

Father Patrick Walsh

TO: FILE

FROM: Paul E. Brodeur, Inv.

RE: DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER
Complaints re: Priest

DATE: 23 APRIL 02 1340 hrs.

This date called: FR. ANTHONY BANNON
U.S. Superior for the Legionnaire's of Christ
393 Derby Ave., Orange, CT 06477
tel. 203-795-2800
cell # 203-530-2100

Fr. BANNON advised that the Legionnaire's of Christ have a high school for boys in the grades 7 to 12 in Center Harbor, NH. Boys attend the high school if they are interested in the priesthood.

Fr. BANNON advised that he began receiving anonymous emails from [REDACTED] alleging that a Fr. PATRICK WALSH had sexually abused him. Fr. BANNON explained that the order has taken steps to prevent issues of this nature from taking place the way they have constructed the dorms etc.

Fr. BANNON advised he attempted to reach the person that was emailing him but was not successful. Fr. BANNON did question Fr. WALSH and WALSH denied any wrongdoing alleged by the anonymous person.

Fr. BANNON advised that there was a press conference of some type this past Sunday in Rome, Italy and ABC alleged that someone had reported to them that he had been victimized in NH and he was not satisfied the way the Legionnaire's were handling his complaint. ABC was able to advise Fr. BANNON that the person alleged he had sent emails to Fr. BANNON etc. along with other facts. Fr. BANNON was able to determine that it appeared to be the anonymous person that had sent the complaints that was speaking to ABC. ABC advised the person is a

[REDACTED]

and had given ABC an email of [REDACTED]

The emails sent to Fr. BANNON alleged that Fr. WALSH had victimized the person from Dec 1992 to July 1993. The reported acts were mutual touchy for mutual gratification.

Fr. BANNON then again confronted Fr. WALSH and again he denied any wrongdoing. Fr. BANNON advised that Fr. WALSH has been brought to Connecticut and is available to be spoken with at any time.

Fr. BANNON advised that Fr. WALSH had been assigned to Center Harbor, NH since 1986 and there were never any prior allegations against WALSH.

Fr. BANNON is concerned about publicity and request he be notified prior to release of any type. He would want to notify the parents prior to any news release. I advised Fr. BANNON that it is unlikely that the State of NH (OAG or Belknap County Attorney) would make any release but if ABC is doing a piece for 20/20 we have no control over their actions.

Requested Fr. BANNON to forward the email messages that he has maintained as noted above.

Advised Fr. BANNON that he may receive a call from Deputy Sheriff Miller, State Police Det. Birmingham and/or Asst. County Attorney St. Hilaire to inquire further.

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Paul Brodeur - RE: Legionaries of Christ and [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: <BrodP@doj.state.nh.us>
Date: 4/24/02 12:16PM
Subject: RE: Legionaries of Christ and [REDACTED]

I can't identify what the [REDACTED] might mean. Since the conversations were done through a website perhaps it is some residual information that has nothing to do with the messages. The written text below is the record as I have it.

ABC did not reveal [REDACTED] address to us, we are using the one we have on file ourselves.

I believe the only reference we have connecting [REDACTED] name to the anonymous emails is the one made by the ABC interviewer in a press conference held in Rome, Italy, last Sunday morning, April 21, 2002. ABC had told us previously that [REDACTED] had made a statement accusing one of our priests, but I believe that it was only in the press conference itself that he mentioned [REDACTED] had tried to get through to us by sending emails but we did not pay any attention to him, thus making the connection for us. (This was referred to me in a telephone conversation with the person interviewed, but I will defer to the taped record that ABC must have, so as not to put words in anyone's mouth).

Fr Anthony.

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Brodeur [mailto:BrodP@doj.state.nh.us]
Sent: Miércoles, 24 de Abril de 2002 08:34 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Legionaries of Christ and [REDACTED]

Thank you for the emails. Everything came through with the exception of a sheet entitled [REDACTED]. Can you advise if something should have been contained. Secondly did you prepare a memo regarding your discussion with ABC where the name and address etc. of [REDACTED] were revealed to you? A copy of that memo would be helpful to complete the sequence of events. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

>>> <[REDACTED]> 04/24/02 10:01AM >>>

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Dear Mr Brodeur,

Here is the series of anonymous messages I referred to in our phone conversation this afternoon. Please be sure you read to the bottom, my cursor at times sticks around message 5, but there is more afterwards.

I am afraid I have been told that we do not have a transcript of the interview with ABC News where their reporter confirms that the anonymous emails came from [REDACTED]. The producer of the program is Rhonda Schawrtz, 20 / 20, Cell (917) 577 0901; I am sure she will be able to provide you with the complete transcript: audio, video and written.

If I may be allowed a purely personal comment, I am apalled and disturbed at the thought that ABC was in possession of important evidence, which if true could pose a potentially significant danger to minors, and nevertheless decided not to alert us and/or the authorities immediately. Apparently they still have not told us all they know. Why such unconcern for the protection of the young, quite apart from the duties imposed by law? Are they above the law? Personally I feel strongly that at some stage in the examination of the present matter these and related questions must be addressed and answered.

I understood from our conversation that your office will conduct an initial investigation, and will inform us if there seems to be some substance to the case or not. Fr Walsh has told me he is available for anything you need. During this process he will be in Connecticut but totally at your disposition.

Yours sincerely, [REDACTED]

.....
Question submitted to [REDACTED] website at 3/10/2002 7:56:54 PM.

Name: John Doe

Email: [REDACTED]

(Question can be posted on website.)

I was a member of the Legion for seven years. I was brainwashed, abused both sexually and physically. Not only does the Legion think they are perfect, but as well, they think they can get away with anything. I have a problem with this. So therefore, my question is this. What is your stance on the recent changes in the politics of the Church in regards to sexual abuse? Also, how would you suggest an individual get closure on this issue? One last question, how does the Legion plan on defending itself from more sexual abuse? This message does not have to be placed on the website in its entirety, but I would appreciate some answer to the recent issues in the Church, and an answer to my question about how a victim should get peace of mind.

Reply to Email No 1.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2002 5:26 PM

Dear [REDACTED]

Tell me how you were abused sexually, when, where and by whom so that I can get to the bottom of it and help you. We depend on getting information in order to be able to solve situations. If there is a complaint we have instituted the means to investigate and take action.

As regards brainwashing, you must have been in a different Legion than the one I live in, or else we don't understand the word in the same way. Let me know what you mean.

[REDACTED]

Email No 2

Your Kingdom Come!

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, March 15, 2002 2:15 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Question sent to [REDACTED]

Fr. Bannon,

I am ashamed of the way I feel, and of the way I was treated in Legion. Do not get me wrong, I had some of the best memories of my life while I was in the Legion. I admired the Legionaries and their cause, and in some way I still do. I do not want revenge, nor do I want justice. I just want to feel better about who I am, and forget about the bad things that happened to me.

I know you have nothing to do with what happened to me, as well as I know that you would stop it immediately if you found out. I know that you are a very honest and devoted Legionary only looking out for the well being of other Legionaries. This is partly the reason why I felt I could open the door with you.

As I said before, I do not want to harm anyone in the Legion, or harm the Legion itself. I just want to find a way to cope with my pain. I have read many books on dealing with sexual abuse, and I have seen the all psychologists. Nothing seems to work. I only wanted to get your opinion on what you think I should do.

I know I should tell you their names so you could investigate, but I am still very afraid of the consequences. So as of the moment lets not talk about that. I will however tell you the circumstances. I will not tell you where or when, but when I was young in the Legion, I started to get very close with the superiors. Two others and myself were looked at by the class as being the favorites. I do not look at it like that. Regardless, the three of us were treated differently. I do not know about the other two, but I was very close with my superiors, I would tell them anything about me. What I was feeling, thinking, doing, anything. I don't know if this was the reason this happened to me.

If by your question "Tell me how you were abused sexually" you want to know how far it went, that I could tell you. It went as far as me gratifying him with my hands, him touching me, myself touching me in front of him, many things. This is very hard for me to talk about. It lasted more than half a year. It was pretty consistent, every two days or more.

In regards to the word "Brainwashing", you are probably right in saying that you did not experience that. But you are incorrect in saying that I was in a different Legion. We were in the same Legion, the only difference, was that you did not experience the same things as I. I think we do have a different definition of the word. I am using it in reference to being taken advantage of. Being made to believe everything was normal, everything that happened to me was supposed to happen that way. I feel that this is brainwashing. Do you agree with me?

While I was in the Legion, I did not think anything was wrong, I never even thought to myself was this a sin. I was always told to look up to my superiors and to follow their example. Not once did I question what was happening to me. It was only after I left, or returned to the world, that I realized that what happened to me was wrong. It has taken me a long time to be able to speak about this. It has also taken me a very long time to begin the healing process.

As I said before, I do not hold you responsible, nor do I hold neither Nuestro Padre, nor the Legion responsible. I do not want to see anything bad happen to the Legion, I only want to have closure on this part of my life, and to end the pain, shame, humiliation.



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Reply to Email No 2.

-----Original Message-----

From: 

Sent: Saturday, March 16, 2002 10:04 PM


Dear 

It must have been difficult for you to say what you did, and I can only bear to imagine your suffering if what you say is true. There are several things I think will help you try to get beyond this and put your life together.

Firstly, and I admit this may be very, very difficult for you, but it is absolutely necessary, you need to help me make sure this cannot happen to anyone else, and for this I have to know the name of the person in question. He was in a position of leadership because we thought we could trust him. Maybe we still do because we have not been told anything.

Secondly, and this may be even more difficult, but I promise you I will keep it confidential, I need to know your name and when these things took place. I won't be able to act on an anonymous tip.

Thirdly, I am willing to try to help you with spiritual advice, but very often men who have suffered what you say you have need other types of professional help. If you do, I will help you get whatever it is you need.

 I assure you of my prayers and I want to help you clear up this. Please get back to me. Fr Anthony

Email No 3.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, March 17, 2002 10:29 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Question sent to [REDACTED]

Fr. Bannon,

I thank you for your email and your sense of true compassion. As I said before, I do not want to harm the Legion in any way. Over the past several years now, I have had a very hard time coping with this issue, and getting closure. The only reasons I really wrote to you in the first place was to get closure and begin the healing process. Maybe not my true intention, but definitely a very important one is that I can prevent others from being taken advantage of. Trust is really not something that I do very easily, but I sure will try. When I was in the Legion I had a number of opportunities to talk to you, or be around you. I always thought of you as a very holy and selfless individual. However, no offence to you, but I have no more faith in the Church, or in God himself. I have had a very hard time dealing with this problem. I am honoured that you would volunteer to assist me in the spiritual direction of my life. However, as I said before, I feel there is really no need for spiritual direction.

You have to understand that I feel very angry, confused, fearful, ashamed, and violated. Do you think that I could just get right back into a spiritual life? Do you think that I could learn to trust the church again? I believe the answer is "no". I have no more faith in the church, nor do I have faith in myself. I have been going through some very difficult situation over the past several years. I do not think that now, or possibly ever, I could put my trust into spirituality. Who knows, maybe I am just confused. But again thanks for the offer. If you would like to continue these communications on a strictly non-spiritual level, I would be open to it.


I do not feel comfortable telling you my name, nor do I feel comfortable telling you my abusers name. I know the consequences if I do not tell you. I know that maybe this superior will continue to do this to other people. I know all this, but I am very scared of this idea, and as of right now, I am sorry to say that I can't tell you.

I have just taken a thirty minute break to think this out. Although I am very afraid of opening up about this, I feel the reasons to tell you his name out way the reasons to not. Although I thought I could handle the possibility of him doing this to other people with my silence, I now have realized that I would be no better than he. I would be putting myself in his shoes and abuse others. That, what little is left of my conscience, could not handle that thought. His name is Fr. Patrick of Centre Harbour in 1991-1993. I was abused from around December 1992 to July 1993. You must understand that I told you this in complete confidence. I will not tell you my name yet. I feel that saying his name is enough to prevent abuse from happening to other Apostolics.

I can not believe I told you his name, but I better end this quick before I get reservations about sending it. Again, I thank you for your concern for my well-being.

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Reply to Email No 3.

-----Original Message-----

From: 

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2002 6:05 PM

Dear 

I do care a lot about this, and do want to do all I can. I told you in my last message what I need you to do in order to be able to do something, and I need your reply. Sorry if this sounds abrupt, but you are tying my hands.

Fr Anthony

Email No 4.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2002 10:39 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Question sent to [REDACTED]

Fr. Anthony Bannon

I still have not of yet recieved an email from you. I don't know what the reason is, but if you are trying to ignore me, or you are done with me know that you know the name, That is very rude. All I can say to that, is that I thought you were better than that.

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[REDACTED]

No Reply to Email No 4.

Email No 5.

-----Original Message-----

From:

[REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, March 22, 2002 5:45 PM

To:

[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Question sent to

[REDACTED]

Fr. Bannon

Your lack of response shows me how you really feel about the situation. I am sorry that it had to be Fr. Patrick, your fellow Irishman. But, it was not my choice. I never asked for this. It was a consequence of trusting one of your Legionaries.

What would it take to make you realize you need to do something about this?

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Reply to Email No 5.

--- Friday, March 22, 2002

[REDACTED]

> Dear [REDACTED]

> Since your allegations are very serious, before approaching Fr. Patrick to question him I need to be sure of what you say, I need to know it is true.

> What guarantee do I have that you are not making it all up? Moreover it is difficult to weigh your words if you remain anonymous. Can I proceed in such serious matter with an anonymous tip which in no manner can be proven? And it remains simply impossible to offer you any help through email. This is not an appropriate channel. Nor can I continue to write without knowing who I am speaking with. You must understand. You could be a reporter, or simply someone who wants to play a game. If you really want me to give you a hand, you must take the next step and offer me further elements.

>

> Fr Anthony

>

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> <[http://\[REDACTED\]](http://[REDACTED])>

> <[http://\[REDACTED\]](http://[REDACTED])>

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Email No 6.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2002 1:31 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Question sent to [REDACTED]

Fr. Bannon,

Besides my name, what other things would you like to know? I am very apprehensive about telling you my name. You must thrust that I am not a reporter. I can tell you that when I was in Center Harbor it took place. My superiors were Br. Peter, Br. Oscar, Fr Eduardo, and Fr. Patrick. I was very close with all my superiors, and nothing happened except with Fr. Patrick. I blamed myself for several years for what happened, but just recently, I have started to believe that It was not my fault, but rather the fault of Fr. Patrick. What assurance do you need to believe this happened? Do you need me give proof, and if so, what kind of proof? Would you like me to have a jury decide? I don't want that, I don't want to go through that. but what other ways are there to prove it? As I said before I do not want to harm the Legion, and this is what would happen. I only want closure on this part of my life, and I want to feel happy with who I am. Is that so much to ask. [REDACTED]

>

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Reply to Email No 6.

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, April 02, 2002 4:59 PM

Dear [REDACTED]

I understand that you want to "close" a chapter of your past and you contacted me to get my help. Believe me I do want to help you in any way I can, but I cannot if I don't know who I'm talking to. I can't counsel you, nor can I pursue your allegations as long as they are made anonymously. So if you really want help, don't keep my hands tied.

Besides your name there are some other things that you can tell me that may help, but you have to realize that as long as you remain an anonymous source I have ample reason to be very uneasy, not a little distrustful, and I really cannot move on your information. You know that there have been many false accusations among the genuine in recent times and I have to consider that this might just be another case. The names you mentioned only show that you know who was in Center Harbor at the time. This is really delicate, your accusations are very serious, I really do want to act if I can be sure of who you are, but to act now would be to turn upside down without cause the life of someone who may be (and from all I know about him, probably is) innocent. As soon as I know who you are I have every intention of getting to the roots of this, but I need you to help me. Meanwhile you can start by letting me know exactly where the alleged events took place (what room, time of day, etc...), how many times it happened, how it happened the first time, if anyone else is in a position to substantiate your claims, if there were ever other students involved; did you know it was wrong, have you mentioned it to any Legionary before, or other students at the school, or anyone else... But I can take seriously any answers only if I know who you are.

So, again (how can I make you realize this?), any further steps are really in your hands.

Fr Anthony

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Email sent on Monday 22nd Apr. after I discovered [REDACTED] was the sender of the above messages. The same email was subsequently sent in printed form via certified mail, receipt requested, on Monday or Tuesday.

Dear [REDACTED]

Two days ago we heard through a reporter from ABC News that you told them you were sexually abused by Fr Patrick in the early 90s. Immediately I tried to contact you because of the similarity between your allegations and the content of anonymous emails I received some weeks previously .


Unfortunately the area code I had for your telephone was mistaken [REDACTED] instead of [REDACTED] and all my attempts to call you from Saturday afternoon to almost midnight were fruitless. When I found out the right area code, I tried one final time that night, but there was no answer. On Sunday, the ABC News representative who interviewed Fr Thomas Williams in Rome seemed to confirm that you are the sender of those emails, and I then tried to contact you by phone again on Sunday evening several times around 10pm EST.

I just wanted you to know [REDACTED] that I would like to help in any way I can.

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When I received the previous emails, we questioned Fr Walsh and he was firm in denying any charge. As soon as ABC News gave us your name as a possible victim, I immediately asked Fr Walsh to leave from the apostolic school, questioned him and got in touch with the diocese. All of this on Saturday the 20th. I decided I would initiate on Monday the proper steps regarding the civil authorities. From what I have been able to find out this morning through my inquiries you have not yet made a formal complaint although you have gone to the media (this is unusual). I have been told that since you are no longer a minor we are not in a position under the law to report to the civil authorities to initiate an investigation, but I want you to know that you can do so by going directly to the proper authorities. Catholic Charities in Manchester has offered the help of one of its case workers to help you if you wish to press charges and do not know how to go about it. I can put you in touch with them if you want, or you can do so directly.

I was also told that if your allegation comes out in the media you will probably be contacted anyway by the civil authorities to see if you want to press charges.

 more than anything I want to know what your needs are, and how I can be of help, so please don't hesitate to get in touch again. I know that surely the gravity of the accusation you are making is not lost on you, and I want to let you know that Fr Walsh denies it and is willing to be thoroughly investigated to clear his name. Even in the event that he is proved innocent and is cleared, an immense and

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irreparable damage will be done to his good name simply by being accused.

Be assured of my prayers . Let me know if and how you want to proceed. Do you want to lodge a complaint? Do you want to press charges? Do you need help to contact the authorities?

I am praying for you.

Fr Anthony Bannon, LC

