

27 February 2004

McGowan, J.R. DECEASED	XXX (13-15)	Kennebec County	1937-1939	Victim reported to Diocese in March 2002 that he was "molested" for two years by Father McGowan from age 13-15. Victim is now 78. Father McGowan died in 1962.
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Father Joseph R. McGowan:

XXX reported that in the late 1930s Father McGowan molested him for a period of two years in Winthrop. Mr. XXX was born in either 1923 or 1924. Mr. XXX said it stopped when he was approximately 15 years old. Mr. XXX was offered counseling. There is no description of the abuse in the file. Mr. XXX was offered counseling but declined because he has handled the issue well over the years.

Father Joseph R. McGowan was born in 1890 and ordained a priest in 1920. He retired in 1957 and died in 1962 at the age of 72. Father McGowan was Pastor of St. Francis in Winthrop from 1929 to 1957.

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March 20, 2002

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MAR 21 2002

NOT 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 child abuse. The Chancery recently heard from [REDACTED] Winthrop, ME who is currently 78 years old. He relates that he was molested in an unspecified fashion for two years by Rev. J.R. McGowan. He reports that it ended at around the age of 15.

Father McGowan was hospitalized at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Boston, MA for senile dementia in 1957 and died in 1962.

[REDACTED] reports that Father McGowan was looked upon as a great person by both Catholics and Protestants as did a lot of group things for everyone. On the other hand, he also reports that the abuse has never left his mind.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Very truly yours,



Frederick C. Moore

FCM/mh

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