

27 February 2004

Accused	Victim	Location	Date	Synopsis of Allegation
Bigelin, Charles DECEASED	XXX (13)	Old Town	1953	XXX called AG's Office on 3/14/2002. Reported that Biglin tried to get him to unzip his trousers; XXX refused; Biglin attempted to fondle him through clothing but was not successful. In 1995 (42 years later), XXX wanted to go public with the incident, but was discouraged in doing so by XXX.

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Father Charles P. Bigelin:

XXX reported that Father Bigelin had abused him. XXX was born in 1940 and alleges that the abuse took place in Old Town when he was about 13 years old, thus in 1953. XXX describes the abuse as happening in the sacristy of the church. XXX was told to unzip his pants and when he did, Father tried to grab him: XXX left and from that point on avoided Fr. Bigelin. Mr. XXX was offered counseling but never followed through.

Father Charles Bigelin was born in 1886 and was ordained a priest in 1915. He died at the age of 76 in 1962. Father Bigelin was pastor of St. Mary Parish in Old Town from 1935 to his death in 1962. For the last 10 years of his life, Father suffered from a number of illnesses.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Investigation Division

Date: March 14, 2002
To: Brian MacMaster
From: Det. Mark Walsh
Subject: Sexual abuse by Clergy

Date of Call: 3/14/02

Name of Caller: XXX

Date of Birth: XXX

Telephone: XXX

Address: XXX

Name and Position of Accused: Charles Biglin, Roman Catholic priest, St. Mary's Church, Old Town, Maine

Approximate Date of Event: 1953

Location of Event: St. Mary's Church (Sacristy), Old Town, Maine

Description of Event: One incident of Attempted Unlawful Sexual Contact/

Caller reported that Biglin told him (caller) to unzip his pants and then he attempted to fondle his (caller's) genitals. There were no witnesses to event.

Present Whereabouts of Accused: deceased (1962).

I returned a call to Mr. XXX. Mr. XXX explained that in 1953, when he was about 13 years old, he attended a public school in Old Town, but attended St. Mary's Church. Mr. XXX said that one day in 1953, he went to Confession and Father Biglin heard his Confession. At the end of Confession, Father Biglin instructed him to go to the Church Sacristy and wait for him. Once there, he waited about ten minutes. Father Biglin then arrived and he met with Father Biglin privately. Father Biglin then told him "I need to have you unzip your trousers". Mr. XXX said he thought this was a strange request and knew that it would be wrong for him to do so. Mr. XXX said that he did not unzip his trousers, but about ten seconds later, Father Biglin tried to touch his (XXX's) penis. Mr. XXX said Father Biglin did not say anything further. Mr. XXX said that he does not know if Father Biglin actually touched him, but he was sure that Father Biglin was trying to do so. Mr. XXX said he decided to get out of there and left quickly. Mr. XXX said he did not tell anyone about the incident until he related it to his wife years later.

Mr. XXX said in the years following his incident with Father Biglin, he was wary of him. Mr. XXX added that a few years after the incident, he had to drop something off at St. Mary's Rectory and Father Biglin opened the door after he knocked on it. Mr. XXX said that when Father Biglin opened the door, he looked inside and observed that inside there was a man he knew to be XXX with two or three young kids. Mr. XXX said that they were not doing anything inappropriate, but it made him wonder what they were doing there with the children. Mr. XXX also said that Father Biglin was always taking orphaned children to live with him at the Rectory and he wondered if anything had gone on with them.

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Mr. XXX said that in 1995, he wanted to "go public" with what happened to him, so he could find out if Father Biglin had victimized other children from Old Town. Mr. XXX said he conferred with XXX about his intentions, and XXX discouraged him from doing so.

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