possible that both REDACTED and Sanchez are correct, that is Sanchez did something he considered appropriate while REDACTED took umbrage with the act.

The present location and status of the Sotos is unknown and little, if anything would be gained by re-contacting them regarding this matter.

Allegation that Sanchez asked two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession.

This allegation originally came to the attention of the chancery when the <sup>REDACTED</sup> included it in their litany of complaints against Sanchez on July 6, 1989. The girls' mother brought it to the attention of the principal of the parish school two years prior to that and the principal reported it to her superior (now deceased) who doubted it occurred and disregarded it. It is unclear how long after the alleged activity took place the mother advised the principal but it does not seem to have been a contemporaneous event. The mother apparently never raised the issue again and kept her girls at the school for two more years and then withdrew them over what appears to be a relatively minor issue. The girls were characterized as rebellious and troublesome while at the school. The term fondled is somewhat ambiguous in this context considering that time period. In 1989 the user might have had the Webster Dictionary meaning in mind, "to caress or handle lovingly" whereas in 2003 used in this fashion it has sexual implications. Then it could have been used perhaps for stroking another's hair, patting their backs, etc. This would have been a boundary violation but once again Sanchez might have done it with no ill intent. And as <sup>REDACTED</sup> stated it was not necessarily uncommon for Sanchez to have youngsters sit on his lap.

The present location and status of any of the <sup>REDACTED</sup> s unknown and once again re-visiting this issue at this time would garner little, if anything, to further clarify this matter.

REDACTED

Allegation that Sanchez abuse <sup>REDACTED</sup> ; in the sacristy

This allegation was made approximately 22 years after it supposedly happened. There are a plethora of reasons to doubt whether this occurred. They include:

1. When <sup>REDACTED</sup> made the initial complaint he said the priest penetrated him. When he was subsequently interviewed he said the priest was unable to have anal intercourse with him and asked for <sup>REDACTED</sup> assistance at which time he refused and left. This is a significant variance.
2. <sup>REDACTED</sup> claimed he was expelled in mid year from the parish school. Records indicate he went two full years to the school and was not expelled.



3. The reason he gives for his mid term expulsion was his urinating in the parish fiesta dunk (dip) tank. It was determined that if he did this nobody else knew about it and so it had no bearing on his leaving school. Also the fiesta is held in June which rules out a mid term departure.
4. The sacristy was an active venue during Sunday mornings and completely inhospitable for the activity he describes. With all of the individuals that had unfettered access to that space it is not credible to believe one would have perpetrated such an act there during that time period.
5. He claimed he was wearing shorts at the time of the offenses. It was determined that altar servers were not allowed to serve Mass in shorts.
6. REDACTED was about 4'8" tall at the time of the alleged activity whereas Sanchez stands close to 5'8". With this height difference it would be difficult, if not impossible, to engage in the alleged activity the way he described it.
7. The fact that REDACTED described the perpetrator as a Mexican when Sanchez is a Spaniard is not something a Mexican-American child would normally do.
8. REDACTED criminal past and drug usage, including his self-admitted conviction on fraud charges, impugns his credibility.
9. His reluctance to accept the services offered by the Archdiocese yet continue to bargain for them over several months is curious activity.
10. His claim that a neighbor in law enforcement gave him a lie detector test makes no credible sense. And that the neighbor told him to confront the perpetrator but did not tell him to report it to authorities is also suspect.
11. The discrepancy between his description of his first meeting with Noble and how Noble describes it.

His choosing Sanchez in the photo line up is interesting but not telling since Sanchez served at the parish for so long tha REDACTED could have seen him there any number of times.

Sanchez on hearing of this accusation immediately denied and denounced it; requested to confront his accuser; submitted to an interview; and swore in writing and verbally that he did not commit the alleged acts.

REDACTED

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**From:** REDACTED

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2003 9:53 AM

**To:** Cox, Msgr. Craig A.

**Subject:** CMOB

Good morning, Msgr. Cox:

Was there a response from Cardinal Mahony to CMOB's recommendation dated November 12, 2003 re CMOB-064-01 "Sacristy". If so, I don't have a copy.

Thanks,  
REDACTED

12/16/2003

CCI 007549

# 10 Priests in Lawsuits Still on Job

L.A. Archdiocese says it lacks evidence of abuse. Cases test limits of the 'zero tolerance' policy.

By WILLIAM LOBDELL AND JEAN GUCCIONE  
Times Staff Writers

At least 10 priests in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles remain in parish ministry despite lawsuits filed late last year that accuse them of molesting children.

Among the priests are some of the archdiocese's most prominent clerics, including Msgr. Richard A. Loomis, former head of clergy who oversaw misconduct allegations against priests; Msgr. Patrick Reilly in Burbank; and Father Michael J. Carroll, who was voted Walnut's man of the year last week.

Church leaders justified their action by citing lack of evidence to support the allegations and, in some cases, their inability to interview the victims. Announcements of the accusations were made in the congregations of the priests last Sunday.

Each cleric has denied wrongdoing, and none are under criminal investigation.

The cases test the limits of the Vatican's "zero tolerance" policy against priestly misconduct. [See Church, Page A22]

A22 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2004

LOS ANGELES

# Accused Priests' Status Pending Inquiries Murky

[Church, from Page A1]

...and point to the conflicts the church faces in policing itself. Archdiocesan spokesman Rod Tamberg said that although many past claims of sexual abuse have been credible, not all allegations are true or immediately credible.

"And there are those that are demonstrably false," he said. "To take someone out of ministry when allegations are false or there is a severe lack of first- or even second-hand information is not only unjust to the person accused, it also diminishes the impact of those claims which are credible and true."

The archdiocese's stance has infuriated victims' advocates, who say that once again the church has put the protection of priests over the safety of children.

"The problem is not false allegations," said John Manly, a Costa Mesa attorney whose firm represents about 80 alleged victims of sexual abuse by priests. The problem is child rape. When are the bishops going to get that through their thick ecclesiastical heads?"

The debate over how to treat the priests named in lawsuits comes as the archdiocese is also battling prosecutors and civil litigants over access to personnel files on accused priests.

The church has argued that the files are confidential and protected from disclosure by law; prosecutors insist that the documents are necessary to investigate possible criminal wrongdoing.

The priests still in active ministry are among about 200 Los Angeles-area clerics named in an avalanche of litigation in 2003.

The lawsuits were filed after California lifted for one year the statute of limitations for older cases of sexual abuse involving minors. About 500 people sued

## Zero tolerance

Excerpts from the Catholic Church's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People

ARTICLE 5. We repeat the words of our Holy Father in his address to the cardinals of the United States and conference officers: "There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young."

When an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest or a deacon is received, a preliminary investigation will be initiated and conducted promptly and objectively. If this investigation so indicates, the diocesan/eparchial bishop will both notify the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and...relieve the alleged offender promptly of his ministerial duties.

Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Los Angeles Times

the Los Angeles Archdiocese last year out of 800 suits statewide.

Asked about the accusations, Loomis, who was voted for clergy from 1996 to 2000, said, "I have not done anything wrong."

Speaking of his accuser, he added, "I do not recall this person, and I did not molest him."

Similarly, Manuel Sanchez of Sacred Heart Church in Pomona said Friday that he did not even know his accuser. "I am completely innocent of the charges," the priest said. He said he learned of "this terrible accusation" six months ago and believed that his accuser was either "looking for money or he sincerely confused me with another person."

Another of the priests, James M. Ford of San Roque Church in

Santa Barbara, said he was "shocked" when he heard of this lawsuit. Ford said he was "deeply hurt" by this allegation of 35 years ago. It's completely and absolutely false.

Edward Dober of Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Paramount released a statement denying the allegation. "The archdiocese did not find it credible, and there is no basis for the lawsuit," the statement said.

The other priests still on active ministry, each of whom denied the allegations personally or through an attorney, are Sean Cronin of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Northridge, Walter Fernando of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Pasadena, Richard Martin of Transfiguration Church in Los Angeles and Samuel Orellana of Presentation of Mary Church, also in L.A.

In some cases, the status of the clerics facing allegations exposes a contentious and largely unexplored area of the church's zero-tolerance policy, which was adopted in 2002 and calls for removing priests against whom credible allegations of molestation have been made. The policy is silent about a cleric's status between the time an allegation is lodged and a church investigation is completed.

Should a priest, accused of a decades-old molestation, be immediately placed on administrative leave until an inquiry is complete? Or should he remain at his post until the church determines that there is sufficient evidence to remove him?

"In some cases, it's a very, very shaky allegation by someone who's not very credible," said Father Robert J. Silva, president of the National Federation of Priests' Councils. "On the other hand, we want to be very sensitive to the victims."

Not does the policy define "sufficient evidence," the standard of proof needed to remove a priest from ministry under the reformed policy.

"It all hangs on what's credible evidence, and that's up to interpretation," said Father Thomas J. Reese, editor of the Catholic weekly magazine America.

The 194 U.S. dioceses operate independently and report only to the Vatican. Some dioceses, New Orleans, for example, follow investigative procedures similar to those in Los Angeles. In others, including the Diocese of Orange, officials immediately place accused priests on administrative leave until inquiries are completed. Similar policies are in force in Seattle, Pittsburgh and Lafayette, La.

The Los Angeles Archdiocese's decision to keep accused priests in ministry has put further strain on the already acrimonious relationship between the church hierarchy and alleged victims and their advocates.

"I wouldn't trust the church to investigate anything," said Father Thomas P. Doyle, who co-wrote a report to U.S. bishops in 1985 warning of problems with abusive priests. "From history, we'd know it's self-serving. They shouldn't be investigating; someone should be investigating them."

Victims' advocates say filing a lawsuit should provide enough evidence to justify placing a priest on leave. California law requires an independent therapist to attest to the merits of a plaintiff's allegations before a sexual abuse lawsuit can be filed. After that, a judge must decide if the suit has merit enough to proceed.

"One must convince both an attorney and a therapist before filing," said David Clonessy, executive director of the Survivors Network for Those Abused by Priests (SNAP). "So one could argue that church officials ought to give more weight and credence to an allegation that is publicly presented in civil courts over one that's privately presented in a church office."

SNAP members in Los Angeles plan to protest the archdiocese's policy Sunday at the parishes of the accused priests.

"Church officials don't believe the victims, the police, mental health professionals and judges," said Mary Grant, regional director of the group. "I don't believe church officials are

in a dilemma. They know exactly what they are doing in stonewalling and protecting priests."

But others said that without hard evidence, placing a priest on administrative leave was fundamentally unfair and could lead to witch hunts.

"The way priests are investigated and handled and treated is unconscionable," said William Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, a conservative group with 350,000 members. "Bishops protect themselves [from public outcry] at the expense of the accused priests. They are selling them down the river."

Attorney Donald Steier, who represents eight of the 10 accused priests still in Los Angeles Archdiocese parishes, said a single allegation of abuse — without corroborating evidence — shouldn't be enough to put a clergyman on leave.

"It doesn't appear that they are a current risk to anybody, so unless there is more to it, there's still a certain presumption [of innocence] in this country," he said. Steier said that the required psychological reports are filed under seal and that neither the archdiocese nor the priests can review them.

Some of the announcements read in the parishes of accused priests last weekend include the most detailed explanations of the abuse allegations made by the archdiocese to date.

In half the cases, parishioners were told that the archdiocese's Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board, which consists of 11 laypeople and two others, investigated and found no evidence of misconduct. In the other cases, the board did not recommend that the accusers be placed on administrative leave.

In a few cases, for instance, the archdiocese said it had been unable to interview the accuser and considered the allegations "hearsay in nature," lacking the kind of detail needed for the archdiocese to conduct a thorough investigation and for the priest to present a reasonable defense.

# Priests accused of abuse in lawsuits

These 10 Roman Catholic priests were accused of sexual abuse in civil lawsuits filed last year. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has reviewed the allegations, and all remain in parish ministry.



**Michael J. Carroll, pastor, San Lorenzo Ruiz Church, Walnut**  
Accused of molesting a teenage girl from 1967-71 at St. Anselm Parish in Los Angeles.  
He denied the allegation. The Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles recommended he remain in the ministry.



**Msgr. Richard A. Loomis, pastor, Sts. Felicitas and Perpetua Church, San Marino**  
Accused of molesting a boy between 1969 and 1971 when he taught at a Los Angeles-area Catholic high school.  
He denied the allegation. The board found "no credible evidence of misconduct has been presented to us." Parishioners were told that Loomis had the archdiocese's "complete confidence."



**Sean Cronin, associate pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Northridge**  
Accused of molesting two children between 1972 and 1980 while at St. Genevieve Parish in Ranorama City and St. Monica Parish in Santa Monica.  
He denied the allegations. The board recommended he remain in parish ministry pending further investigation.



**Richard Martini, pastor, Transfiguration Church, Los Angeles**  
Accused of fondling a boy at Queen of the Angels Junior Seminary in Los Angeles in 1990 and 1991.  
He denied the allegations, and the board found "no evidence of misconduct." Parishioners were told Martini had the archdiocese's "complete confidence."



**Edward Dober, pastor, Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Paramount**  
Accused of fondling a boy at Queen of the Angels Junior Seminary in Los Angeles in 1990 and 1991.  
He denied the allegations. The board found "no evidence of misconduct." Parishioners were told Dober had the archdiocese's "complete confidence."



**Samuel Orellana, associate pastor, Presentation of Mary Church, Los Angeles**  
Accused of misconduct in 1987 at Sagrado Corazon Parish in Compton.  
He denied the allegation and said he did not remember the accuser. The board recommended he remain in the ministry pending further investigation.



**Walter Fernando, associate pastor, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Pasadena**  
Accused of molesting a woman in 1981 at St. Hilary Parish in Piedra Rivera.  
He denied the allegations. Los Angeles police said he made incriminating statements during a taped conversation with the alleged victim. The board recommended he remain in parish ministry and stated it had insufficient information to investigate.



**Msgr. Patrick Reilly, pastor emeritus, St. Robert Bellarmine Church, Burbank**  
Accused of misconduct between 1980 and 1984 while at Sacred Heart Parish in Covina.  
He denied the allegations. The oversight board found there was "no credible evidence of misconduct."



**James M. Ford, pastor, San Roque Church, Santa Barbara**  
Accused of molesting a teenager from about 1968 to 1971 at an unspecified parish in the city of Orange.  
He denied the allegation. The board found it was "not appropriate" to place him on administrative leave "based on information currently available."



**Msgr. Manuel Sanchez, pastor emeritus, Sacred Heart Church, Pomona**  
Accused of molesting a child in 1981 while pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Pomona.  
The board found that "the evidence did not support the charges."

Source: Archdiocese of Los Angeles and lawsuits. Photo: from Archdiocese of Los Angeles 2002 Catholic Directory.

**Statement for Weekend Masses at Sacred Heart, Pomona  
January 31 – February 1, 2004  
Regarding Monsignor Manuel Sanchez**

I am REDACTED

Our Archbishop, Cardinal Roger Mahony, has asked that I make an important announcement here at Sacred Heart Parish this weekend.

As you know from news reports, many lawsuits were filed in the month of December that allege sexual abuse of minors on the part of different priests, brothers, nuns and laypersons working for the Church. These filings are public records, available to the media and to any other person who wishes to obtain the information.

You probably are not aware that your Pastor Emeritus, Monsignor Manuel Sanchez, was named as a defendant in ones of these lawsuits. We expect that there will be news reports referring to Monsignor Sanchez and this lawsuit in the coming weeks. We wanted you to learn this information from us first rather than through secular news sources.

The alleged incidents relate to approximately 1981 when Monsignor Sanchez was serving as Pastor here at Sacred Heart. When the complainant contacted us in April 2003, we arranged for him to be interviewed immediately. When informed of the complaint, Monsignor Sanchez firmly denied any sexually abusive conduct with the person who complained or with any minor.

Using the services of a professional investigator, a former FBI agent, a very thorough investigation was undertaken. The results of that investigation were presented to our Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board. That Board consists of thirteen persons, eleven of whom are lay people. The Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board has reviewed the case and concluded that the evidence did not support the charges. The Board recommended that there be no restrictions placed on the ability of Monsignor Sanchez to continue ministering at Sacred Heart or in any other place during his retirement.

Cardinal Mahony is committed to assuring that children and young people are safe. He has firmly pledged that, when it is determined that a priest has engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor, he will be permanently removed from ministry. That pledge has been implemented. The fact that a lawsuit has been filed, however, does not mean that Monsignor Sanchez has acted in an abusive fashion. All people, priests included, must be presumed innocent until there is proof to the contrary. At the same time, the Church takes allegations of this sort seriously -- precisely because we want to uncover the full truth and then act in accord with the truth. After all, Jesus himself stated that it is the truth that sets us free. Therefore, we will continue to seek all available information.

We also will continue to keep you informed of developments. Finally, I ask that you please pray for everyone involved -- people who have been harmed by sexual abuse, for Monsignor Sanchez and for priests, and those conducting the investigations. Thank you for your kind attention. May God bless you!

**Declaración para las misas del fin de semana  
Iglesia de Sagrado Corazón de Jesús en Pomona  
31 de enero – 1 de febrero, 2004  
Respecto al Monseñor Manuel Sánchez**

Me llamo REDACTED  
 REDACTED me ha pedido dar un anuncio importante  
 aquí en la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón este fin de semana.

Quizás ya se han dado cuenta a través de noticias en los medios de comunicación que muchas demandas se presentaron en el mes de diciembre alegando que algunos sacerdotes, religiosos y religiosas y laicos que trabajan por la Iglesia han abusado de menores de edad. Estas demandas existen en forma de documentos públicos, disponibles a los medios de comunicación y a cualquier otra persona que desee obtener dicha información.

Probablemente no estén ustedes enterados que su Pastor emérito, el Monseñor Manuel Sánchez, ha sido nombrado como demandado en una de las demandas. Se espera que haya varios reportes en las noticias con respecto al Monseñor Sánchez y las demandas en las próximas semanas. Queremos que ustedes reciban esta información de nuestra parte y no por medio de las fuentes seculares de noticias.

Este supuesto incidente se remonta al año 1981, aproximadamente, cuando el Monseñor Sánchez servía como Pastor aquí en el Sagrado Corazón. Cuando el demandante se comunicó con nosotros en el mes de abril del 2002, acordamos para una entrevista con él inmediatamente. Cuando le informamos al Monseñor Sánchez de la acusación, él firmemente negó en lo absoluto cualquier mala conducta sexual con la persona que lo acusaba y con persona menor alguna.

A través de los servicios de un investigador profesional, un ex agente del FBI, una investigación de fondo se logró. Los resultados de esa investigación fueron presentados a nuestra Comisión de Supervisión de Casos de Mala Conducta del Clero. La Comisión consiste de trece personas, de los cuales once son laicos. La misma Comisión estudió el caso y determinó que la evidencia no soporta la acusación. La Comisión recomendó que no haya limitación alguna sobre la capacidad del Monseñor Sánchez como ministro tanto en la parroquia del Sagrado Corazón, como en otro lugar alguno durante su jubilación.

El Cardenal Mahony se ha comprometido a cuidar que los niños y jóvenes estén seguros. Él ha prometido firmemente que, cuando se haya determinado que un sacerdote ha participado en mala conducta sexual con un menor, ese sacerdote será removido permanentemente del ministerio. Esa promesa ha sido implementada. Sin embargo, el simple hecho que se presenta una demanda no significa que el Msgr. Sánchez ha actuado de manera abusiva. Toda persona, inclusive un sacerdote, debe ser considerada inocente hasta que se presente prueba al contrario. A la vez, la Iglesia toma y recibe cualquier acusación en serio – precisamente porque queremos hacer todo para descubrir la plan verdad y responder de acuerdo con la verdad. Después de todo, sabemos que Jesús mismo declaró que es la verdad que nos hará libres. Por lo tanto, continuamos en búsqueda de toda información a nuestro alcance.

Además seguiremos manteniendo al día a esta comunidad con respecto a este asunto. Por último, les suplico que recen por todas personas involucradas – por quienes fueron dañadas por el abuso sexual, por los sacerdotes, y por los que conducen las diferentes investigaciones. Les agradezco amablemente su bondadosa atención. ¡Que Dios los bendiga!



COPY

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Cardinal Roger M. Mahony

FROM: REDACTED EDICTED  
Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board

RE: *Recommendation of the Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board  
Monsignor Manuel Sanchez (CMOB 064-01)*

DATE: November 12, 2003

The Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board discussed the case of Monsignor Manuel Sanchez on October 22, 2003. Msgr. Sanchez is a retired Hispanic pastor emeritus, age 73, who was ordained in 1954 and incardinated in the Los Angeles Archdiocese in 1976.

In April, 2003 REDACTED received a call from a concerned priest relating that a 32 year old man told him he had been abused by Msgr. Sanchez in 1981-82 at the age of 7-10 years when he was an altar boy. He said that Msgr. Sanchez would approach the boy from behind while in the sacristy and caress his face, press his body against the boy, expose himself and have the boy hold his penis. He said that the boy told him that Msgr. Sanchez attempted anal intercourse but was stopped by him. The boy said that this occurred on weekends over a period of 7-8 weeks. Msgr. Sanchez was confronted and strongly denies the allegations and wants to meet personally with the complainant.

Prior complaints had been made about Msgr. Sanchez in 1989. At that time it was alleged that he had asked several teenage girls to sit on his lap during confession and that he then fondled or touched them inappropriately REDACTED

REDACTED Msgr. Sanchez was confronted about these accusations at the time and strongly denied them. There were also a number of other problems at the parish. Msgr. Curry and REDACTED spoke to the people involved and concluded that nothing of significance really happened. No psychological assessment of Msgr. Sanchez was made and no action was taken at the time.

Msgr. Cox REDACTED the investigator hired by the Archdiocese, to investigate the allegations. REDACTED made an interim report to the Board at its October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. He stated that his review of the C-File showed that counseling had been offered to the young man through REDACTED and REDACTED and that he had been interviewed by REDACTED REDACTED spoke to the young man by telephone on October 15, 2003. He was immediately informed by the young man that he was represented by counsel and REDACTED REDACTED did not pursue the conversation further.

Msgr. Sanchez has retained attorney REDACTED to represent him and is eager to cooperate. He is not living at the parish and is not involved in parish activities.



*Memorandum Regarding Monsignor Manuel Sanchez*  
*November 12, 2003*  
*Page 2*

Recommendation: It was the consensus of the Board that Msgr. Sanchez undergo a psychological assessment, that his activities be restricted – i.e., that he not be involved in public ministry – pending the results of the assessment, and that REDACTED investigate the matter further and report his finding to the Board. It was also the consensus of the Board that there is no need to notify the parish until the Board considers the case further.

cc: Msgr. Craig A. Cox

CMOB-064-01 – Msgr. Manuel Sanchez

Pastor Emeritus, retired, Hispanic  
 Age 73, ordained 1954; incardinated 1976  
 Spends several months a year in Spain

- REDACTED
- 06/01/89 Ltr to V/C (Curry) from REDACTED, youth minister at Sacred Heart in Pomona, asking for a private appt regarding situation at church.
- 06/27/89 Ltr from V/C to REDACTED asking her to put this in a letter to him and he will respect confidentiality.
- 7/5/89 Letter to V/C from REDACTED youth minister. Does not want to write specifics in a letter because she is afraid of confidentiality but is concerned about Fr. Please grant her an appointment.
- 7/6/89 Memo to file re telephone conversation with Fr. Chris Ponnet in response to his message left on V/C phone asking to speak with V/C prior to meeting with REDACTED REDACTED had seen him weeks ago to say that her daughter had told her a molestation had taken place and she stopped going to church. Fr. Ponnet said there were rumors – not substantiated. Suggested that the youth minister REDACTED might have more to say.
- 7/6/89 Memo to file re meeting with V/C and REDACTED. They stated their daughter REDACTED told them that when she was approx. 17 yrs. old (now 24) she went to confession with Fr. He asked her to sit on his lap and touched her inappropriately during confession. She reported to her parents now as a result of being in counseling. She also stated that the same thing happened to a girl named REDACTED who was 17 at the time. There was just the one incident. Apparently there were other girls in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade that this happened to. Others know of this problem. Everything is malfunctioning at the parish. People are leaving. Ladies apart from Fr.'s family have stated in the rectory.
- 7/7/89 Ltr to V/C from REDACTED asking if she should say anything to the REDACTED family, and supplying V/C with their address.
- 7/7/89 Notes in file re meeting with REDACTED and V/C. Mrs. REDACTED has five children – two presently in school. Two years ago REDACTED came to Sister and through an interpreter said that Fr. had asked each of her 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls to sit on his lap during confession and he had fondled them. Sister stated that three of the sisters in her community have left in the last three years because they were unable to work with Fr. Not surprised of allegations.
- 7/13/89 REDACTED to REDACTED from V/C – please call and I will speak with you.
- 7/13/89 Memo to Cardinal Mahony from V/C re Fr.. advising him of the situation and his conversations with REDACTED the REDACTED.

REDACTED Concerned and puzzled. Have decided to suspend judgment until further investigation.

07/26/89 Memo to file re meeting between V/C, REDACTED and REDACTED and REDACTED alleged that 3-1/2 years prior she was involved in the youth group and during one of the retreats she went to confession with Fr. He asked her to sit on his lap and he rubbed her leg. She has not gone to church since. The same thing happened to her friend who is younger. There was another incident previous to that involving another priest who put his hand under the top of her dress. She has been seeing a psychologist, but has not mentioned this. She asks that Fr. get help.

08/07/89 Ltr to REDACTED from V/C. Would like to meet with her and REDACTED when he returns from vacation.

9/27/89 Memo to file re Fr. - meeting between Fr., V/C and REDACTED Confronted Fr. about the allegations of two school girls that he asked to sit on his lap during confession. When one of them refused, he stroked her leg. Fr. vehemently denied the allegations. His initial reaction was to meet with the family and he was cautioned against that. Fr. agreed to see REDACTED to help him with this trauma.

11/2/89 Ltr to REDACTED from V/C informing her that he spoke with Fr. about her allegations and he has no memory of the incident. He is however seeing a therapist. Suggests that a meeting between her, Fr., V/C and REDACTED be arranged.

11/7/89 REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED

11/8/89 REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED

11/20/89 Ltr to REDACTED re appointment with Fr. soon.

11/29/89 Ltr to Fr. from V/C recapping the meeting between Fr., V/C and Fr. REDACTED last Wednesday. Addressed the letter from REDACTED, his behavior, and made suggestions.

11/30/89 Ltr from V/C to REDACTED stating that V/C and REDACTED met with Fr. re her letter. Thanking her for her courage in writing.

11/30/89 Memo to Cardinal Mahony from V/C with the current status. Fr. has been confronted about his involvement with REDACTED and the problems in the church. Investigated the other claims and suspicious of the parents of the young woman who were more concerned about the management of the church REDACTED thinks accusations are false.

- 12/5/89 Ltr to REDACTED from V/C enclosing letter from REDACTED and ltr sent to Fr. from V/C.
- 04/23/03: Clergy misconduct report alleging misconduct in 1978-81 (age 7-10) of a boy in the sacristy (now 31 years old) received by REDACTED through REDACTED REDACTED
- 5/1/03 Auditors report on interview with REDACTED with REDACTED attending. His father abused him as a boy. Parents separated and divorced several years ago. Abused his sister in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The alleged abuse with Fr. occurred as an altar boy in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, which would place the abuse between 1981-82 at the age of 10-11 years. The abuse occurred several weekends in a row (maybe 7 or 8). This occurred in the sacristy while REDACTED was facing a storage cabinet. The priest while standing behind REDACTED reached his hand over and caressed his face. He would press his body against REDACTED from behind. The priest would expose himself and have REDACTED hold his penis. He tried anal intercourse but was unable. At this point REDACTED drew the line. The priest told him not to tell anyone, his father would punish him severely. REDACTED was shown three photos and became visibly shaken – wasn't sure, but picked out Fr. He is in therapy – had joined a gang and had trouble with the law.
- 05/23/03 Ltr to Fr. in Spain from V/C (Cox) advising him of the complaint by REDACTED REDACTED alleging abuse in 1978-81 when he was 7-10 year old altar boy. Please call – would like to speak with him.
- 6/9/03 A statement from Fr. to V/C denying allegations.
- 6/11/03 Ltr to V/C from Fr. stating his disappointment with the way this is being handled. Denies allegations.
- 6/16/03 Ltr to Fr. from V/C explaining the busy schedule, apologizes, understands his anxiety.
- 6/17/03 Auditor's interview by REDACTED with Fr. with V/C present. The allegation was presented to him and he vehemently denied this and wanted to confront the accuser. Is sure he is confusing him with someone else. Does not recognize the REDACTED name. Several other priests would come and go at that parish, including his brother over 20 years.
- 6/25/03 Memo to file from REDACTED re REDACTED preliminary investigation, attaching several pages from parish bulletins from the time period. Report on his investigation and visit to the parish and the physical description, layout, etc.
- 6/27/03 Ltr to Mahony from REDACTED re preliminary investigation and interview suggesting that the abuse could not be ruled out, but that if it did occur it probably was a guest priest from Mexico.

7/23/03

Ltr to Chief Fred Sanchez, Pomona Police from <sup>REDACTED</sup> reporting the alleged abuse.

CMOB-064-01: "Sacristy" - Retired pastor emeritus, Hispanic, age 73, ordained 1954, incardinated 1976. In April 2003 a call to <sup>REDACTED</sup> from a concerned priest regarding a 32 year old man alleging abuse by Fr. in 1981-82 at the age of 7 or 10 years old when he was an altar boy. Fr. would approach the boy from behind while in the sacristy and caress his face, press his body against the boy, expose himself and have the boy hold his penis. Fr. tried anal intercourse but was unable, at which point the boy stopped him. This occurred on weekends over a period of 7 to 8 weeks. Fr. denies allegations. There were other complaints in 1989.

CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED  
 INVESTIGATIVE REPORT  
 ATTORNEY CLIENT WORK PRODUCT

December 6, 2003

Sacristy  
 CMOB-064

Report of REDACTED

The complaints lodged against Monsignor X were reviewed as well as the actions taken at the time they were made. As a result the following individuals were interviewed between October 28, 2003, and December 3, 2003:

REDACTED

Telephonic contact was made with X on September 15, 2003, to advise him of the status of this matter. He made two subsequent telephonic contacts and was advised since he was represented by counsel that he should discuss this with his attorney before submitting to an interview in this matter.

X is a European in his 70s who was ordained in Europe in 1954 and came from Europe to the Los Angeles Archdiocese in 1971. He served at a high school and three parishes in the Archdiocese before retiring in 2000. He arrived at XYZ in 1977 and became pastor there in 1980, serving in that capacity until his retirement. He no longer lives at the parish but does regularly assist there on Sundays when he is in the Los Angeles area.

There are four separate allegations that have been made against X. They are:

1. On July 6, 1989, REDACTED and her husband advised the vicar of clergy (Monsignor Thomas J. Curry) that in about 1986 X inappropriately touched their daughter.
2. During the July 6, 1989, meeting th REDACTED also alleged that X asked two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession. REDACTED
3. REDACTED
4. On April 4, 2003 REDACTED, (1971) made an allegation to Father N that X had abused him in the sacristy of XYZ Church in approximately 1981.

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

- Allegation that X asked two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession

This allegation was one of many originally raised by the REDACTED at the July 6, 1989, meeting with Curry. They advised that two years prior X asked two seventh grade girls (there are various references to these girls in the file as being in the sixth, seventh and eighth grade) at the parish school to sit on his lap during confession. They said Sister REDACTED was aware of the incident.

On July 7, 1989, Curry met with REDACTED who advised that REDACTED had REDACTED children in the parish school at one time but now only two were attending REDACTED described the family as strict. In 1987 REDACTED told REDACTED that sometime around Easter X had asked each of her two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession and that he then fondled them. REDACTED believed that she told her supervisor at the time REDACTED (deceased). After the initial mention of the allegation the parent never spoke to REDACTED about it again. She went on that she would not be surprised if the allegation was true as she found X impossible to work with and that the staff meetings were heated and X had no interest in the school.

Curry mentions in a letter to the Archbishop dated July 13, 1989, that he contacted REDACTED regional supervisor for elementary schools of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and that she doubted the incident took place. She knew there were difficulties at the school but though REDACTED was dealing with many of her personal problems as well.

In an undated interview assumed to have taken place in September 1989, and REDACTED came to Curry's office REDACTED worked in XYZ Parish with the SAYA program (this is probably the Soledad Enrichment Act or SEA, an alternative program that works with troubled youth and gang members). They related that recently the two girls central to the allegation came to school and announced their 13-year-old cousin had run away with a 21 year old man. The mother of the 13-year-old came to school to say the REDACTED girls were lying. The REDACTED family then removed their girls from the school. These two girls were rebellious and troublesome at school and had two boyfriends that waited for them after school outside the school gates. Curry indicated that during their meeting REDACTED were more concerned with financial matters related to the school than the REDACTED and noted that X tended to turn away from people that threatened his power.

On November 3, 2003, REDACTED could not recall the REDACTED family at XYZ. They were not able to locate the family in old parish directories.

On October 31, 2003, REDACTED advised he did not recall the REDACTED family.



On November 7, 2003, M advised she faintly recalled the <sup>REDACTED</sup> family and believed they were active in the parish but had no idea as to their present location.

X in 1989 "vehemently denied any impropriety on his part" regarding this matter in an interview with REDACTED and in 2003 denied ever taking any liberties with minors during his career as a priest.

REDACTED

REDACTED

- Allegation that X abused REDACTED in the sacristy

On November 24 and December 3, 2003, Father N, associate pastor at XYZ Parish, was telephonically contacted regarding his meeting with REDACTED on April 23, 2003. He said that REDACTED came to see him at the parish that Wednesday because N had been in the vestibule of the church two or three weeks before, after a Sunday Mass. N approached REDACTED at that time as he looked despondent and REDACTED advised him that he had been away from the church and was now returning. Since Mass had just finished and N did not have much time he told REDACTED that if he wanted to talk to come see him later. REDACTED was not crying at this time. When REDACTED returned it was to the parish office on April 23. He appeared nervous and told N he had information that he had been carrying in silence too long but that he would not see N again and felt he could tell him. He told N that when he saw the name of Father I X (this is the deceased brother of the accused) on a parish conference room named in his honor all his memories came flowing back and he felt an honor like that should not be bestowed on an individual like X. When N determined the nature of REDACTED accusations he told REDACTED to contact REDACTED in the REDACTED and did not hear any specifics of the allegations.

On December 2, 2003, REDACTED advised that N contacted her about REDACTED on April 23, 2003, and that she called REDACTED that day. The conversation with him was documented on a Clergy Misconduct form and states that in 1978-1981 a priest at the XYZ Church had abused him there. He was about ten years old at the time and his mother later told him the priest at the parish then was Father X. He could only describe him as a Mexican man and gave no age. REDACTED stated that the priest grabbed him from the rear and put his penis inside REDACTED and this happened where the left over bread and wine were taken. He further stated this occurred during the summertime and that he was wearing shorts and the priest wore robes. The initial report, amongst other things, contained the following information that he provided, he always needed attention; he was expelled from XYZ School in the fifth grade; he entered public school and became a gang member; he went to jail in the seventh grade; he hated authority; he has been out of jail for five years; and REDACTED REDACTED was jailed for fraud, was about to be sentenced for spousal abuse, had an anger problem, feared publicity regarding this and wanted to know if there were other victims of the priest.

On May 1, 2003, REDACTED acting in his capacity as a canonical auditor and REDACTED a licensed psychologist working with the Assistance Ministry, interviewed REDACTED in a classroom at the XYZ Parish School. REDACTED described REDACTED as a profuse talker who readily changed subjects. REDACTED mother is a teachers' aide and REDACTED REDACTED including the mother and he REDACTED. The parents divorced several years ago. REDACTED has an older and younger brother and a sister that is either a bit younger or a bit older than he is. All children are now grown and all have emotional issues they are dealing with. REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED REDACTED has a conflicted relationship with his father. He claimed that his abuse involving the priest took place over a period of seven or eight weeks when he was in the fifth grade. The priest approached him from the rear in the XYZ sacristy as he was preparing to serve Mass. He would be facing the cabinet where the hosts and wine were kept and the priest would reach around and caress his face and press his body against REDACTED. This escalated over time to where the priest exposed his penis and had REDACTED hold it. When the priest finally tried to have anal intercourse with REDACTED and was unable he asked REDACTED to assist him. At this point REDACTED drew the line. He left the church and did not return until recently when he came onto the parish grounds. The priest told REDACTED not to tell his parents as he (the priest) would deny it and the father would punish REDACTED severely. After this he became disruptive in school and mid-way through the sixth grade he was expelled from the parish school. The final act that resulted in his expulsion was when he was caught urinating in the dunk tank at the parish fiesta. He enrolled in the public school but only attended that school the rest of the year and then changed schools again the next year for junior high school. In the seventh grade he became REDACTED. He estimated he has spent ten years incarcerated. He has extensive tattoos and scars from beatings and being shot. He stated that his REDACTED marrying and having children have motivated him to REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED. In 1993 he told his mother he was abused as a child but did not tell her a priest was the abuser since the church means so much to her. Sometime in the last year he confided to a neighbor, who is a policeman, what happened and he told REDACTED that he would have to confront the priest to find healing. He also claimed this neighbor gave him a lie detector test. When he finally returned to XYZ N saw him crying and told him that he would be willing to listen to him and although they did not discuss the abuse then this led to the April 23 meeting. In the meantime REDACTED asked his mother who the "father" was during the relevant time period and she told him X. REDACTED strongest feelings during the interview were when he discussed his desire for the Archdiocese to rescue his brother REDACTED. He threatened that things would become ugly if his brother was not given a place to live and recover. Towards the end of the interview REDACTED was shown nine photographs of priests. After first saying he did not want to try and identify the perpetrator he looked at them and picked out three photos and asked if X was one of them. These three wore glasses and the other six did not. When informed that one of them was X he selected the photo of X. He advised he had not reported the abuse to the police despite being given the number b REDACTED. He was told they would have a better idea if there were other victims.

A review of REDACTED cumulative pupil record shows that he entered XYZ School September 2, 1980, as a fourth grader coming from Madison School in Pomona. He attended XYZ that entire year as well as his entire fifth grade withdrawing June 11, 1982, when his enrollment information was sent to Roosevelt in Pomona. He received REDACTED and was promoted both years.

On June 29, 2003, REDACTED interviewed REDACTED the principal at XYZ Parish School in 1981-82. This was the first year she was a school principal and she could not recall REDACTED as a student there. She had no recollection of a student being asked to leave the school at any time, especially during the middle of the year. She had no recollection of any incident involving students urinating into the dunk tank at the parish fiesta. It was a small school and she felt she would recall anything serious that happened during the two years she was there. She remembered the altar servers being in the sixth grade and older. Other than Sunday Mass they only served funeral Masses and the student body Mass on Friday mornings.

On November 3, 2003, REDACTED was telephonically contacted at his home and advised he was a XYZ parishioner. In the early 1980s he was in charge of the dip tank at the parish fiesta. He could not recall the exact years the tank was at the fiesta but advised it was there for several years. He borrowed the tank from another Knights of Columbus council and stopped using it because people were no longer interested in it.

and it was not making enough money to justify it. Nobody urinated in it to the best of his knowledge and that certainly was not the reason the fiesta terminated its being there. He would have known if someone had been identified as doing that. The name <sup>REDACTED</sup> meant nothing to him.

On November 5, 2003 <sup>REDACTED</sup> was telephonically contacted at her home in Moreno Valley. She stated that her family was parishioners at XYZ in the 1980s and that she worked with the parish altar servers in the early 1980s. The one requirement to be a server was that he had made his first communion and this was normally done in the second or third grade. All servers were required to wear long pants and a collared shirt when serving Mass. During the hot summer months they were sometimes allowed to wear tee shirts but always had to wear long pants. There was an effort to have six servers at each Mass but at times there were less than that. There were no records kept then as to who served what Masses. At a required Saturday training session the servers were told which Mass they would serve on that Sunday. If they were not at the Saturday meeting they did not serve the next day. Most of the servers served twice a month and it would be uncommon for a person to serve three Sundays in a row. It would have been very unusual for any individual to serve at the same Mass with the same priest for several consecutive Sundays. The sacristy was very busy between the Sunday Masses with all the servers and priests concluding one Mass and preparing for the next one. Besides them other people would frequently be in that area including a lady in the parish that took care of the sacristy. She could not recall her name. She thought two of the three doors into the sacristy were unlocked during Mass. She did not remember <sup>REDACTED</sup> but did recall some of the servers especially if they attended the parish school.

On November 3, 2003, when <sup>REDACTED</sup> were interviewed they did not remember the <sup>REDACTED</sup> family as having been parishioners at XYZ. They checked parish directories dating back to 1993, the oldest available, and could not locate the family in them. None of them remembered <sup>REDACTED</sup> teachers, <sup>REDACTED</sup> The kindergarten through eighth grade parish school closed in 1998. The parish fiesta is held in June and always has been as far as they knew. In 1981 the dates were June 19, 20 and 21. They did not recall anyone being identified as having urinated into the dip tank at the fiesta at any time.

When contacted on November 7, 2003, M did not remember a <sup>REDACTED</sup> family at XYZ.

The associate pastor assigned to XYZ in 1981-1982 was <sup>REDACTED</sup> <sup>REDACTED</sup> the pastor's brother was "in residence" there at that time and participated in parish ministry. Both are deceased. The associate pastors that come closest to being assigned to the parish during the appropriate time period that are available to be interviewed are <sup>REDACTED</sup> who served there from 1974 to 1976 and <sup>REDACTED</sup> from 1988 to 1989.

On November 4, 2003, <sup>REDACTED</sup> was telephonically contacted and advised he was at XYZ from 1974 until 1976. During that time period the sacristy was a very active place during the Sunday morning Mass period. To the best of his recollection each Mass had two or three altar servers and he could not recall any of them ever wearing shorts as it probably was not allowed. He recalled that a woman took care of the sacristy and was frequently in it but he could not recall her name. He could not remember if the sacristy doors were locked during Mass. There was a lot of activity throughout the parish during his tenure there.

During the aforementioned contacts with <sup>REDACTED</sup> in October and November he advised that while he was at XYZ there were between two and six altar servers at each Sunday Mass. Often servers would be scheduled and did not come so servers would be solicited from the congregation. He believed that servers were mandated to wear long pants while serving Mass and he has no idea if records exist showing who said or served Mass from that time period or before. Which servers worked with any particular priest on any given Sunday was happenstance as far as he knew. A server working with the same priest eight weeks in a row might be unusual. The Sunday morning sacristy was very active. The Masses flowed into each other and there were priests, altar servers and others passing through it. There was a woman who looked after the care and maintenance of the sacristy that was there frequently during the week but also appeared on Sunday mornings as well. At that time he believed that the doors to the sacristy were left unlocked during Sunday mornings and that the door to the driveway was often propped open, especially during the summer months. He did not recall a <sup>REDACTED</sup> family in the parish and as indicated earlier he never saw X do anything inappropriate of a sexual nature. He estimated X as being 5'7" or 5'8" tall.

In a document dated June 25, 2003, REDACTED reviewed various XYZ Parish bulletins dating from January 1980 until July 11, 1982. These indicated that REDACTED was an associate pastor in January 1980 but replaced by REDACTED in July 1980. The vicar for clergy files show C returned to Mexico in September 1980 although the November bulletin still shows him at the parish. In January 1981 a bulletin reads that REDACTED is the new associate pastor. A note in one bulletin indicates REDACTED was visiting from July-August 1981. The August 30, 1981, through August 29, 1982, bulletins listed REDACTED REDACTED, "in residence". The Sunday morning Mass schedule in November 1980 was 7:00, 9:30 and 11:00 with 1:00 and 5:00 Masses in the afternoon. This changed in October 1981 to Sunday mornings at 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 with afternoon Masses at 12:15, 1:30 and 5:00. REDACTED also documented his visit to the parish and described the sacristy as an area about 20' by 10' with three closets and various cabinets that hold the supplies and other various things needed by the priests and altar servers to conduct the Mass. There are three entry doors to the sacristy one on the south side, one on the north and another from behind the altar. The door on the north exits into a driveway going to the church parking lot. He notes that REDACTED mentioned a metal cabinet to him that stored the hosts and wine and there is one there now, although that is not its present purpose. It is possible that it could have been utilized for that at one time.

On October, 15, 2003, REDACTED was telephonically contacted and said that he had contacted REDACTED number of times on the telephone after their first meeting. He tried to provide him with a therapist and REDACTED was interested in one in his city of residence. He was given names of two in that locale and he never contacted them. He then wanted one in a near by city and a name was provided for one there and once again he did not follow through. He requested tattoo removal and he was told who to contact for this but he never did. He contacted REDACTED through his work as his home telephone was disconnected.

On October 15, 2003, telenhonic contact was made with REDACTED but was terminated when he advised he retained REDACTED ; to represent him.

On December 3, 2003, REDACTED was interviewed and provided various forms documenting her contacts with REDACTED from April 23 until November 11, 2003. Her log indicates that she or REDACTED talked with REDACTED left him messages or mailed him items on at least 18 separate occasions. He was offered the names of four different therapists in various locations that he suggested but he continually rejected them for differing reasons. One therapist, although no longer accepting new patients, agreed to see REDACTED and an appointment was agreed upon. REDACTED did not keep it. He was also provided literature and the name of the person to call to have his tattoos removed, which he requested, and he never acted on this. When he called REDACTED on November 11 he yelled with such anger and for such a long period REDACTED almost became ill. He refused to listen to her.

This matter has been discussed with Monsignor Craig A. Cox over the last several months. He advised that X has for many years returned to Europe during the summer months but does not know the exact dates. He believes X is 5'7" or 5'8" in height. He personally knew the associate pastor at XYZ in the early 1980s, REDACTED and opined that he was a very good man with an excellent reputation. He felt that if REDACTED knew of any inappropriate activity on the part of X he would have discussed it with X or if necessary brought it to the attention of appropriate people in the chancery.

A public records check of REDACTED was conducted on August 19, 2003. This revealed that REDACTED had been arrested many times for various crimes, both felonies and misdemeanors, between May 17, 1990, and April 17, 2003, in San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties. He was convicted or pled guilty to at least six REDACTED. There were more records indicating that others with the same name as the complainant were arrested but since these do not have identifying data on the entry it is not possible to determine if these records pertain to the complainant. From the data provided it is also not possible to tell how many years he was incarcerated. It is noted that on April 23, 2003, he advised he had served time for fraud and was at that time on probation for that violation and that he was to be sentenced for spousal abuse in the near future. Neither of these was identified on his record.

X was in Europe when this allegation was made and Cox sent him a letter there to inform him. In correspondence to Cox entitled "Deposition from X for the Vicar for Clergy For the Archdiocese of Los Angeles" dated June 9, 2003, he swore he "never touched any boy or girl or adult inappropriately in my

forty-plus years of priesthood". He was incredulous that anyone would make an accusation that would ruin his reputation. On June 17, 2003, REDACTED and Cox interviewed X at the chancery for about 80 minutes. He willingly took a customary oath that is administered in situations like these. After being advised of the exact allegation he wanted to immediately confront his accuser. He once again repeated that in his many years as a priest he had never done anything inappropriate to either a child or an adult. He confirmed he retired from XYZ in 2000 but continues to help at Mass there when he is not in Europe. He maintains a room at the parish. He came to the parish in 1977 and was pastor from 1980 until his retirement. During July and August he would customarily go to Europe and arrange for visiting priests to help at the parish. He recalled REDACTED as two individuals that helped him. He advised that altar servers were only used at Sunday Masses as he did not want them to miss school during the week. If a family member was being married or died a server might assist at those Masses. There were four or five servers at each Sunday Mass and the Masses tended to run into each other so the sacristy was a busy area on Sunday mornings. It would have been possible for a priest to have been alone with a server but unusual for it to be for any significant amount of time. He pointed out that there were multiple doors that could be entered at any time by someone. The name REDACTED meant nothing to him.

On October 8, 2003, X was telephonically advised of the status of this matter. At that time he reiterated he did not know the complainant and when asked as to the status of the sacristy doors on Sunday mornings in the early 1980s he advised they were always unlocked.

On November 14, 2003, REDACTED was interviewed in his office. After a discussion of this matter he advised that in his opinion it would be against his client's best interest to submit to another interview and he would advise him of that. His rationale is that X has already denied any wrongdoing verbally and in writing and that he will stand on that. REDACTED

REDACTED

On November 6, 2003, the web site [www.halls.md](http://www.halls.md) was visited. It displayed a Boys Height Growth Chart for children of "Mexican-American" race/ethnicity. This shows the average height for an 11 year old is 4'8". On the same date [www.babybag.com](http://www.babybag.com) was also visited and it had a table entitled Height & Weight Averages for Children. It listed the height for an 11 year old boy as 4'9 1/4".

Analysis and Observations

REDACTED

Allegation that X asked two sixth grade girls to sit on his lap during confession

This allegation originally came to the attention of the chancery when the REDACTED included it in their litany of complaints against X on July 6, 1989. The girls' mother brought it to the attention of the principal of the parish school two years prior to that and the principal reported it to her superior (now deceased) who doubted it occurred and disregarded it. It is unclear how long after the alleged activity took place the mother advised the principal but it does not seem to have been a contemporaneous event. The mother

apparently never raised the issue again and kept her girls at the school for two more years and then withdrew them over what appears to be a relatively minor issue. The girls were characterized as rebellious and troublesome while at the school. The term fondled is somewhat ambiguous in this context considering the time period. In 1989 the user might have had the Webster Dictionary meaning in mind, "to caress or handle lovingly" whereas in 2003 used in this fashion it has sexual implications. Then it could have been used perhaps for stroking another's hair, patting their backs, etc. This would have been a boundary violation but once again X might have done it with no ill intent. And a: stated it was not necessarily uncommon for X to have youngsters sit on his lap.

The present location and status of any of the REDACTED is unknown and once again re-visiting this issue at this time would garner little, if anything, to further clarify this matter.

REDACTED

Allegation that X abused REDACTED in the sacristy

This allegation was made approximately 22 years after it supposedly happened. There are a plethora of reasons to doubt whether this occurred. They include:

1. When REDACTED made the initial complaint he said the priest penetrated him. When he was subsequently interviewed he said the priest was unable to have anal intercourse with him and asked for REDACTED assistance at which time he refused and left. This is a significant variance.
2. REDACTED claimed he was expelled in mid year from the parish school. Records indicate he went two full years to the school and was not expelled.
3. The reason he gives for his mid term expulsion was his urinating in the parish fiesta dunk (dip) tank. It was determined that if he did this nobody else knew about it and so it had no bearing on his leaving school. Also the fiesta is held in June which rules out a mid term departure.
4. The sacristy was an active venue during Sunday mornings and completely inhospitable for the activity he describes. With all of the individuals that had unfettered access to that space it is not credible to believe one would have perpetrated such an act there during that time period.
5. He claimed he was wearing shorts at the time of the offenses. It was determined that altar servers were not allowed to serve Mass in shorts.
6. REDACTED was about 4'8" tall at the time of the alleged activity whereas X stands close to 5'8". With this height difference it would be difficult, if not impossible, to engage in the alleged activity the way he described it.

- 7. The fact that <sup>REDACTED</sup> described the perpetrator as a Mexican when X is a European is not something a Mexican-American child would normally do.
- 8. <sup>REDACTED</sup> criminal past and <sup>REDACTED</sup>, including his self-admitted conviction on fraud charges, impugns his credibility.
- 9. His reluctance to accept the services offered by the Archdiocese yet continue to bargain for them over several months is curious activity.
- 10. His claim that a neighbor in law enforcement gave him a lie detector test makes no credible sense. And that the neighbor told him to confront the perpetrator but did not tell him to report it to authorities is also suspect.
- 11. The discrepancy between his description of his first meeting with <sup>REDACTED</sup> and how <sup>REDACTED</sup> describes it.

His choosing X in the photo line up is interesting but not telling since X served at the parish for so long that <sup>REDACTED</sup> could have seen him there any number of times.

X on hearing of this accusation immediately denied and denounced it; requested to confront his accuser; submitted to an interview; and swore in writing and verbally that he did not commit the alleged acts.



CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT  
ATTORNEY CLIENT WORK PRODUCT

October 16, 2003

To: REDACTED

Clergy Misconduct Oversight Board

From: REDACTED

Subject: Sacristy

This involves allegations of sexual abuse being lodged against a priest earlier this year by a complainant accusing the priest of abusing him when he was in the fourth grade. The complainant is now 32 years old.

The allegation is that over the course of about eight weeks the priest approached the complainant from the rear while he was preparing to serve mass. This was always in the sacristy between Sunday masses and the actions escalated from the priest reaching around and caressing his head while pressing his body against the complainant's, to the priest exposing himself and eventually the priest attempting anal intercourse on the complainant who was nine years old at the time. The complainant did not allow this final action and after the attempt left the church that day and did not return.

REDACTED interviewed the complainant in April 2003 and telephonic contact has been maintained between the complainant and REDACTED as well as REDACTED regarding social services available to him REDACTED advised on October 15 that he contacts the complainant through his work number and does not believe the complainant has taken advantage of the counseling or tattoo removal offered to him.

For several reasons I wanted to re-interview the complainant and have him expand on and clarify a number of issues pertinent to this matter. Some of these are:

1. Determine the time of year these actions took place since the priest took a lengthy annual vacation during the same time period each year.
2. Clarify his wearing apparel since in the earlier interview he advised he was wearing shorts.
3. Determine exact actions and how long they took since the sacristy is a busy venue during mass times on Sundays and there are three doors into it that were believed to be unlocked at these times.
4. Clarify his statement to REDACTED regarding a neighbor in law enforcement giving him a polygraph and telling him to return to the parish to confront the perpetrator but not mentioning to him that he should file a police report.

Some items gleaned from a review of the complainant's arrest record and the REDACTED interview are:

1. He has been arrested several times over the years and served about ten years in state custody for various crimes, including fraud.
2. He was a gang member with drug and anger management problems.
3. His father, who served time in prison for abusing his mother, abused his entire family.
4. He as well as his brothers and sister have had social adjustment problems.
5. He identified the priest by asking his mother the priest's name and initially told her somebody else abused him.
6. He picked the priest out of a photo lineup of nine priests shown to him by REDACTED. A problem with this is that he has been frequenting the parish where the priest still helps which, if he saw him there recently might have influenced his choice of photos.

REDACTED

observed the sacristy and talked to people in the parish that were there at that time in question, including the priest. He could not locate anyone that recalled the complainant or that remembered an incident at the parish fair that he claimed resulted in his being expelled from the parish school. The school principal at the time advise REDACTED she could not remember any incident that occurred in that time period that would have called for a student's expulsion. The school records tend to back her up as they indicate the complainant attended school there his entire fourth and fifth grades.

The early evening of October 15 I called the complainant at his place of employment to arrange an interview. I immediately identified myself and he responded that he had retained an attorney and she did not want him to talk to anyone in the Archdiocese. On hearing this I told him I was not aware of his counsel and tried to terminate the interview. The complainant, however, continued to make unsolicited comments as to wanting to talk and bring this to a resolution. I told him he must consult with his lawyer, who he identified as REDACTED prior to any further conversation with me. He was once again given my name and telephone number and the conversation terminated.

I immediately contacted REDACTED and informed her what occurred. The next day REDACTED REDACTED and Monsignor Craig Cox were also advised.

REDACTED