

Rev. Dennis A. Keefe
Saint Stephen Parish
Framingham, Massachusetts

The following is a response of Rev. Dennis A. Keefe to the allegations made by [REDACTED]

On Tuesday, March 7, 1995, Father Keefe met with me at Chancery. He was accompanied by Rev. James F. Degnan, Pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Hopkinton, Father Keefe's home Parish. On the previous Thursday, March 2, Father Albert Stankard, Father Keefe's partner in Team Ministry at Saint Stephen's Parish, had called Chancery to report an allegation of sexual misconduct. Sister Rita McCarthy spoke with him, and with the family of the boy making the allegation, who were at the Rectory. She made an appointment with them for Monday, March 6 at 4:30 P.M. at their home in Natick. On Sunday, March 5, when I went to Hopkinton to offer Mass I was met by Fathers Degnan and Keefe. Father Stankard had informed Father Keefe on Friday about the allegation, and he was in an upset state. I talked with Father Keefe briefly, made sure that he knew that our conversation was discoverable, and put him in touch with Dr. James Groves to help him through this period. We made an appointment for Tuesday at 1:30 P.M. at Chancery.

On Tuesday I began by reviewing the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual misconduct with Father Keefe. I advised him that everything we discussed was discoverable under the law, and mentioned to him that if he engaged an attorney, the attorney might prefer that he not respond to me. I then summarized for him the allegations as reported to Sister Rita McCarthy when she visited the [REDACTED] home.

Father Keefe listened carefully to the all allegations, and responded immediately, "that is not true". The "office" in question is not on the second floor of the Rectory. It is on the main floor, near the main entrance. Saint Stephen Rectory was built as a convent, and the dining room and kitchen are clustered right around the same area. The cook is always there until 7:00 P.M. There is always a lot of coming and going. [REDACTED] worked Tuesdays 3-9 P.M., Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons.

Father Keefe denies that he ever touched [REDACTED] improperly. He denies choking him or touching his penis or genital area; he never rubbed against him; never put his "butt" into [REDACTED] genital area.

Father Keefe says that he would go in and out of the Office in the normal pattern of rectory life. He might put his hand on [REDACTED] shoulder when Father was using the telephone at [REDACTED]'s desk; he remembers patting him on the back when [REDACTED] was loading the dishwasher. He never hugged him. He never wrestled with him. "If he ever said 'stop', I would have." He remembers finding [REDACTED] at times with his head lying on the desk. Father asked what was the matter. [REDACTED] answered, "I'm tired".

On one occasion [REDACTED] hurt his leg. Father Keefe helped him put an ice pack on it. Christina the cook was present. [REDACTED] put the pack down his pant leg to the knee area. Father Keefe remembers feeling [REDACTED] leg to make sure the pack was in place. Father Keefe came in later and found Father Stankard praying over the leg.

I asked why [REDACTED] would make such allegations. Father Keefe was at a loss to explain. He said that [REDACTED] is a very quiet young man. Father Keefe did the bookkeeping for the Parish. A few times

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Assistant to the Secretary of Ministerial Personnel

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██████ had come late and signed in earlier. Margarita, the bookkeeper, brought this to Father Keefe's attention. Father spoke to ██████. Recently he spoke to the workers in the Rectory about cutting back on their hours. He detected no reaction from ██████.

Father Stankard told Father Keefe that the ██████ family came to him on Sunday in the sacristy. On Tuesday there was an ice storm, and ██████ called to see if he should come in. Father Keefe wondered why he came in if the allegations were true.

Father Keefe agreed to an Administrative Leave, but will not resigned from the Parish at this time, as this might be interpreted as an admission of guilt. He is open to an assessment at Saint Luke Institute if his attorney agrees. There are openings the next few weeks. He will consult with his attorney, and get back to me within a day or two.

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