



# The Marist Fathers & Brothers

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Office of the Provincial

## SUMMARY

In September, 1992, Fr. Armand Thibault, S.M., working in a parish in northern Maine, was accused of fondling a 13 year old boy. The incident was alleged to have happened at a chapel cabin near a lake, where two scouts were spending the night with Fr. Thibault after working on some renovations there.

Bishop Proulx and, two days later, I, met with the parents involved. Fr. Thibault was removed from the parish.

On March 12, 1993, Fr. Thibault was indicted by the State of Maine, Superior Court, Aroostook County, on two charges:

- 1) unlawful sexual contact with a child under 14 and
- 2) endangering the welfare of a minor by providing beer.

At a trial on October 27, 1993, Fr. Thibault was found not guilty of the first charge and pled no contest to the second. (His lawyer advised him that since the two boys took and split a beer in his presence that he should simply not oppose this charge.)

After this whole ordeal, Fr. Thibault spent mid-June 1994 until mid-January 1995, at The New Life Center in Virginia. They see no difficulty with a return to ministry, but have told Fr. Thibault that he should expect never to work with children again.

I want to explore ministry possibilities for Fr. Thibault in the Archdiocese of Boston. For example: chaplain to Sisters, hospital/nursing home, or ministry at a Our Lady of Victories Shrine (no youth organizations, no servers, few children even at liturgies).

Fr. Thibault is 62 years old, has been a Marist since 1984 -- after 34 years as a Sacred Heart Brother, and has been ordained since 1985.

I appreciate your help in how best to proceed.

Sincerely,

*Joseph C. Hindelang, sm.*

Very Rev. Joseph C. Hindelang, s.m.  
Provincial Superior

January 8, 1995

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