



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

222 North Seventeenth Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299
Telephone (215) 587-3754

Archdiocesan Review Board

Recommendations of the Archdiocesan Review Board Reverend David Sicoli

The Review Board finds that Reverend David Sicoli is in violation of The Essential Norms defining sexual abuse of a minor contained in *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The Archdiocesan Review Board concludes unanimously that:

1. There are five victims of multiple substantiated allegations of sexual abuse
2. There are three victims of multiple substantiated allegations of sexual exploitation
3. Father Sicoli should be removed from active ministry

Basis for Decision:

1. There are multiple substantiated allegations involving a total of 11 minors over an extensive period of time beginning in 1977 and proceeding to 2002.
2. There is a documented history of a disturbing pattern of multiple contemporaneous reports from priests living with Father Sicoli regarding his inappropriate behavior regarding young boys.
3. Father Sicoli's actions were similar regarding the five victims of sexual abuse. He rubbed their stomachs, moving lower and lower; he stood over them and masturbated and ejaculated; he slept with them and he openly masturbated in their presence. These actions occurred primarily at Father Sicoli's home at the New Jersey seashore but also occurred in his car and at the rectory over a period of time.
4. Father Sicoli's actions were similar regarding the three victims of sexual exploitation. He took these youth on trips to California and the seashore. He slept with one victim primarily and took all three victims to bars and encouraged them to see a prostitute in Mexico during the trip to California.
5. Father Sicoli's actions were sufficiently obvious as to generate numerous complaints to the Office for the Clergy from numerous priests and parishioners over the period from 1977 to the present. These complaints included concerns that he was exhibiting inappropriate behavior toward male youth. As a result, as early as 1978, the Office for the Clergy instructed his parish pastor not to place him in any position regarding the youth of the parish.

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The Archdiocesan Review Board's substantiation of allegations that Fr. Sicoli sexually abused or exploited 11 minors. The Archdiocese began receiving allegations in 1977 but did not try to investigate them until 2004. GJ-2647

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6. Interviews were conducted with 8 victims all of whom gave credible accounts of their abuse which were also supported by interviews with other clergy and lay people who served in the parishes where Father Sicoli was assigned.
7. Interviews were conducted with 5 priests and one lay person who had previously complained about his behavior or who had served in parishes where he was assigned. All provided information that would support the veracity of the victims allegations.
8. Father Sicoli was also interviewed and denied the allegations. He did confirm much of the victims stories regarding the trips to the seashore, the activities of the CYO, the trip to California which lend credence to the victims' allegations as well.

Signature: James Amato
James Amato, Coordinator

Date: 10/9/04
Submitted to the Archdiocese

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