

1 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
2 COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

3 GREGORY FORD, et al.,
4 Plaintiff,

5 vs.

Superior Court
Civil Action
No. 02-0626

6 BERNARD CARDINAL LAW, a/k/a,
7 CARDINAL BERNARD F. LAW,
8 Defendants.

9 -----
10 PAUL W. BUSA,
11 Plaintiff,

12 vs.

Civil Action
No. 02-0822

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

16 -----
17 ANTHONY DRISCOLL,
18 Plaintiff,

19 vs.

Civil Action
No. 02-1737

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

23 THE FIFTH DAY OF THE VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION
24 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.

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

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

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

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

1 would have been here -- 15:31:34
2 Q And you now know -- 15:31:34
3 A -- a year. 15:31:36
4 Q I'm sorry. 15:31:36
5 A Yes. 15:31:37
6 Q You now know -- and it's actually in Exhibit 15:31:38
7 47 -- that dating back to the -- to 1964, there 15:31:41
8 were allegations of sexual misconduct against 15:31:46
9 Father Birmingham? 15:31:49
10 A I see that in terms of this document, yes. 15:31:49
11 Q And then you'll turn to the next page and you'll 15:31:52
12 see more allegations in 1970 against Father 15:31:55
13 Birmingham. 15:31:59
14 Do you see that? 15:31:59
15 A I do. 15:32:00
16 Q So when someone came forward with respect to 15:32:05
17 Father Birmingham, he was not removed from 15:32:09
18 ministry; he was transferred over from St. Ann's 15:32:10
19 as pastor to St. Brigid's in Lexington. True? 15:32:14
20 A You read even what this letter says in the second 15:32:23
21 paragraph -- 15:32:28
22 Q Right. 15:32:28
23 A -- "Resigned for reasons of health." 15:32:28
24 I don't recall the year that Father 15:32:37

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

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

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