

Father Christian:

I'm writing this because I get flustered when I talk about such things. I feel it is my duty and also I feel God wants you to know about this incident. I have no intention of taking this to the Civil Authorities as I feel it would do more damage than good to the Church.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, 1995 at approx. 3:45 PM, I went to Confession to Father Hillery, (the Indian Priest staying at our Parish). It was at St. Patrick's Church in Manchester. We, my two daughters - ages 13 & 16 - and I were waiting about 15 min. to go to confession. We go to confession every 2 weeks if possible.

Father Hillery came in and turned on the heater in the Confessional because it was ice cold in there. He stands outside the Confessional till someone wants to go in and Confess. Since the girls get impatient, I went up and asked to go. He asked if I was in a hurry or could I wait till the Confessional warmed up. I said I could wait and did so.

After a few minutes he went in, then I went in and knelt at the screen while he sat on the other side and I made my Confession. As soon as I finished he came around the screen

and asked if I would miss him (because he had to go back to India). I said yes, (because I knew Father Rogers needed all the help he could get). Then he asked if I would write to him. I said yes (because Fr. Kaminsky S.J., who was at our Parish for a while had asked the same thing. He sent Christmas cards and different notes to us on the Rosary).

Father Hillery then gave me some paper and a pen. I wrote down my name and address. He then asked for my phone # and I wrote that down. When I finished he asked me again if I would miss him. (Thinking he was insecure) I said yes. Each time I said no more than just yes.

After that yes he took my hands and rubbed his cheeks on my cheeks. He had done this other times when I went to Confession and also once outside our Sacristy. I had thought it was an Indian custom and did not want to offend him, so I let him do that.

After that, he held me in a bear hug, one arm over my shoulder and one arm under my arm. (This I am accustomed to ~~when~~ my brother-in-laws doing before they leave to go home to New Jersey.) So I hugged him good-bye, then tried to get loose and he wouldn't let me go.

While holding me firm with his right hand he kept pressing me up against himself as I tried to get away. With my hands I

tried to propel myself backward toward the door. (I was not inclined to punch or kick the person of a Priest of God.) Each time I tried to get away, he would move his left hand up and down the back of my body pressing me harder against him and himself against me. He was also with his face constantly rubbing my face. His cheeks to my cheeks. He also said I was very beautiful (which made me feel sick and bad).

When he tried to kiss my lips I lunged backward as hard as I could, caught the knob of the Confessional door and threw it open. As soon as it opened he dropped both of his hands to his sides and stood there as I ran out as fast as I could.

I was upset but didn't want to expose the Church in a bad light to my children. I also knew my daughters would be very quick to exit the Confessional because they get embarrassed when the Priest does see them. So I told them to go to Confession but run out as soon as they were done. Both of them did because Fr. Hillery had tried to come out from behind the screen on them before.

I told my Husband when he joined us for Mass. (He is not Catholic but attends Mass with us every week.) He thought it was the cheek brushing bit, so he told me if I was concerned to go tell Fr. Rogers. When we came home I explained it to my Husband in detail. He felt helpless and said to tell Fr.

Rogers. He also told me to stay away from St. Pat's (I go to Mass daily) until Fr. Hillery leaves.

After I made supper, I needed to talk to [REDACTED] because it bothered me. That is how [REDACTED] came to know of it and here I am.

I beg your pardon Father, for having to present you with this problem. [REDACTED] said you would notify Fr. Hillery's Bishop. I have prayed for Fr. Hillery but now I want to forget about it because when I think of it I have difficulty sleeping and it upsets me very much.