

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

STATE OF ILLINOIS )  
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COUNTY OF COOK    )

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

AFFIDAVIT OF MICHAEL HUGO

MICHAEL HUGO on oath deposes and says as follows:

1. I live in Highwood, Illinois and am currently a graduate student in the University of Chicago Social Service Program. Prior to studying at the University of Chicago, I was employed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Lake Forest, Illinois. I worked at St. Mary's from 1978 to August of 1982 as the Youth Director. My educational background is in pastoral studies at Loyola University.

2. I was hired at St. Mary's while Fr. Robert Mayer was the associate priest in the parish. As Youth Director, I was responsible for directing program activities for high school students in Lake Forest and conducting outreach activities at Lake Forest High School. Our program and outreach activities included things like camping trips, dances, hayrides, roller skating, peer counseling groups, religious education programs,

trips to the inner city, informal and formal counseling offered by myself and a "drop-in" youth center on Friday evening.

3. In July of 1978 prior to my contract beginning, I visited Fr. Mayer to talk about some preliminary matters of the job. I went to his lounge/bedroom area, where he seemed to usually meet with people for casual matters such as this. He had two rooms. The room you walked into first was the bedroom. Next to the bedroom was a lounge containing a couch, chairs, television and radio. After I entered his room, he told me to have a seat in the lounge. There were several youths who were already there. Fr. Mayer took a shower in a room adjacent to the lounge. Upon coming out of the shower, he walked into the lounge nude where he proceeded to dry himself. He then put a towel around his waist and sat down. Five or ten minutes later, a high school girl knocked on the door of his room. He invited her in. She sat down and chatted a while with Fr. Mayer while he was still only wearing a wrap-around towel. She got up to leave and Fr. Mayer asked for a parting kiss. She leaned over his chair

and kissed him. After she left, Fr. Mayer made some cracks about "keeping it down" while she was there.

4. In September, 1978, I was conducting a youth program at the youth center on the parish grounds when a high school student that I knew walked into the room holding a can of beer. I told him that beer was not allowed. He said that he got the beer from "Bob's" at the rectory. This same type of incident repeated itself at least twice with another student in the following year.

5. In October, 1978, I again went up to Fr. Mayer's room. I found Fr. Mayer in the lounge with several high school boys that I knew. There were beer and pop cans in several places of the room. I left immediately because I felt it was a private gathering.

6. During my first few months at St. Mary's, Fr. Mayer talked with me about an affair he was having with a married teacher in the community. Apparently this information was also shared with high school kids he knew because they also mentioned to me her name and what they imagined going on with her and Fr.

Mayer. When I questioned Fr. Mayer about telling the kids, he always countered by saying it was not public information or only a few close friends knew. I disagreed.

7. Sometime later in about September or October of 1980, I went up to Fr. Mayer's rooms. I tapped on his door and opened it. I looked into the lounge. I was taken aback and felt embarrassed. I saw Fr. Mayer sitting on the couch watching television sitting next to a young high school age boy. Their legs were next to each other. Fr. Mayer had his arm around and resting on the boy's shoulders. I left immediately.

8. In February of 1981, I met with Fr. Mayer at a staff meeting/dinner. I asked him why he was providing liquor to the high school students. He said he didn't give it to them and that they just took it out of a refrigerator near his rooms. He said adults are just being hypocritical when they don't allow kids to drink.

9. In my years as Youth Director at St. Mary's, I had many opportunities to watch Fr. Mayer with the young boys of the parish. I felt that he exerted a strange control over them. It

reminds me of the kind of control I heard Charles Manson had over his followers. He would get kids into his group of followers by giving them freedom to do things like drink. He would require the boys to come to his room frequently. If they didn't come regularly, he would tell them that they were not wanted when they did show up.

10. Recently, a college age boy and one of Fr. Mayer's former followers told me that when he was in high school, Fr. Mayer made sexual advances towards him.

*Michael Hugo*  
MICHAEL HUGO

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO  
before me this 18<sup>th</sup> day  
of October, 1982.

