

BTE

Record of interview with [BTC] (nee [REDACTED] by
Mons.H. Deakin, with Fr B.Fleming, Saturday 5/12/92, at St
Patrick's Cathedral Presbytery, at 11.30 a.m.

[BTC] began by saying her Sister is having trouble coming to terms with this whole problem and so couldn't face coming here today. As a result the 3rd party also did not come.

I was a victim of a priest's sexual assault. It has all come out in my recent interviews with a therapist. I think it was 1953, at St Mary of the Angels, Geelong, when I was about 11. My Dad was much involved in the parish, with teaching converts and lots of other work, in the days of Dean O'Brien. Fr Fasciale was a curate, and often at our home. I cannot recall whether my Mum was there (she and Dad separated). Fr F. used to kiss me, touch my breasts, press himself against me and say this is our little secret. *It happened more than once*

I can have compassion for him, but the fact remains that he did this. I don't know how far he went with my younger sister (she may have been penetrated); she is in therapy. When hearing confessions he would have her sitting on his knees - never so with me, I would not let him. My sister told our Gran about this and she told Dad who went to Fr (now known as Monsignor) O'Regan and as a result Fr F was moved to another parish.

Just recently my sister was talking to a woman she had met and was discussing childhood assaults, only to find that this woman also had suffered such and, could you believe it, she had been molested in 1959 at St Brigids in North Fitzroy by the same Fr F.! Imagine, still doing the same as he had done in Geelong 6 years before.

The lady's name is [BTA] (I don't know whether that is her married or maiden name).

I rang Monsignor Murray at Geelong recently and was told, in answer to my query, that Fr F. had been a curate at St Mary's at the time I mentioned.

With me Fr F. did this about once a week, over a period of time; I can't be more explicit because I can't remember now, you suppress nasty details like this. But the truth is, he took advantage of us. Lots of decisions we've made in our lives come from what he did, yes, we were affected by these experiences. Therapy can't cure this. He should not be a priest now, with the opportunity to do this to innocent children. We need to hear from the others whom he molested.

I am married (for the 2nd time) to an Anglican and we live at [REDACTED] - went there after he had a stroke about 18 months ago. I got an annulment last year from my first marriage (Fr Hannon the priest involved in my annulment).

My Sister was seeking an annulment, too, but the priest doing the interview (not Fr Hannon) made a comment she didn't like:

when she spoke about what Fr F. had done to her, he just said: don't you know Fr F. is Italian and Italians are affectionate and like to show it? She was upset by this and did not go on with the annulment.

For my own therapy I'd like to face Fr F. and tell him what he did to me.

I'll talk to my Sister and she'll talk to BTA.
[Mons. Deakin said he would like to see them, so could they ring him to arrange a time?].

I went to a therapist last year and these things came out then. My hubbie who is an emotional man is helping me to cope, even though he himself is a sick man.

[Mons. Deakin asked her to recapitulate so that he could be sure what were the past events]. He never did anything to me in the confessional, because I would not go to him but to another priest. He always did these things just inside the door of our house ~~_____~~ never in the open nor when other people were around.

My Sister's therapist is named REDACTED; she goes to her every week.

I trust you enough, Monsignor, to do what is right. Fr F. caused all of us a lot of trauma.

[Mons. Deakin said he would wait on the next phone call, and hoped it would be soon, as he doesn't like things like this just hanging].

The interview ended at just on midday.

The above is a quite literal transcript of a most gushing speech by BTC. She hardly paused for breath; the whole story was as disjointed as it reads. She spoke with obvious hurt, but left me - rightly or wrongly - with the uneasy feeling that many of the words, and much of her outlook, came from her therapist or from her Sister's therapist. She clearly feels deeply about her Sister.

Despite protestations of not looking for blood, repeatedly she insisted that Fr F. should not be allowed to practice now as a priest - and this because of things known to her which occurred nearly 40 years ago or 34 years ago.

REDACTED

Phone number for BTC
the sister lives at REDACTED

RF Fleming