

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

NORFOLK, SS.

SUPERIOR COURT  
CIVIL ACTION NO.

**21 463**

JOHN DOE II,	)
Plaintiff	)
	)
v.	)
	)
ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF	)
BOSTON, A CORPORATION SOLE, and	)
DEFENDANT TWO,	)
Defendants	)

**COMPLAINT AND  
JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

**A. PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff John Doe II is an individual with a residential address in Middlesex County, Massachusetts.

2. Defendant Roman Catholic Archbishop Of Boston, A Corporation Sole (hereinafter referred to as "Defendant RCAB") is a religious corporation organized pursuant to Massachusetts law with a principal place of business at 66 Brooks Drive, Braintree, Norfolk County, Massachusetts. At all relevant and material times, Defendant RCAB had a duty to hire, supervise, direct, and retain priests of the RCAB, including the late Father Bernard L. Sullivan (hereinafter referred to as "Father Sullivan").

3. Defendant Two is an individual the identity of whom is presently unknown to the Plaintiff; therefore, the Plaintiff files the above-captioned action against Defendant Two by such fictitious name. At relevant and material times, Defendant Two was or had been a supervisor of the RCAB with a duty to hire, supervise, direct, and retain Father Sullivan.

**B. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

4. In approximately 1960, Father Sullivan was ordained as a priest of the RCAB. Upon information and belief, Father Sullivan is deceased.

5. From approximately 1969 to approximately 1976, Father Sullivan was assigned to or affiliated with St. Catherine of Genoa Parish, Somerville, Massachusetts (hereinafter referred to as "St. Catherine's Parish"), where Father Sullivan apparently had duties and responsibilities that included, among other things, supervising, directing, counseling, and otherwise interacting with minor children of St. Catherine's Parish. At all relevant and material times, St. Catherine's Parish was a parish of the RCAB.

6. Plaintiff was raised Catholic and attended St. Catherine's Church, the Catholic church of St. Catherine's Parish, when Plaintiff was a child. Plaintiff was confirmed at St. Catherine's Church and he served as an altar boy at St. Catherine's Church when Plaintiff was a child. Plaintiff attended St. Catherine's School, the parochial grammar school of St. Catherine's Parish, from approximately 1971 when Plaintiff was about 11 years of age to approximately 1974 when Plaintiff was about 14 years of age. Plaintiff also volunteered in the rectory of St. Catherine's Parish when Plaintiff was a child.

7. At times when Plaintiff was a child attending St. Catherine's Church and serving as an altar boy at St. Catherine's Church, Plaintiff was supervised by and otherwise interacted with Father Sullivan at St. Catherine's Church.

8. Not until recently did Plaintiff have knowledge or sufficient notice that he had been harmed and that the harm was caused by the explicit sexual behavior and lewd and lascivious conduct of Father Sullivan.

9. From approximately 1970 when Plaintiff was about 10 years of age to approximately 1973 when Plaintiff was about 13 years of age, Father Sullivan repeatedly engaged in explicit sexual behavior and lewd and lascivious conduct with Plaintiff, including, among other things,

Father Sullivan making Plaintiff strip naked in front of Father Sullivan and Father Sullivan fondling and masturbating Plaintiff's penis until Plaintiff ejaculated.

10. Father Sullivan's explicit sexual behavior and lewd and lascivious conduct with Plaintiff took place in property belonging to St. Catherine's Parish, including in the rectory of St. Catherine's Parish.

11. As a result of Father Sullivan's explicit sexual behavior and lewd and lascivious conduct with the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff suffers, has suffered, and will continue to suffer in the future severe emotional distress and physical harm manifested by objective symptomatology, including, but not limited to, sleep problems; nightmares; pain; crying; and depression.

12. At all times material hereto, Father Sullivan misrepresented and concealed from Plaintiff the wrongful nature of Father Sullivan's explicit sexual behavior and lewd and lascivious conduct and that such explicit sexual behavior and lewd and lascivious conduct could harm Plaintiff.

13. As a result of said explicit sexual behavior and lewd and lascivious conduct, Plaintiff is unable at this time to fully disclose in complete detail to what degree Father Sullivan did abuse Plaintiff.

### **C. CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

#### **Count I: Plaintiff v. Defendant RCAB and Defendant Two Negligent Hiring, Retention, Direction, and Supervision**

14. The Plaintiff repeats, realleges, and incorporates by reference herein each and every allegation heretofore pleaded in this Complaint.

15. At all relevant and material times to this action, the responsibilities of Defendant RCAB and Defendant Two (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Supervisory Defendants") included the hiring, retention, direction, and supervision of priests assigned to or affiliated with St.

Catherine's Parish, where those priests would be directing, supervising, counseling, or otherwise interacting with minor children of St. Catherine's Parish.

16. At all relevant and material times to this action, the Supervisory Defendants included hiring Father Sullivan to St. Catherine's Parish; retaining Father Sullivan in his position at St. Catherine's Parish; directing Father Sullivan in his position at St. Catherine's Parish; and supervising Father Sullivan in his position at St. Catherine's Parish.

17. At all relevant and material times to this action, the Supervisory Defendants knew or should have known that Father Sullivan would interact with and was interacting with minor children of St. Catherine's Parish, including, more specifically, the Plaintiff.

18. At all relevant and material times to this action, the Supervisory Defendants had a special relationship with Father Sullivan.

19. At all relevant and material times to this action, the Supervisory Defendants had a special relationship with the Plaintiff.

20. At all relevant and material times to this action, the Supervisory Defendants had a duty of care to properly hire, retain, direct, and supervise individuals of good reputation and character who would be asked to interact with minor children of St. Catherine's Parish.

21. At all relevant and material times to this action, the Supervisory Defendants negligently breached their duty of care to properly hire, retain, direct, and supervise individuals of good reputation and character who would be asked to interact with minor children of St. Catherine's Parish, by hiring Father Sullivan to St. Catherine's Parish; by retaining Father Sullivan in Father Sullivan's position at St. Catherine's Parish; and by their failure to exercise the care of a reasonable person in their direction and supervision of Father Sullivan's interactions with minor children of St. Catherine's Parish, including Plaintiff, as the Supervisory Defendants knew or

should have known Father Sullivan was of bad character and reputation and unfit to properly interact with minor children of St. Catherine's Parish, including, more specifically, Plaintiff, and that Father Sullivan engaged or was engaging in the explicit sexual behavior and lewd and lascivious conduct with the Plaintiff as described above.

22. At all relevant and material times to this action, the Supervisory Defendants knew or should have known that Father Sullivan's explicit sexual behavior and lewd and lascivious conduct as described above would result in severe mental and emotional suffering by a victim of such conduct, including Plaintiff.

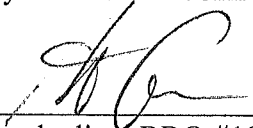
23. As a direct and proximate result of the Supervisory Defendants' negligent conduct, Plaintiff has suffered and will continued to suffer in the future: severe and permanent mental distress and emotional injuries, including objective corroboration of said mental distress and emotional injuries as outlined above; financial expenses for medical and therapeutic care and treatment; long term lost earning capacity; as well as other damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully demands judgment against Defendants on each claim in an amount to be determined by a jury, plus costs, interest, attorneys' fees, and such other and further relief as this Court deems just and equitable.

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

**PLAINTIFFS DEMAND A TRIAL BY JURY ON ALL CLAIMS.**

By Attorney for Plaintiff John Doe II,



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