

11-170246

**STATEMENT OF MARK BROUSSARD
TAKEN FEBRUARY 28, 1999**

(Note: We added punctuation where we thought it was necessary)

GS: Today is Saturday, February 28. We are in the conference room in the Chancery. Those present are Mr. Peter A. Ciambotti, Mark Broussard, myself, George Stearns. Mark, basically, just for the record, just for - [REDACTED] knows that this is being recorded for him to get a copy as well. But the reason for this and the position that I, as Chancellor, I'll set the purpose of this and then turn it over to Mr. Ciambotti, but we're meeting today basically in accord to the Code of Canon Law and also to the Diocese of Lake Charles policy, the statement regarding the abuse and neglect of minors. In other words, an allegation has been received that we will get into as the session goes on and in accord with the Canon and also with our policy, you know, we need to pursue this through an investigation and this is the reason for this meeting this morning. At this time I would like to turn it over to Peter Ciambotti, who serves canonically, as a part of the investigation process with myself. He's been appointed by the Bishop.

PAC: Mr. Broussard, how do you want me to address you in this interview?

MB: Mark or Mr. Broussard.

PAC: Mark or Mr. Broussard. If I use your first name from time to time, you won't be offended by it?

MB: No, I won't be offended at all.

PAC: Okay. What is your full name?

MB: Mark Anthony Broussard.

PAC: And what is your present address and telephone number?

MB: Present address is [REDACTED]

PAC: How do you spell Bradenton, Florida?

MB: B-R-A-D-E-N-T-O-N.

PAC: Do you realize this interview is being recorded?

MB: Yes, I do.

PAC: And I have your permission to do so?

MB: Yes, you do.

PAC: And you've also talked to Father Diable this morning, is that correct? And he understood that we were taking your statement this morning, is that right?

MB: Yes.

PAC: Now, we are going to make a copy of this tape available to your attorney. Would you raise your right hand please? Do you swear to the tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

MB: I do.

PAC: Okay, this statement is being taken under oath and do you realize that you must tell the truth here, especially when you are under oath. Is that correct?

MB: I do.

PAC: You do have...

MB: You asked me my address and phone number.

PAC: Yes, sir.

MB: My phone number is [REDACTED]

PAC: Okay. From time to time, I am going to stop and make sure that we are picking this up, okay. Mr. Broussard, what is your present occupation?

MB: My present occupation is a Social Worker for Hospice of Southwest Florida. I work in Gerontology. That's where I work.

PAC: Could you move maybe a little closer. I think maybe it will help and so that we can make sure that we pick you up, okay. What is your job entail at the present time?

MB: My job entails counseling with the terminally ill.

PAC: Older people?

MB: Yes.

PAC: Are you having any dealings with children at any time?

MB: No.

PAC: Okay. And how long have you been employed?

MB: I've been employed two years.

PAC: And when did you leave the priesthood here in Lake Charles?

MB: 1994.

PAC: Alright, and you've been there for two years. What did you do say between 1994 and the present time? I know your present job, what other jobs did you have in the interim?

MB: I pursued a Masters Degree in Social Work and at that time, I was in school full time.

PAC: And where did you...

MB: The only job that I had was in the summer time with a psychiatric hospital just as a floor counselor.

PAC: As Mr. Stearns alluded to, some parents made a complaint on behalf of their [REDACTED] concerning you and we, of course, have to follow our policy when we receive a complaint. I mean, being an ex-priest, I don't know whether. Are you still a priest, by the way?

MB: I am.

PAC: I see. You have never been laicized?

MB: I was to have applied - the Bishop had asked me in '94 if I wanted to be and I said yes. He had me see Amos Vincent to begin that process. We dealt with written documents, but I had never heard anything about this.

PAC: Perhaps we'll try to get you a response. We'll take that up later. But, you're familiar with the Code of Canon Law?...

MB: I am.

PAC: and that sort of thing. And I'm letting you know also, we have a policy on abuse of minors in this Diocese and of course, when we receive a complaint of this nature, we can't just sit by idly and do nothing. We have to get to the bottom of it and that's what the purpose of this statement is today. Are you familiar with [REDACTED]

MB: Yes, I am.

PAC: Those are the, those are the names of the people who allegedly stated that their [REDACTED] has related to them that you had some sexual activity.

MB: S [redacted] is [redacted]

PAC: You know [redacted]?

MB: Yes, I do.

PAC: Could you tell us about your experiences, particularly any sexual experiences with [redacted]?

MB: One time. As a matter of fact, it was the first time and I do not mind saying that. I have said it before. This was in 1981. It was RCIA Program for Our Lady Help of Christians. They were minus babysitters that night and I was asked by Sister Camille to help with the babysitting. This [redacted] was very affectionate kid. [redacted] loved to be held and sitting on the lap and stuff like that and at the time, [redacted] was 8 years old, if I'm not mistaken. And, you know, always on top of him, you know, holding him, stuff like that. Um, towards the end of that night, we always took the kids or had always gone, this was the one and only time that I was with them.

PAC: Who's them? Who are you referring to?

MB: Kids that were babysitted for the RCIA Program. Mr. and Mrs. [redacted] worked for the RCIA Program at that time and those kids went to the Rectory for their refreshments always and we were sitting in the living room on the couch and um, I noticed that this little [redacted] had an erection. [redacted] had shorts on. Um, a little bit later from that, at that time, I did fondle him on the outside of the pants. Right after that, [redacted] said he needed to go to the bathroom. [redacted] went into bathroom connected with the guest bedroom. [redacted] went to the bathroom alone, but came out for me to pull his pants up and buckle him and all that stuff. I asked him if he would like for me to touch him. He said yes and I did and immediately - I freaked. That was the first time that that had ever happened. Um, and immediately, you know, that ended, but you know, I, I went to Father Marshall after that. I didn't tell him of this specific incident, but I did tell him that I was really depressed, I was having problems. I spoke to Father Mancuso, did not tell him specifically, but said I was having problems with sexuality and I wanted to see a counselor. I did see a counselor, Father Ken Boullion, I mean Dr. Ken Boullion in Lafayette, and I saw him for the rest of the time that I was there. Um, you know, struggled tremendously with I should not be a priest, I should not, I do not want this to be a part of priesthood and uh, I don't think I've ever stopped struggling with that.

PAC: What type of doctor is Dr. Boullion?

MB: He is a psychologist, I believe.

PAC: Did you tell him about this incident and what happened?

MB: Yes, I did.

PAC: And what was his recommendation to you, if any?

MB: Well, I did counseling with him and stuff like that and the recommendation I always remembered was staying away - you know - staying away from children and good boundaries and working to get help with those problems.

PAC: Did you notify the Bishop at this time?

MB: No, not at the time.

PAC: Did you feel like you should have notified the Bishop?

MB: Yes, I did and I was always discouraged from doing that, in spiritual direction and counseling.

PAC: Who discouraged you?

MB: Both the Dr. Boullion and the spiritual direction.

PAC: Now when we talk about this incident here, you mentioned that you fondled the young ■■■, is that correct? What do you mean exactly? I want you to be particular about this.

MB: I simply touched him on ■■■ penis.

PAC: Was it ■■■ bare penis or through ■■■ clothing?

MB: First it was through ■■■ clothing, but then it was ■■■ bare penis.

PAC: Did he have some kind of a, I don't know whether a young ■■■ can ejaculate like that or not, but did he appear to have some kind of a?

MB: Oh, absolutely not.

PAC: He didn't?

MB: Even if he could have, it wouldn't have in that amount of time.

PAC: You said that he went into the bathroom and then he came back out, was there any, I take it this fondling occurred before he went into the bathroom?

MB: After.

PAC: What occurred before [REDACTED] went into the bathroom?

MB: Simply [REDACTED] sitting on my lap and stuff like that and you know, my noticing an erection while [REDACTED] was on the couch and touching him.

PAC: Okay, but at time, you touched [REDACTED] through [REDACTED] clothing, is that correct?

MB: That's correct.

PAC: I see. Did [REDACTED], did you encourage [REDACTED] to trust you in any way? Did you get an erection?

MB: I don't remember.

PAC: Okay. And, um, after [REDACTED] came out of the bathroom, I would like you to tell me what happened again.

MB: After he came out of the bathroom and it was to buckle and zip up his pants...

PAC: Yes.

MB: That's when I asked him if [REDACTED] would like me to touch [REDACTED] and I did.

PAC: I see. And that's was when, this was done on [REDACTED] bare penis?

MB: Yes, it was.

PAC: I see. Uh, was there any oral sex or anything involved?

MB: Not at all.

PAC: Was there any anal sex involved?

MB: Not at all.

PAC: So you're telling me that the extent with this is that it was a fondling only?

MB: Yes, sir.

PAC: Am I mistaken in that?

MB: No, sir, not at all.

PAC: Now you say this happened in 1981. Do you recall when it happened?

MB: 1981.

PAC: What month in 1981?

MB: I would say when RCIA break began, so I'd say like November. It opened in November.

PAC: And what was your position with the church at that time?

MB: I was on a spiritual year between having done pre-theology and my major seminary.

PAC: Okay, and where was, what church was this?

MB: Our Lady Help of Christians Church.

PAC: I see, and um, where did this activity with the young [REDACTED] take place, this fondling?

MB: In a guest bedroom at the rectory.

PAC: And this was after some kind of an activity that ya'll were having?

MB: It was a RCIA Program that provided christian initiation for adults and the children of the parents that helped would be taken care of.

PAC: Well, were there other children in the room or in the vicinity at the time?

MB: All night - there were other girls helping to take care of and there were other children all night.

PAC: Well, I mean, were there any...

MB: Only, at this point, no there...

PAC: Were there any witnesses to this ...

MB: None.

PAC: Let me just see if we're picking this up. Excuse, we weren't on there. There were no witnesses, you say?

MB: There were none.

PAC: How do you account for the fact that you all were alone and out of the presence of witnesses when this happened?

MB: This one want me(?) to go to the rest room.

PAC: Is that the reason for this, for ya'll being alone?

MB: That's right.

PAC: I see. Uh, ...

GS: May I ask something?

PAC: Yes, this is George Stearns. Just identify yourself.

GS: George Stearns.

PAC: You might want to bring up, get up closer here.

GS: George Stearns. Mark, when you said that the children were in the room for refreshments, there were other children in that room when you noticed the young boy having the erection?

MB: Yes, there would have been other children.

GS: And when you said that you fondled him on the outside of [REDACTED] pants, was that in the presence or with other children around?

MB: Yes, at that point it would have been, but my hands were like, he was sitting on my lap and my hands...

GS: Okay.

MB: ...were like at [REDACTED] crotch and you know.

GS: I see.

MB: So it wasn't anything direct.

PAC: Okay, were there any other, have you told me everything about this incident?

MB: Yes, I have.

PAC: Uh, were there any other incidents involving this particular young [REDACTED] subsequent to this date?

MB: None at all.

PAC: Okay, uh.

MB: Not after either.

PAC: Huh?

MB: Not after either, not before or after.

PAC: Yeah, that's what I asked you, after this incident, were there any other incidents involving this young [REDACTED]

MB: No.

PAC: There were some other, there were some other incidents with other boys, I believe, were there not?

MB: Up until 1988, there were three.

PAC: Okay, we'll...

MB: (inaudible)

PAC: We'll get into that later on. I want to stay on this thing. How well did you know [REDACTED]

MB: Not very well at all.

PAC: Had you ever been in their home?

MB: No.

PAC: Had they ever been over at the rectory with you?

MB: The only time I was in their home was later and a lady by the name of Pat and I brought this boy home - I had said mass. This was after ordination. He asked us to bring him home and I was in their home for maybe 5 minutes. She asked me to come in, you know, myself and Pat, this lady talked, but that was it.

PAC: Had you ever been with this young man alone, [REDACTED] alone after this incident that you're testifying to?

MB: No.

PAC: You never went out of town together or went anywhere together or anything of that nature?

MB: No, I did not.

PAC: Okay.

GS: Can I ask another question?

PAC: Yes. Move up here, Mr. George.

GS: You say that you brought [REDACTED] and a lady, Pat, home to his house after you were ordained, at who's request was that? Was that [REDACTED]

MB: He had asked for a ride.

GS: So he...

MB: And I happened to be in this lady's, Pat's car, driving, so we took [REDACTED] home.

GS: How old would [REDACTED] have been? First off, how old - he - approximately how old would [REDACTED] have been, you know, in 1981 incident?

MB: Eight. I believe eight or seven.

GS: How old do you think he would have been if you were ordained in 1986, approximately?

MB: I'd say, probably twelve. If I were to guess, that's just a guess.

GS: Alright.

MB: It was simply he had served mass that day and I wasn't even the one saying the mass. I was at the mass.

GS: Okay.

MB: I had attended church there that day.

GS: Okay.

MB: And we brought [REDACTED] home.

PAC: Okay, Mr. Broussard, you know it was wrong to do what you did, is that, you understand that, right?

MB: Yes, I do.

PAC: Do you have an explanation as to why you did something like that?

MB: No, I don't.

PAC: Um, did you tell anybody about this incident?

MB: Dr. Boullion.

PAC: Okay, but how long after it occurred did you discuss this with Dr. Boullion?

MB: Ah, it wouldn't have been but weeks.

PAC: Okay, why did you wait so long, a matter of weeks, to talk to Dr. Boullion?

MB: Setting it up.

PAC: Did you discuss this with anyone else?

MB: I asked the Diocese...

PAC: Did you discuss this with anyone else?

MB: Not that I remember, other than my spiritual director at that time.

PAC: Who was that?

MB: A nun from Lafayette.

PAC: A nun from Lafayette. You told her about this? What was her advice?

MB: I can't think of her name right now.

PAC: Was her, how did you contact her?

MB: Simply in spiritual direction.

PAC: But why did, do you select your own spiritual director?

MB: Yes.

PAC: And why did you select her?

MB: I don't remember.

PAC: I see. Well, what did you tell her?

MB: Simply, you know, how distraught I was over what had happened and what happened, that I had fondled this [REDACTED] and you know, I wasn't living well with it, and you know, the difficulty it was. I needed some help.

PAC: I see.

MB: I asked her to help. She suggested asking the Diocese for help.

PAC: Okay.

MB: I did go to counseling after I had got approved and we set it up with this Dr. Boullion.

PAC: I see. You're saying the Diocese paid for Dr. Boullion's services then, huh?

MB: That is correct.

PAC: Okay. Uh, ...

GS: Can I ask one other question? Did the Diocese, when you say the Diocese was the, you know, Father Mancuso's director of vocations?

MB: That is correct.

GS: Would the Diocese, did the Diocese, meaning the Bishop, I guess, know about the relating purpose of this treatment with Dr. Boullion regarding this incident?

MB: The Bishop would not have known that. It was just known that it was sexual struggles.

GS: Okay.

MB: Struggle with sexuality.

GS: Okay.

MB: The Bishop would not have known about that until 1988.

PAC: But you say that you were advised by Dr. Boullion not to tell him the details. Did I understand you correctly?

MB: At the time, I would have just wanted to stand on the rooftops and tell the whole damn world about it, of course, that's what I felt in '88 when I went to the Bishop too. Just look, it's time for this to end. I want the whole damn world to know about this. You know.

PAC: Well, let me go on here. Uh, so you're saying you discussed it with two people initially, that was Dr. Boullion and your spiritual advisor whose identity is unknown.

MB: Ken Boullion.

PAC: And you don't remember the name of that nun, do you?

MB: I can't think of her name.

PAC: Where was she from?

MB: Lafayette.

PAC: And how did you come into contact with her?

MB: I don't know. I knew her through, I guess - it might have been through Henry - don't remember.

PAC: Okay. Now, I want to ask you did you have some sexual

activity with some other children?

MB: After that.

PAC: Yes. I'd like to know about each one of those, the names, the dates, the places, the incident, where they occurred, etc.

MB: You know about the very next one because that was in 1982.

PAC: That was [REDACTED]?

MB: (inaudible) - [REDACTED]

PAC: Okay, now [REDACTED] was after this, is that correct?

MB: Yes. I only just recently, I always thought it was the other way around, I thought [REDACTED] was first and this one but it's not. This one was first and [REDACTED] next. And I think that was just simply for the trauma part of [REDACTED], I mean I had never gone that far as I did with [REDACTED].

PAC: With [REDACTED] ...

MB: [REDACTED] was reciprocal.

PAC: What was reciprocal?

MB: The sexual relationship...

PAC: What nature was it? Was it oral sex, anal sex, who on who, etc.?

MB: Okay, with [REDACTED] it was, the nature of it was he actually began it, wanting me to, [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] had, I forget what you call it, on [REDACTED] penis, he had patches of discolored skin.

PAC: Yes.

MB: And he wanted to show that to me and actually, we were playing cards at a table and he bounced up and went on the sofa and took his pants down and said look, I want to show you this and that's where that began to the point of sleeping, to the point of fondling, to the point of oral sex, me to him.

PAC: You did oral sex on him? And he did it on you to?

MB: No. He did not.

PAC: You...

MB: He wanted...

PAC: Did anal sex on him?
MB: No.
PAC: He did it on you?
MB: That's right. ■...
PAC: ■ penetrated you, in other words?
MB: That is correct.
PAC: I see. And how long, over how long of a period...
MB: And that was at ■ request.
PAC: I understand. Over how long a period of time did this activity occur with (■)?
MB: Once.
PAC: And where...
MB: One time.
PAC: Where was that? Where did it take place?
MB: That was in Eunice at the Student Center for LSU - E.
PAC: How long was it after this ■ situation?
MB: This was the summer of '82. ■ was in October or November of the year before.
PAC: Were you consulting with Father Boullion at the, I mean Dr. Boullion at the time?
MB: No, I had stopped that.
PAC: You had stopped that. Were you receiving any kind of treatment or anything?
MB: At that time, no.
PAC: What about your spiritual advisor, did you discuss this with her?
MB: The - the ■ incident, no I did not because I wasn't seeing her as a spiritual director at that time.
PAC: Did you discuss...

MB: spiritual director... (inaudible)

PAC: Did you discuss it with any fellow priests?

MB: Not at that time.

PAC: And you didn't tell the Bishop about it?

MB: Only in '88.

PAC: In '88. Okay.

MB: But it was not details in '88.

PAC: What did you tell the Bishop in '88?

MB: That there were three other times that this has happened. He really didn't want to hear about that either. He put me under the seal of confession.

PAC: Well, if he did, I don't want to hear anything you told him under the seal of confession. Well, I mean, anything you said in confession, I don't want to, I can't get into that.

MB: In that case, every time - I mean - I talked to a priest every time because I immediately went to confession after that each time.

PAC: Well, I'm talking about anything that you may have said outside of the confession. Okay. So if I ask you a question...

MB: In '88, I told Henry Mancuso about these incidents.

PAC: Alright, what was his response?

MB: Prior to talking to the Bishop. Henry Mancuso's response was do you really want to go talk, I had gone to ask him to get in touch with the Bishop. I was distraught. I wanted to tell the Bishop about this. The Bishop was out of town and he said you really don't want to tell the Bishop about this. He suggested let's get you help, let's deal with this. Everybody's response always was that.

PAC: Well, of course, did you perceive that you had an obligation to keep the Bishop informed?

MB: At that point, I wanted the Bishop to know.

PAC: Of anything of importance affecting the church. Do you understand that was your obligation as a priest?

MB: In '88, I definitely knew it was my obligation. I went to the Bishop at that point because I never wanted to be, this to be a part of priesthood.

PAC: Okay. [REDACTED], you're saying was a one time thing, is that correct?

MB: Yes, it was.

PAC: Now, what are the names of the some of the other children, I think you said there were four incidents so there were two others, what are their names?

MB: One is [REDACTED] and I do not know his last name.

PAC: Alright and tell me about the situation with [REDACTED]. How many incidents did you have with [REDACTED]?

MB: One time.

PAC: And when was that?

MB: That would have been the summer of '85 in [REDACTED] grandparents' swimming pool.

PAC: Okay and how old was [REDACTED]? Do you know?

MB: Uh, eight or nine.

PAC: And how did this come about?

MB: I think [REDACTED] was nine. He might have been eight. Um, swimming in the swimming pool. [REDACTED] kept grabbing at my penis and then I was simply - like - he'd swim under the water and [REDACTED] would do that.

PAC: I see.

MB: And uh, not making any comments like [REDACTED] was doing that or anything like that.

PAC: What happened?

MB: And at one point I asked him about it and we got into a conversation and I asked [REDACTED] about, you know, touching [REDACTED] and he said okay and I did.

PAC: And what occurred?

MB: This was one time in the pool.

PAC: What occurred?

MB: My hand - (inaudible) - the leg of [REDACTED] bathing suit.
PAC: On [REDACTED] penis?
MB: Yes.
PAC: Did [REDACTED] have an erection?
MB: Yes, [REDACTED] did.
PAC: How old did you say [REDACTED] was?
MB: I think [REDACTED] was nine. He might have been eight.
PAC: Was there anyone else present?
MB: No one.
PAC: I see.
MB: At that time.
PAC: Was this all that happened?
MB: That's all that happened.
PAC: Was there any alcohol involved?
MB: Not at all.
PAC: Was there any...
MB: With [REDACTED] there was. He had asked to have a beer.
PAC: Okay, I'm going to ask you, I wanted to ask you about that and about the [REDACTED] situation.
MB: No alcohol in the [REDACTED] situation.
PAC: No alcohol with the [REDACTED] situations. With [REDACTED]...
MB: In no cases were I drinking the beer. In nobody's cases - were I - was I under alcohol.
PAC: But you were giving a child alcohol to drink, correct?
MB: With [REDACTED], I allowed him to drink a beer.
PAC: And obviously, you knows it's wrong to drink alcohol.
MB: (inaudible)

PAC: I'm sorry, I didn't, go ahead and finish your statement. What were you saying?

MB: I said [REDACTED] was at fifteen at that time. Yes, I do know that it was wrong.

PAC: Did you do that to soften him up, so-to-speak? Give him the alcohol to kind of reduce or minimize his defenses - to something like that?

MB: I did not, that was not the intention.

PAC: What was the intention of giving him the alcohol?

MB: It was a sick inability to not be able to say no or to be the adult in the room - that's for sure.

PAC: Okay.

MB: Just not wanting to say no.

PAC: Okay, with [REDACTED] there was no alcohol involved?

MB: None.

PAC: No drugs involved with any of these kids?.

MB: None.

PAC: Okay, uh, and your saying that all that happened, you don't recall [REDACTED] last name?

MB: No, I do not.

PAC: And you say all that really happened was you touched [REDACTED] penis and [REDACTED] got an erection. Did he appear to have a...

MB: That is correct.

PAC: an orgasm of some sort or something like that?

MB: No, [REDACTED] did not. Not to my knowledge.

PAC: Now, what's the name of the next child?

MB: The last one was the '88 incident where I was already ordained a priest.

PAC: And who was that with?

MB: That was with [REDACTED]

PAC: And where did that occur?

MB: It happened at Queen of Heaven in my room at the rectory.

PAC: And, uh, how old was [REDACTED]

MB: [REDACTED] was twelve I think at the time.

PAC: Twelve years old?

MB: Yes.

PAC: And, uh, what had happened?

MB: [REDACTED] had previously told me before that he had only one best friend and that was [REDACTED] penis. This particular day, I invited him to go bowling and this was after church. As a matter of fact, [REDACTED] asked me to take him bowling without permission from [REDACTED] mom - and a - we were in the rectory and I asked him to meet [REDACTED] best friend and I fondled [REDACTED] simply fondled him.

PAC: That's all that occurred?

MB: It lasted all of five to ten minutes and I freaked like any other time.

PAC: Uh, what year was this with [REDACTED]?

MB: 1988, when I went to the Bishop.

PAC: Are you saying up to 1988 to the [REDACTED] Join incident, there are four occasions that this happened?

MB: Yes, sir.

PAC: Was there any alcohol involved with [REDACTED]?

MB: No, there was not.

PAC: Did any of these people later on confront you about what had occurred in any of these incidents?

MB: [REDACTED]

PAC: He's the only one?

MB: He's the only one.

PAC: Have you kept in touch with [REDACTED]?

MB: I have kept in touch with [REDACTED]. Now, [REDACTED] has never confronted me about what was done. In 1994, excuse me, in

1996, just before I was to move to Florida, he called saying that [REDACTED] was going to lose his truck because he didn't have the money to pay his car note, did I know any place where [REDACTED] could get the money. [REDACTED] did not threaten me. [REDACTED] did not say anything, uh, to let me, [REDACTED] did not, nothing confrontational, my feelings were, you know, I wasn't going to lead him in that direction. I gave him, I told him that I didn't have the money, I would loan it to [REDACTED] by paying it on a credit card check and asked him if [REDACTED] would pay me back and I intentionally did that because if I loaned [REDACTED] the money, I wouldn't hear from [REDACTED] and I have not heard from [REDACTED]

PAC: Did [REDACTED] ever pay you back?

MB: No, [REDACTED] did not.

PAC: Let me ask you, was, do you know whether [REDACTED] was having any psychological problems of any kind?

MB: [REDACTED]

PAC: Yes.

MB: No - other than behavioral stuff with [REDACTED], you know, parents.

PAC: Well, [REDACTED] be twenty-two years old now. Have you've had any word...?

MB: Is he having any psyc... No.

PAC: Yes.

MB: not that I have, no.

PAC: What about this [REDACTED] business. Have you heard anything about him and whether he is having any problems, psychiatric problems?

MB: As a matter of fact - I had - [REDACTED] the last I had heard was from his grandparents, were the [REDACTED] His grandfather was a [REDACTED] and he uh, the grandmother had told me that [REDACTED] was in college and had a steady girlfriend. That's the last I heard.

PAC: Okay, you know [REDACTED] claimed that because of what you did, it caused him some problems. You're aware of that?

MB: I am aware of that.

PAC: Now, the [REDACTED] are complaining about the same thing.

MB: I always beat myself with the same possibilities too.

GS: May I ask a question?

PAC: Yes, sir. Come up so we can pick you up, sir.

GS: Mark, I'm just a little confused here. Checking out the letter you wrote the Bishop in January, 1994, it says "As you know, in 1988, I was confronted by the young man with whom the incident took place in 1982 and by [REDACTED] mother. At that time, [REDACTED] and his [REDACTED] assured me that nothing more would come from them about it. Within a week or so after this, there was an attempt at acting out feelings with him, which resulted in attempted fondling. The actual fondling did not take place on my part. It was then that I approached you to ask for help and you assisted me in getting intensive therapy with the Servants of the Paraclete in Jemez Springs, New Mexico." Who does that refer to?

MB: That was [REDACTED].

GS: [REDACTED]?

MB: [REDACTED]

GS: So...

MB: It was not [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was the one and only time...

GS: Okay, so that's my question. [REDACTED], again, you said there was this incident in '88 with him, but in this, did you, in other words, did you have an incident with [REDACTED] in 1982 as well?

MB: No - I never knew [REDACTED].

GS: Well, that's what I...

MB: until after ordination.

GS: That's what I'm confused about in the letter. In other words, "As you also know in 1988, I was confronted by the young man with who the incident took place in 1982 and by his mother." So who would have been confronting?

MB: That was [REDACTED].

GS: Okay.

MB: [REDACTED] came to me just before Christmas in '87 and that was the events.

GS: Okay.

MB: In '88, I went to meet [REDACTED] mom.

GS: Okay.

MB: January of '88.

GS: Okay, that squares. I thought that that was...

MB: And the stress of all of that, I really believe had everything to do with every time there was a very stressful deal, struggling with - with - you know - even being a priest.

PAC: Okay, George would you move up here please sir.

GS: Okay, I understand this now. I thought that that paragraph was referring to [REDACTED], but when you said that there was an incident with [REDACTED] in '88, I just wanted to make sure that I got that confusion clarified.

PAC: Alright, uh, I think you've said that there were no alcohol used except in the [REDACTED] incident and uh, you gave him a beer at that time. Is that right?

MB: That is correct.

GS: Again, uh, the incident with [REDACTED] exactly what happened again? - I'm not sure - uh, he was at Our Lady Queen of Heaven - uh.

MS: There was fondling...

GS: It was in the room?

MB: All but five or ten minutes.

GS: And he was by himself?

MB: That is correct.

PAC: Uh, Mr. Broussard, in any of these incidents, were there any other persons involved?

MB: No.

PAC: These always occurred one on one, so-to-speak?

MB: That is correct.

PAC: And there are no witnesses to any of these activities other than what you're telling us?

MB: That is correct.

PAC: Did you tell...

MB: And the children... what they would say - you know - mean - they were there, so I mean - what they would say I think would be - they were certainly witnesses out of it - there were no other people besides myself.

PAC: Now, did you talk to uh, I think you said you talked to Dr. Boullion, is it? How do you spell his name, by the way?

MB: Ken Boullion.

PAC: How do you spell it?

MB: I have no idea.

PAC: It's Ken Boullion?

MB: B-O-U-L-L-I-O-N, I believe.

PAC: Okay, uh, did you ever tell any other healthcare providers about these other three incidents? I think you've told me that you've told him about the first one, the [REDACTED] incident.

MB: When I was in the seminary, I went to counseling with a [REDACTED] (?) and I told her everything. There was another priest who knew about those incidents. It was Father, uh, Metrejean, Paul Metrejean.

PAC: Now, I want to be careful here. I don't want to ask you about anything that was told in confession. I'm talking about outside of confession. Okay, I take it...

MB: [REDACTED] was not in confession.

PAC: Okay, what about [REDACTED] well, [REDACTED] couldn't hear your confession, but you, where is she from?

MB: New Orleans.

PAC: And you told her about these incidents?

MB: Yes.

PAC: And what advice, if any, did she give you?

MB: She worked with me again with boundaries and you know, everybody was always with trying to do a positive self image, looking at goodness instead of beating yourself. That's the way that they always handled it. Um, you know, I mean there were many occasions where I asked about, well what about the kids, you know, who talks to them, who helps them, you know,

even in '88, that was my question, who helps the kids, you know, and uh...

PAC: Well, obviously, you had a problem with this activity, did you not?

MB: Yes, I did.

PAC: And you knew it was wrong?

MB: Yes, I did.

PAC: And uh,...

MB: Hated myself or I could beat myself continuously for it.

PAC: Why did you become a priest then?

MB: Mr. Ciambotti, I don't know. Looking back, since I have quit, I cannot tell you the weight that has been off of my shoulders, just not being a priest.

PAC: Well, did you have this problem before you even...

MB: Never.

PAC: ...went into the seminary?

MB: Never. This was after.

PAC: You never had any...

MB: Never.

PAC: Excuse me, let me finish. You never had any homosexual activities in college or high school?

MB: Not at all. None.

PAC: The [REDACTED] situation was the first time?

MB: First time ever. The only thing that happened prior to that was when I was at St. Meinrad. I had dreams of girls that would have penises. I have thought since I quit... since I have been so much free-er since I quit - alright - but it was simply my inability to say that I didn't want to do this. I just didn't want to be priest.

PAC: Well, was there any way that the church officials could have detected this in the seminary or in your training or something?

MB: That hurts because many a times, let me say...

PAC: What hurts? I'm not sure what hurts.

MB: The how many times the church officials could have done something.

PAC: You mean after these incidents occurred or during...?

MB: Let me preface it - after - let me preface it with this. I feel that I had always been up front about this and George, I'm being very honest about this. When George called me, I just didn't want to live anymore. It was like, this is enough hurt. I had hurt enough people and it's like, in '88, I decided that I was going to quit hurting. Why I didn't just stop being a priest, I don't know. I mean, I felt even encouraged by Bishop Speyrer, who only wanted to help, you know, you can do this. And yes, I stayed in counseling with Amos Vincent, you know. There was nothing but anything but compassion for me, but I want you to know that I actually attempted suicide that night when you called me and it was an unsuccessful attempt. It was by taking medications and I wouldn't have expected to ever wake up the next morning, but I did. Because I have been terribly, terribly angry since then. Never before had I been angry, but I woke up and said you know, how many times have I told this story. How many times have I wanted this rectified - that I just want this to end.

PAC: What do you want rectified? I'm not sure I understand that. What is it that you want rectified?

MB: The anger was how many times that I had told and I mean, it was like the only time that anybody ever said I don't recommend you for priesthood is through a psychological eval that I took immediately after the fondling of this first kid which said we don't recommend you for the seminary.

PAC: Where did, who recommended that?

MB: This was the psychological battery of tests that we took while we were in that spiritual year. Everybody that was in the spiritual year took that...

PAC: Who administered that test?

MB: Some company out of Baton Rouge. Was it Boston, I believe.

PAC: And you said the results of this test indicated that you should not become a priest?

MB: That is correct.

PAC: Had you...

MB: How much did I feel that was true? One hundred percent.

GS: That was after the [REDACTED] incident.

MB: It was?

PAC: Well, Mr. Broussard, um, had you had psychiatric problems before, say in college or high school or any part of your life before you got involved in this priestly formation.

MB: Not depression, not anything.

PAC: Nothing.

GS: I have a question. Did Mary O'Shaughnessy, is she a lady psychologist or?

MB: She's a nun.

GS: She's a nun, okay.

MB: Sister Mary Michael O'Shaughnessy. I think she's dead.

GS: Was she, when you were in treatment, you said, you know, you were in treatment with her while you were in the seminary...

MB: Yes.

GS: ...which you told her of all three incidences. You wouldn't have told her about the [REDACTED] incident, because that would have been...

MB: After.

GS: That would have been after. Now, when you were in treatment with her, was this at the sponsorship of the Diocese, the seminary or was this something individually you were doing?

MB: Diocese.

GS: The Diocese would have known or at least know that you was, but not the specifics, it would again be a general problem with sexuality. Am I making myself clear?

MB: Yes. Yes, but I was also, there also was a fact that an agreement between the Diocese and I, an encouragement for me to go ahead and go into the seminary, the seminary decided that they were going to accept me anyway and try it out and that I would stay in counseling.

PAC: Let me, I think we're near the end of this tape. I want to go ahead and stop a minute here. Would you like to take a little break, get some coffee or coke or something?

MB: I really, you know, I'm indifferent about it, thank you.

Tape 1 stopped. Tape 2 begins here.

PAC: Okay, we're back on. I, uh...

GS: Again, to ask the question - Mark, when you said that, you know, there were numerous times when you had told the story, uh, is it my, what priest would you have told, you mentioned Father Mancuso...

MB: That was in '88.

GS: Was that when he, he wasn't director of vocations?

MB: No, he was not.

GS: Okay.

MB: Truth is, is that night, I was terribly distraught and I couldn't get a hold of anybody but Henry Mancuso.

GS: Okay. Okay. Now, prior to that, even '88, Father Mancuso would have known about the [REDACTED] incident as well, right? And also Father Boull..., not, not, in the general term, not in the specifics.

MB: Would have known that I was having struggles with sexuality - that's it.

GS: Okay, just wanted to get that clarified.

PAC: Uh, with regard to the [REDACTED] situation, uh, I think you said you visited their home one time after this incident?

MB: I was at their home to bring him home. I wouldn't say that I was there to visit the home.

PAC: Okay. What was their treatment toward you?

MB: Friendly.

PAC: Friendly?

MB: The only time I had seen them after that was probably in 1987, I saw them at the bowling alley in Lake Charles. I was bowling on a league and they happened to be there bowling as a family.

PAC: How was ...

MB: I said hello to them.

PAC: How was their treatment toward you?

MB: Friendly.

PAC: Do you know whether the [REDACTED] ever told [REDACTED] parents about this?

MB: I do not know.

PAC: Do you know whether any of these other [REDACTED] involved ever told their parents about this?

MB: I do not know.

PAC: I see.

MB: Other than [REDACTED].

PAC: Do you know...

MB: That's (unintelligible), [REDACTED], I do know told [REDACTED] mom.

PAC: Sir?

MB: I do know that [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] mom because I talked to her in January of 1988.

PAC: I see - and what was the nature of that conversation?

MB: I listened to her.

PAC: Was she upset with you?

MB: Yes. And I don't blame her.

PAC: Uh, were there any girls involved in any of your activities? No girls?

MB: No. I, that - that as a child - you know - I was involved in fondling girls in the neighborhood and stuff like that when I was younger and stuff like that, but it was girls.

PAC: Well.

MB: It was more of a childhood kind of stuff. But that's the only way that you could associate it.

PAC: No, I'm speaking about the time you became connected with the

church, so-to-speak.

MB: No, not at the church.

PAC: I see. Now what about other homosexual activities with other priests or other male adults.

MB: None at all.

PAC: None of that. But you're telling me though that with regard to [REDACTED] this was one incident that occurred in 1981, approximately November of 1981 and it involved a fondling on one occasion, but two separate instances of it on that one occasion. When he first came into the room and sat on the couch with you and after he came out of the bathroom.

MB: That is correct.

PAC: And there were, you're telling me also there was no oral or anal sex between you?

MB: There was not.

PAC: Uh, what are your circumstances, your financial circumstances?

MB: I make about, I take home around \$1,700.00 a month.

PAC: And uh,...

MB: I make it from month to month.

PAC: How much are your living expenses?

MB: I pay a student loan of \$275.00 a month and my living expenses are about, I'd say \$850.00, \$900.00 a month.

PAC: If uh, and this is an if question, I don't have the authority to make any decisions along this line, but if the Diocese decided to help this family with their medical bills, do you expect the Diocese to pay for that or do you think you bear some responsibility in paying for it? Any treatment that this [REDACTED] child might require.

MB: If you'd have asked me that in more than a couple of weeks ago, I'd have said I would have the whole responsibility. At this point, the way that I have been angry, I do feel the Diocese bears a responsibility and I do think that kid deserves the treatment, yes, yes I do.

PAC: And you, you say that you think the Diocese bears a responsibility?

MB: Yes, I do.

PAC: Do you think that you should share in any responsibility?

MB: I do not.

PAC: You don't?

MB: As a matter of fact, I feel angry at the number of years that were even taken away from me. Call it my own inability to say no to priesthood. I feel like that I have been misdirected also. I do believe that.

PAC: You were misdirected...

MB: (inaudible) - asking you that, I'm answering that now.

PAC: I understand that.

MB: It's my answer in the last year - I had a very different answer two and a half weeks ago.

PAC: I see. Do you want to add anything along this line, George? Are you a practicing Catholic today?

MB: Yes, I am. As a matter of fact, I am in counseling.

PAC: Are you involved with children in any way?

MB: No, I'm not.

PAC: Do you understand that...

MB: The boundaries have been very good. As a matter of fact, since I've come out of priesthood, it's been very good.

PAC: Do you understand that if you were ever to seek employment from the Diocese of Lake Charles and we found out about it, we'd have to notify them of these activities? Do you understand?

MB: I do understand that.

PAC: Let's go off the record for a minute. I just want to see, review my notes here. We're back on the record. I don't want any statements to be off the record here and the last question that I asked you with regard to employment, I'm talking about if you were to seek employment at a Catholic school, a Catholic church, a Catholic nursery, anything having to do with...

MB: That's what I understood.

PAC: ...a Catholic church and of course, if anybody, if anybody contacted us, we would have to reveal, we'd have to reveal at least that we've had some problems along this line. Do you understand that?

MB: I do understand that.

PAC: Uh, we're back on the record again and there was no conversation that took place while this machine was stopped. Is that right?

MB: That is correct.

PAC: Um, did you ever notice any distinguishing marks on any of these children that you've testified about?

MB: God - no(?).

PAC: No?

MB: Excuse me, that isn't, that is not correct because I would have on [REDACTED] because [REDACTED] because that's exactly what began it, a distinguishing mark on [REDACTED] penis.

PAC: Okay. Alright.

MB: As I've already stated.

PAC: Okay. Is there anything that you wanted to add here that you haven't already told me?

MB: No.

PAC: Have you made a complete statement regarding your activities with these children?

MB: Yes, I have.

PAC: And have you been truthful?

MB: As much as I remember, that is correct.

PAC: Uh, do you want to add anything, Mr. Stearns?

GS: For the record, the '81 incident with [REDACTED] in the rectory, there were no other children that...

MB: Witness that.

GS: ...or were approached by you in any way?

MB: No. No, no.

GS: Boy, girl?

MB: No.

GS: Okay.

PAC: I believe that's all I have unless you would like to add anything or tell me something that I haven't asked you about that you think is pertinent or important. Okay, well thank you for coming over here today. I appreciate that. Thank you. That ends this interview.