COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

GREGORY FORD, et al.,
Plaintiff,

vs.

BERNARD CARDINAL LAW, a/k/a,
CARDINAL BERNARD F. LAW,
Defendants.

Superior Court
Civil Action
No. 02-0626

PAUL W. BUSA,
Plaintiff,

vs.

BERNARD CARDINAL LAW, a/k/a,
CARDINAL BERNARD F. LAW, et al.
Defendants.

Civil Action
No. 02-0822

ANTHONY DRISCOLL,
Plaintiff,

vs.

BERNARD CARDINAL LAW, a/k/a,
CARDINAL BERNARD F. LAW, et al.
Defendants.

Civil Action
No. 02-1737

THE FIFTH DAY OF THE VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION OF CARDINAL BERNARD F. LAW, a witness called by the Plaintiffs, taken pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure, before Kathleen L. Good, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, at the offices of Greenberg Traurig, One International Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, on Friday, October 11, 2002, commencing at 10:04 a.m.

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Q I think that this is the first one that we've had today of the letters that have been sent to you involving Father Rosenkranz, Father Graham, the complaint from the person working at DSS, this is the first one, I believe, that has that particular stamp on it, if I'm not mistaken. 15:26:54 15:26:55 15:26:57 15:27:03 15:27:07 15:27:09
Do you see that? 15:27:13
MR. CRAWFORD: Let me object to the form of the question. 15:27:14 15:27:15
A Excuse me?
MR. CRAWFORD: Are you asking him if he sees this? 15:27:16 15:27:17
Q That's okay. You see the stamp, right? 15:27:18
A I do see the stamp, yes. 15:27:19
Q We've been through a number of documents, such as Exhibit No. 80 concerning Father Graham, that did not have the stamp on it; Exhibit No. 79, which did not have the not acknowledged stamp on it; the exhibit that we spoke about previously from DSS which did not have the not acknowledged stamp on it. 15:27:21 15:27:23 15:27:26 15:27:32 15:27:36 15:27:39 15:27:42
A I don't see that DSS thing, but that's all right. 15:27:54
Q I think we went over it. 15:27:56
A It's a matter of record. If it has it, it has 15:27:57

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it. If it doesn't, it doesn't. 15:28:00
Q Well, in any event, Cardinal Law, do you remember receiving this letter concerning Father Joseph Birmingham? 15:28:02 15:28:05 15:28:08
A Let me finish reading it. 15:28:10
(Pause.) 15:28:13
A I do not remember receiving this letter. 15:28:54
Q All right. 15:28:58
A And, again, the stamps would indicate that the way in which this was handled, "Not acknowledged at Residence," sent to the Office of Ministerial Personnel, with the implicit understanding that they would respond. 15:28:59 15:29:04 15:29:07 15:29:09 15:29:13
Q So when that stamp doesn't appear, it's -- it could have been the case that you saw the letter directly? 15:29:14 15:29:17 15:29:19
A Not necessarily but could have been. If the stamp is there, that's a likely indication that I did not see the letter. 15:29:19 15:29:22 15:29:25
Q Well, again, Cardinal Law, this is yet another letter in the 1984 to 1989 time period -- I think it's the fifth letter that we've covered so far: We've covered the DSS letter, we've covered the Rosenkranz letter, we've covered the letter 15:29:26 15:29:29 15:29:32 15:29:37 15:29:39

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concerning Father Graham and now we have the letter concerning Father Birmingham. And did I mention Rosenkranz? So four -- 15:29:42 15:29:47 15:29:50
A You did mention Rosenkranz. He might have been in there. Was he the DSS? 15:29:52 15:29:55
Q No, no. The DSS doesn't -- mentions diocesan -- 15:29:57
A That's right. It doesn't mention -- 15:30:01
Q Doesn't mention anybody. 15:30:02
Anyway, we've had, at this point, at least, four or five of these letters that have been sent to you, none of which you remember receiving. 15:30:03 15:30:06 15:30:10
A '84 to '89. 15:30:10
Q '84 to '89 time period. 15:30:11
A A letter a year. 15:30:13
Q Well -- 15:30:14
A About. Average. Right? 15:30:14
Q Cardinal, we've only gotten the records of 15 priests and we're not quite through, so we have some more records we're going to show you today. 15:30:16 15:30:19 15:30:22
A Fine. 15:30:25
Q But I would ask you, in light of your testimony this morning that the issue of childhood sexual abuse by clergy was not something that you considered to be pervasive in the time period 15:30:25 15:30:28 15:30:30 15:30:32

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from '84 to '89, there certainly were complaints that were made; is that correct? 15:30:34 15:30:37
A That's correct. 15:30:38
Q There were certainly priests who -- one priest who had admitted engaging in it. 15:30:40 15:30:43
A That's correct. 15:30:45
Q Actually, two priests because Father O'Sullivan pled guilty, correct? 15:30:45 15:30:48
A Correct. 15:30:48
Q So now we have a letter concerning Father Birmingham. And isn't it the case -- and I don't want to go over this again -- but you assigned Father Birmingham to St. Brigid's in Lexington after there had been allegations that he had been involved in sexual misconduct with minors at St. Ann's in Gloucester; is that correct? 15:30:50 15:30:56 15:30:59 15:31:05 15:31:08 15:31:11 15:31:15
A That's correct. 15:31:16
Q And you, in fact, made Father Birmingham or assigned Father Birmingham the pastorship of St. Ann's in Gloucester; is that correct? 15:31:18 15:31:21 15:31:25
A I believe I -- I believe I did, depending on what year that -- 15:31:26 15:31:30
Q That was 1985. 15:31:30
A -- that he was made -- yes, I would have then. I 15:31:31

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would have been here -- 15:31:34
Q And you now know -- 15:31:34
A -- a year. 15:31:36
Q I'm sorry. 15:31:36
A Yes. 15:31:37
Q You now know -- and it's actually in Exhibit 47 -- that dating back to the -- to 1964, there were allegations of sexual misconduct against Father Birmingham? 15:31:38 15:31:41 15:31:46 15:31:49
A I see that in terms of this document, yes. 15:31:49
Q And then you'll turn to the next page and you'll see more allegations in 1970 against Father Birmingham. 15:31:52 15:31:55 15:31:59
Do you see that? 15:31:59
A I do. 15:32:00
Q So when someone came forward with respect to Father Birmingham, he was not removed from ministry; he was transferred over from St. Ann's as pastor to St. Brigid's in Lexington. True? 15:32:05 15:32:09 15:32:10 15:32:14
A You read even what this letter says in the second paragraph -- 15:32:23 15:32:28
Q Right. 15:32:28
A -- "Resigned for reasons of health." 15:32:28
I don't recall the year that Father 15:32:37

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Birmingham died but I do recall -- 15:32:38
Q '89. 15:32:44
A I do recall that he had cancer. 15:32:45
Q Right. 15:32:50
A And I do recall that he was in residence at St. Brigid's, died at St. Brigid's. 15:32:54 15:32:59
Q Right. 15:33:03
A And as I recall, but the record should show that -- and I haven't checked those records -- is I recall he had a very restricted assignment at St. Brigid's in view of his health. He was, in effect, dying. 15:33:04 15:33:09 15:33:12 15:33:18 15:33:22
Q Well, he died in 1989, Cardinal Law. 15:33:23
A That's correct. 15:33:24
Q He was transferred in 1987. So my question to you is: 15:33:25 15:33:28
After the allegations surfaced at St. Ann's, you transferred him to St. Brigid's in Lexington, and you did not place any restrictions on him in terms of his access to minors while he was at St. Brigid's, correct? 15:33:28 15:33:31 15:33:35 15:33:38 15:33:41
A I'm not sure that's true. I'd want to check that out. I would want to check that out. 15:33:42 15:33:46
Q Could you? Okay. All right. That's fine. If 15:33:48

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you have any documents that show that -- 15:33:50
A I would want to check that out. Yes, I'd want to check that out and I'd want to check that out in terms of a discussion that I recently had with a victim of Father Birmingham. 15:33:53 15:34:01 15:34:04 15:34:06
Q In any event, Father Birmingham was at a parish after the allegations -- 15:34:07 15:34:13
A He was. He was. 15:34:15
Q -- were made involving his misconduct at St. Ann's? 15:34:15 15:34:18
A He was. 15:34:18
Q And what was the purpose in transferring him to a parish as opposed to some sort of facility such as Our Lady's in Milton or another facility where he could have a close eye kept on him? 15:34:19 15:34:23 15:34:26 15:34:29
A Yeah. My sense is that, that his health situation was precarious and the idea was to put him in a place where there would be -- there could be limitation upon him but he would be with someone who knew him and --. 15:34:31 15:34:39 15:34:43 15:34:48 15:34:53
Q Someone who knew him? 15:34:59
A Yes. A priest. 15:35:01
Q Okay. All right. Let's now refer to the case of Father John Geoghan, if we could, please. 15:35:02 15:35:07

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(Law Exhibit No. 84, Handwritten Document, 9/6/84, marked for identification.)
(Pause.) 15:35:40
(Law Exhibit No. 85, Letter, 9/18/84, marked for identification.)
Q You've read Exhibit No. 84? 15:37:46
A I have. 15:37:48
Q This is a letter that you've seen before; is that correct? 15:37:48 15:37:50
A Yes. 15:37:50
Q It's a letter sent to you on September 6, 1984, by a Margaret Gallant concerning Father John Geoghan; is that correct? 15:37:51 15:37:54 15:37:56
A It is. 15:37:57
Q And she reports in the letter that she has three nephews and four grandnephews who have had dealings with Father Geoghan. 15:37:58 15:38:00 15:38:06
A Yes. 15:38:06
Q "I'm quite certain of these facts" and she reports to you in this letter that Father Geoghan lately has been seen in the company of many boys. 15:38:06 15:38:07 15:38:12
Do you see that? 15:38:18
A Yes. 15:38:18