

27 February 2004

Romani, Joseph DECEASED	XXX (6)	Portland	1957	Victim wrote to Diocese on 3/18/2002 claiming to have been sexually abused by Father Romani when she was a patient at Mercy Hospital in Portland. Victim said she filed a report of the abuse in 1994 with the Portland Police Department after seeing a newspaper article regarding other sexual abuse by Father Romani.
	XXX (Pre-5)		1960s	Father would have her stroke his penis. She also has memories of finger penetration by Father.
	XXX		1959	Victim was a married adult at the time of her baptism in 1959. Since the baptism, victim says she would hear Father's voice and he would bother her constantly. She hears his voice, he calls her names, and he does unspeakable things to her including touching her private parts.

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Father Joseph Romani:

XXX alleges that Father Joseph Romani molested her in the early sixties. XXX lived on a farm and she claims that Father would bring her out back near the sheep and sit her on a big rock and have her stroke his penis. She also has memories of his finger being inside of her. The events would have taken place before XXX was five years old. She was born in 1960, hence the events occurred sometime before 1965. At the time XXX reported to the diocese, she was in therapy.

XXX reported that Father Joseph Romani sexually abused her in 1957 when she was 6 years old and in the hospital for an appendectomy. She said that Father came to visit her and moved her down the hall to an empty room. He got on top of her. She remembers chewing his knuckles and the nursing being mad because she had messed herself so badly. In therapy she had come to understand that what happened was oral sex. XXX was offered therapy and said she would consider it because she is having a lot of anxiety at this time.

XXX reported that since Father Romani baptized her in 1959 she would hear his voice and he would bother her constantly. He did not visit her home. She hears his voice, he calls her names and does unspeakable things to her - touches her private parts. XXX was a married woman at the time of her baptism

Father Joseph J. Romani was born in 1907 in Torino, Italy. He was ordained a priest in 1934 and came to the Diocese of Portland in 1945. Fr. Romani was incardinated in 1946 and served at St. Peter's in Portland as assistant and then as pastor until his retirement in 1983. During retirement, Father Romani lived on the Eastern Promenade. He died in 2001 at the age of 93.

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April 9, 2002

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Child Protective Intake  
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RECEIVED

APR 10 2002

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Re: Report of Possible Abuse of a Minor

Gentlepersons:

I am writing in my capacity as counsel for the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portland to report a case of possible abuse of a minor. [redacted] Yarmouth, recently wrote to the Diocese with a copy to District Attorney Stephanie Anderson. Although the letter is dated March 18, it was received at the Chancery on April 1. [redacted] reports that she was victimized by a priest named Father Romani of St. Peter's Church on Federal Street. The abuse occurred in 1957 when she was a patient at Mercy Hospital at the age of 6. She was in the hospital for an appendectomy. She reported that Father climbed on top of her and made her chew his knuckles. She did not understand what he was doing but her therapist has helped her understand that what happened to her was in fact oral sex. She reported the abuse to the Portland Police Department in 1994 and filed an incident report.

[redacted] was offered counseling.

She understands that Father Romani passed away.

Very truly yours,

Frederick C. Moore

March 18, 2002

Catholic Church Diocese  
538 Ocean Ave.  
Portland, Me. 04102  
Sue Bernard

Dear Ms. Bernard:

This letter is to inform you that I was a victim of sexual abuse by a priest. The priest's name is Father Romani of St. Peters Church on Federal St. I do realize that Father Romani passed away last year.

The abuse occurred in 1957 when I was a patient at Mercy Hospital at the age of 6.

In 1994, I made it know to the Portland Police Department of this abuse, I did this by filing an incident report. After seeing an article on the evening news regarding sexual abuse by Father Romani, I felt that I could tell my story to my family, I decided to tell the police also, but I was told that there was no way I could seek criminal prosecution in this case due to the number of years ago that it happened.

I feel that with all of the victims coming forward with their stories, I should let it be know that there are more priests out there that have committed this unforgiving act upon a child.

If you have any questions please call me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

CC: Stephanie Anderson  
District Attorney

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