

Archdiocese Documents

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9News anchor, on set: Tonight, the I-Team lays out documents the Archdiocese of Cincinnati hoped people would never see.

9News anchor, on set: They show the Cincinnati Archdiocese leaders' failure to report the sexual abuse of a priest with dozens of victims.

9News anchor, on set: I-Team reporter Laure Quinlivan has our exclusive report.

Laure Quinlivan, I-Team reporter: "Have you covered up any of the crimes of your priests?"

Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk, on tape: "No, No."

Laure Quinlivan, on tape: "Have you reported felony child abuse to police as required by Ohio law?"

Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk, on tape: "Yes."

Laure Quinlivan, on tape: "When?"

Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk, on tape: "When required."

Laure Quinlivan, on tape: "Well, that's been a law since 1974. Have you been reporting all the child abuse you've become aware of to police?"

Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk, on tape: "We have reported all the child abuse that we are required to report. That's all I can tell you, I don't know any more than that."

Victim of priest, on tape: "He is a liar."

Laure Quinlivan, I-Team reporter, on video: Victims are angry after reading these letters from one priest's personnel file. They call them bombshells and we're going to show them to you.

David Kelley was a charming priest who befriended boys from West Side parishes he served, and from Elder High School where he taught religion.

Victim of priest, on tape: "We thought, why don't we invite Father Kel? Father Kel's cool."

Laure Quinlivan, I-Team reporter, on video: In May of '83, his glee club invited Chaplain Kelley to their end of year party. He says Kelley drank with the teens then invited him in for a nightcap.

Victim of priest, identity hidden, on tape: "I said sure."

Laure Quinlivan, I-Team Reporter, on video: He was naive, and a virgin. Kelley was a wrestler, chaplain of Elder's team. He used wrestling skills to pin the boy's head between his legs and sexually assault him.

Victim of priest, identity hidden, on tape: "That still just haunts me."

Laure Quinlivan, I-Team reporter, on video: "Why?"

Victim of priest, identity hidden, on tape: "Because I'm a male and that just doesn't happen."

Laure Quinlivan, I-Team reporter, on video: "He made you question your sexuality?"

Victim of priest, identity hidden, on tape: "Yeah, everything. You know what happened to me? I haven't told my wife what I've told you."

Victim of David Kelley, identity hidden, on tape: "The drinking and smoking. Full screen image of four victims.

Victims say Kelley routinely invited boys to his room where he gave them beer, pot, porn and molested those he could.

Victim of priest, identity hidden, on tape: "He says what happened here, we can't let this go out of this room, and I was like who do you think I'm gonna tell?"

Laure Quinlivan, I-Team reporter, on video: He graduated in '83 and told no one. But that fall, another victim did tell. An Elder sophomore told his mom Kelley had abused him, and she told Elder Principal Tom Kuhn.

Voice of victim's mother from phone call: "I talked to Father Kuhn on the phone and told him."

Laure Quinlivan, I-Team reporter, on video: This letter proves Archbishop Pilarczyk knew several teens accused Kelley of molesting them.

Names are erased from these letters, but using dates and Catholic directories, the I-Team fills in the blanks.

Full screen graphic of letter.

Pilarczyk writes in the fall of '83:

"The priest principal, [Laure says: Father Tom Kuhn], reported parents of at least two students said..(Father Kelley) had them take off their clothes and he touched their genitals....within a few weeks the same kind of reports were brought to the principal by several additional students"

"fearing the real possibility of widespread scandal... (fr. kelley) was told he would have to leave the faculty and the parish. he readily agreed. he was strongly advised...to enter into professional counseling. he never did, to the best of my knowledge."

Laure Quinlivan, I-Team reporter, on video: Compare the Archbishop's letter to the what he told the I-Team about Kelley in 2003.

Archbishop Pilarczyk, on tape during 2003 interview with I-Team: "He was excessively familiar with young men."

Laure Quinlivan, I-Team reporter, on video, during 2003 interview: "You removed Father Kelley from Elder. Why wouldn't you remove him from the priesthood? You didn't even send him to counseling."

Archbishop Pilarczyk, on tape during 2003 interview with I-Team: "No, I'm sorry, I don't remember all the details. I'm not trying to be coy, I don't remember."

Victim of David Kelley, on tape: He should have taken Father Kelley by the hand and marched him right down to police and said here, we know this guy is abusing little kids."

Graphic of a letter.

Laure Quinlivan, I-Team reporter, voice over video: This memo shows leaders knew the law. In 1985, Priest Personnel Director Paul Rehling writes, Kelley should be sent to counseling "out of state. Reason: Ohio law requires reporting of child abuse."

Laure Quinlivan, I-Team reporter, voice over video: Instead of calling police to report Kelley's alleged abuse, the Archbishop moved him to St. Christopher's, north of Dayton.

No one told the pastor here Kelley might be a child molestor. Two years later, he kicked Kelley out.

(Graphic of a letter.)

Laure Quinlivan, I-Team reporter, reading text of letter: Reverend Bob Monnin writes Kelley...

"The first day or so of your arrival, I bluntly asked you what the problem was. You said very little. I did emphatically state to you, 'no one except priests or family would be allowed to go to the second floor into our quarters.'"

"In the months that followed, there were numerous occasions when you took people into your room while I was in Texas. It's evident that [boy] was allowed to spend the night."

"[Boy] is a high school student who missed school the next day. Frankly, this scares the Hell out of me!"
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