

SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Coordination Proceeding)
Special Title (Rule 1550(b)))
THE CLERGY CASES II)
[Case No. JCCP 4297)
Coordination Trial Judge: Honorable Haley J.)
Fromholz]) LASC Case No.
_____) JCCP 4297
MARY ANN M., IRENE G., MARION P. and) SDSC Case No.
MARIE C.,) GIC821122
Plaintiff,)
v.)
ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES, DIOCESE)
OF SAN DIEGO, DIOCESE OF SAN)
BERNARDINO, HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, ST.)
JOAN OF ARC CHURCH, ST. GEORGE)
CHURCH and DOES 7 through 100, inclusive,)
Defendants.)
_____)

DEPOSITION OF IRENE G.

November 2, 2006

Reported by: Jeanette E. Robinson, CSR No. 3425

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CERTIFIED COPY

11:04:07 1 | invited guest to the Becker home before you and your
11:04:10 2 | sisters moved in?
11:04:12 3 | A. I don't think so. I don't really know.
11:04:14 4 | Q. Okay. At some point Robier began to sexually
11:04:19 5 | abuse you; right?
11:04:21 6 | A. Yes.
11:04:22 7 | Q. When was the first time he abused you?
11:04:27 8 | A. I think the first time was when he was
11:04:33 9 | watching us on a Friday night when Mrs. Becker went to
11:04:39 10 | bingo. I -- I'm not -- I'm not sure.
11:04:45 11 | Q. I understand.
11:04:46 12 | A. Okay.
11:04:47 13 | Q. And do you know about what year that first
11:04:50 14 | abuse took place in?
11:04:52 15 | A. It was after he came for dinner a couple of
11:04:55 16 | times.
11:04:56 17 | Q. Late '55, early '56?
11:05:03 18 | A. Maybe the middle of '55.
11:05:04 19 | Q. Okay. And was Mr. Becker gone that Friday
11:05:10 20 | evening he first abused you?
11:05:12 21 | A. Yes.
11:05:12 22 | Q. Working his 24-hour shift?
11:05:16 23 | A. Right.
11:05:17 24 | Q. Okay. And Mrs. Becker's at bingo at the
11:05:20 25 | church.

11:05:21 1 A. Correct.

11:05:21 2 Q. And had Mrs. Becker, to your understanding,
11:05:24 3 arranged for Robier to be the babysitter?

11:05:26 4 A. Right. She would tell us that he was going
11:05:29 5 to be coming.

11:05:32 6 Q. What happened on that first occasion?

11:05:35 7 A. He -- he molested us.

11:05:40 8 Q. What did he do to you on that first occasion?

11:05:43 9 A. He would stick his finger in our vagina.

11:05:51 10 Q. Where in the Becker home were you when that
11:05:59 11 occurred?

11:05:59 12 A. In the living room.

11:06:00 13 MS. CHENG: I know you're off the video, and
11:06:03 14 I was going to say why don't we get some Kleenex.

11:06:06 15 THE WITNESS: Okay.

11:06:09 16 MS. CHENG: Box.

11:06:09 17 MS. OLIVER: Let's go off the record real
11:06:11 18 quick.

11:06:12 19 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are going off the
11:06:15 20 record.

11:06:15 21 The time is 11:05.

11:06:47 22 (Recess taken from 11:05 a.m. to 11:08 a.m.)

11:08:59 23 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are going back on the
11:09:02 24 record.

11:09:03 25 This is the beginning of Videotape No. 2.

11:09:06 1 The time is 11:08.

11:09:09 2 BY MS. OLIVER:

11:09:09 3 Q. Mrs. Griswold, on that first occasion in the
11:09:12 4 Becker home when Robier abused you, was anybody around
11:09:15 5 when he inserted his finger into your vagina?

11:09:21 6 A. My sisters.

11:09:22 7 Q. Were they all in the same room?

11:09:23 8 A. Yes.

11:09:24 9 Q. Was anyone else present?

11:09:25 10 A. No.

11:09:25 11 Q. How did it come about that he did that to
11:09:34 12 you?

11:09:34 13 A. We had dresses on, and I remember seeing --
11:09:42 14 sitting on the couch, and he kind of pulled the dress
11:09:45 15 up and I pulled it down. And then he'd pull it back
11:09:51 16 up further, and I'd push it down. And then -- then it
11:09:55 17 would go further up, and then I'd try to stop him, but
11:09:59 18 -- and then he'd push it up more. And then he'd pull
11:10:03 19 down your underpants.

11:10:04 20 Q. And then insert his finger.

11:10:08 21 A. Right.

11:10:08 22 Q. What was your reaction the first time that
11:10:17 23 Robier was doing this?

11:10:18 24 A. I wasn't sure what was going on. I -- I was
11:10:23 25 -- it was strange to me. I -- I didn't know what --

11:10:27 1 | what he was doing or why he was doing it. And I
11:10:29 2 | remember it feeling funny. I didn't know. And I just
11:10:35 3 | wanted my pants back up and my skirt dress down
11:10:38 4 | because Mrs. Becker had always -- when we'd sit always
11:10:43 5 | to make sure your legs were -- you know, and your
11:10:48 6 | dress down. So I didn't quite understand why he kept
11:10:52 7 | pulling it up.

11:10:53 8 | Q. Did you have any sense at the time that what
11:10:55 9 | he was doing was wrong?

11:10:57 10 | A. It didn't seem right. I don't know if I
11:11:00 11 | sensed it was wrong, but I didn't sense that -- why he
11:11:03 12 | was doing it, what was the reason.

11:11:07 13 | Q. Did you say anything to him when he first
11:11:10 14 | tried this in the Becker home?

11:11:11 15 | A. The first time I didn't say -- I didn't say
11:11:15 16 | anything. I -- I tried to -- you know, move his --
11:11:18 17 | his hand like that (indicating), and then he -- doing
11:11:22 18 | that, and I -- I remember saying, "No."

11:11:25 19 | Q. What did he say in response?

11:11:27 20 | A. He said, "This isn't anything --" like --
11:11:34 21 | something like, "This is all right," something to that
11:11:37 22 | effect.

11:11:42 23 | Q. How long did the event in the Becker home
11:11:46 24 | that first time take?

11:11:48 25 | A. I think he probably did it once to each one

11:11:53 1 of us, and then he made us get our pajamas on and he
11:11:58 2 put us to bed. And I don't think he did it that time
11:12:02 3 -- a second time when he put us to bed.

11:12:08 4 Q. Did you observe what he was doing to your
11:12:11 5 sisters on that evening?

11:12:13 6 A. I saw him doing that to Mary Ann M., and I
11:12:18 7 remember Mary Ann M. not liking it and also saying no
11:12:24 8 and being -- him being more -- a little more forceful
11:12:27 9 it seemed, and then I just walked away.

11:12:31 10 Q. You felt he was more forceful with Mary Ann
11:12:34 11 M.?

11:12:34 12 A. Yes.

11:12:35 13 Q. How so?

11:12:35 14 A. He seemed -- when she tried to push him away,
11:12:40 15 he seemed to be -- push her hand more or -- or around
11:12:45 16 the wrist and more aggressive in pulling up her dress.
11:12:52 17 To me it seemed like she was fighting back more with
11:12:57 18 her -- her feet.

11:12:59 19 Q. Was anyone else in the Becker home at the
11:13:02 20 time besides you and your sisters and Robier?

11:13:04 21 A. No.

11:13:04 22 Q. Did you and your sisters talk about it?

11:13:10 23 A. No.

11:13:11 24 Q. Did you tell any adult?

11:13:14 25 A. No.

11:13:23 1 Q. When was the next time that Robier abused
11:13:26 2 you?
11:13:27 3 A. It either was again when Mrs. Becker went or
11:13:35 4 it was dinner, when he came for dinner.
11:13:40 5 Q. Okay. Did Mrs. Becker play bingo every
11:13:43 6 Friday night?
11:13:45 7 A. I think so. I -- I think she played maybe at
11:13:50 8 different churches too. I don't -- don't know for
11:13:54 9 sure.
11:13:54 10 Q. Her regular habit, as you recall, was to be
11:13:57 11 playing bingo somewhere on a Friday evening?
11:13:59 12 A. Right. If Mister -- if Mr. Becker was not
11:14:02 13 home.
11:14:03 14 Q. Okay. If Mr. Becker was home, what did she
11:14:05 15 do?
11:14:05 16 A. She wouldn't normally go to bingo.
11:14:07 17 Q. How often would Mr. Becker be home on a
11:14:11 18 Friday evening?
11:14:12 19 A. It would be 24 off, 24 on. I don't really
11:14:16 20 recall.
11:14:16 21 Q. Do you know if it rotated and that he was on
11:14:20 22 a Friday and the next Friday off and then on a Friday?
11:14:23 23 A. I don't know.
11:14:24 24 Q. Okay. When Mrs. Becker was at bingo and
11:14:29 25 Mr. Becker was working, was Robier typically your

11:18:49 1 Q. And then at some point Mary Ann M. wanted her
11:18:52 2 own bed, so she moved to the living room to sleep.
11:18:55 3 A. Right.
11:18:56 4 Q. Okay. But during the period of time Agnes
11:18:58 5 was present, Agnes had the living room and Mary Ann M.
11:19:01 6 was in the bedroom with you and your sisters, your
11:19:05 7 other sisters.
11:19:06 8 A. Right.
11:19:07 9 Q. Okay. Do you know how it was that Agnes came
11:19:11 10 to live with the Beckers?
11:19:12 11 A. No. I have no idea.
11:19:14 12 Q. Did Agnes speak English?
11:19:17 13 A. Yes.
11:19:20 14 Q. Do you know -- she was a native Yugoslavian,
11:19:23 15 but had -- did she come directly from Yugoslavia to
11:19:29 16 the Beckers?
11:19:30 17 A. I don't know.
11:19:31 18 Q. Okay. How many times do you think Robier
11:19:40 19 sexually abused you in the living room of the Becker
11:19:44 20 home?
11:19:45 21 A. Probably an average of maybe once a month or
11:19:52 22 once every other month for '55, '56, '57, '58, '59,
11:20:03 23 but of course '58 and '59 was less.
11:20:12 24 Q. And would he basically do the same thing each
11:20:15 25 time in --

11:20:16 1 A. Yes. He would get a -- a lot more aggressive
11:20:18 2 and make us touch his penis and massage his penis.
11:20:23 3 Q. And that took place in the living room, too?
11:20:26 4 A. It would take place in the living room. It
11:20:28 5 would take place in the dining -- in the dining room,
11:20:30 6 too.
11:20:30 7 Q. Did it take place during dinners?
11:20:32 8 A. Yes.
11:20:32 9 Q. Were your -- were Mr. and Mrs. Becker at the
11:20:36 10 dinner table?
11:20:36 11 A. They were on each end. Father Robier would
11:20:39 12 be sitting in the middle. Mary Ann M. and I would sit
11:20:43 13 next to him. We had the table cloth, and he would
11:20:46 14 bring us -- make us take his hand -- our hand and do
11:20:47 15 it.
11:20:48 16 Q. And Mr. and Mrs. Becker are sitting right
11:20:52 17 there?
11:20:56 18 A. They didn't see it because of the table
11:20:56 19 cloth.
11:20:56 20 Q. Were you sitting right next to him --
11:20:58 21 A. Yes, like this (indicating). And then you'd
11:21:00 22 be sitting here -- you know, after the prayer, and
11:21:03 23 we'd sit there before we talked, and he would pull
11:21:05 24 your hand over, and unzip his pants.
11:21:08 25 Q. And you would be forced to --

11:21:10 1 A. Yes.

11:21:10 2 Q. -- massage his penis.

11:21:11 3 A. Yes.

11:21:13 4 Q. Did he touch you at the dinner table?

11:21:19 5 A. No. I don't recall that.

11:21:22 6 Q. Did you ever say anything to Robier at the

11:21:25 7 dinner table, Knock that off, or, No, I'm not doing

11:21:27 8 that, or --

11:21:27 9 A. I keep pushing my hand away.

11:21:29 10 Q. And he'd keep grabbing it under the table?

11:21:31 11 A. Uh-huh. Because you -- you weren't allowed

11:21:33 12 -- when you were sitting at the table you weren't

11:21:35 13 allowed to put your hand here because a lady never

11:21:39 14 does that. You always had to keep your hands on your

11:21:41 15 lap. That's why I remember it.

11:21:48 16 Q. Did you ever have the sense that Mr. and

11:21:50 17 Mrs. Becker knew something was up?

11:21:54 18 A. No. Because if I did, I -- I would have

11:21:57 19 thought that they would have done something about it.

11:22:00 20 Never.

11:22:02 21 Q. At any point in your life had -- did you ever

11:22:05 22 tell Mr. and Mrs. Becker about Robier's abuse?

11:22:08 23 A. No.

11:22:09 24 Q. Why not?

11:22:10 25 A. When I was young, I didn't think they would

11:23:39 1 Q. And if you didn't have a fever, you had to be
11:23:41 2 present.
11:23:41 3 A. Right.
11:23:45 4 Q. How many times did the abuse take place in
11:23:48 5 the dining room?
11:23:52 6 A. It would be when he would come for Sunday
11:23:54 7 dinners. I think it was more at the beginning, and
11:24:01 8 then I think he would -- he'd try it so he would try
11:24:08 9 to change seats. So if he was to come for dinner once
11:24:18 10 a month and then he would come again, maybe once every
11:24:24 11 other month.
11:24:28 12 Q. Over what period of time?
11:24:31 13 A. I would say -- I would say he did it all the
11:24:34 14 way up to '58.
11:24:35 15 Q. Okay. And that was about once a month?
11:24:38 16 A. If he came for dinner, right. Not every time
11:24:42 17 he came to dinner, but when he did come to dinner.
11:24:44 18 Q. And he would come to dinner an average of how
11:24:47 19 many times a month?
11:24:48 20 A. One to two times.
11:24:50 21 Q. Okay. And that was over a three-year period?
11:24:53 22 A. Right. It's hard to put time on -- on -- on
11:25:00 23 it.
11:25:02 24 Q. Other than the living room and the dining
11:25:06 25 room of the Becker home, did Robier abuse you in any

11:25:10 1 other locations?

11:25:11 2 A. The movie theater, the beach, and at the

11:25:16 3 church.

11:25:22 4 Q. Okay. Let's talk about the movie theater.

11:25:26 5 Was that a drive-in theater?

11:25:27 6 A. Yes, it was.

11:25:28 7 Q. And Robier would take you and your sisters to

11:25:35 8 the drive-in movies?

11:25:36 9 A. Right.

11:25:36 10 Q. Was anyone else present?

11:25:38 11 A. No.

11:25:39 12 Q. What would happen at the -- the drive-in

11:25:41 13 theater?

11:25:42 14 A. One would sit in the front, the other three

11:25:46 15 would sit in the back, and in the front he'd make you

11:25:50 16 lay down and massage his penis. Then he would stick

11:25:54 17 his finger in you.

11:25:58 18 Q. Were there other cars nearby that were also

11:26:02 19 watching the movie or --

11:26:04 20 A. There would be other cars, right, but you

11:26:09 21 couldn't really see in if he made you lay down.

11:26:13 22 Q. When he made you lay down, did you have to --

11:26:16 23 where was your head and where were your feet?

11:26:18 24 A. By his -- his area.

11:26:20 25 Q. So your head was near --

11:26:22 1 A. His lap. Yeah. Yes, yes.

11:26:25 2 Q. And at the theater he would make you massage

11:26:28 3 his penis --

11:26:28 4 A. (No audible response.)

11:26:30 5 Q. -- with your hand?

11:26:30 6 A. Right. And then he would stick his hand in

11:26:33 7 you at the same time.

11:26:36 8 Q. Did he ever make you orally copulate him?

11:26:40 9 A. Uh-huh.

11:26:41 10 Q. Where did that occur?

11:26:42 11 A. At the movie theater.

11:26:44 12 Q. Do you need to take a break?

11:26:49 13 A. It's okay. It's okay.

11:26:51 14 Q. How many times did you have to orally

11:26:54 15 copulate --

11:26:55 16 A. It seems like a lot of times.

11:26:57 17 Q. Was it more ten?

11:26:58 18 A. Yes.

11:26:59 19 Q. How many times would you go to the drive-in

11:27:01 20 movies with Robier?

11:27:04 21 A. Probably about once every other month.

11:27:07 22 Q. Over what period of time?

11:27:11 23 A. Seems like he always took us to the movies.

11:27:14 24 Must have been till -- when he stopped coming.

11:27:20 25 Q. Through 1959?

11:28:23 1 question it or why he wasn't coming.

11:28:26 2 Q. Okay.

11:28:26 3 A. I didn't -- I was -- didn't want to know. I

11:28:28 4 was -- in case he came back.

11:28:31 5 Q. When Robier took you to the -- the drive-in

11:28:41 6 theater, was that with Mr. and Mrs. Becker's

11:28:45 7 knowledge?

11:28:45 8 A. Yes.

11:28:46 9 Q. Was it with their blessing and okay?

11:28:48 10 A. Yes.

11:28:49 11 Q. Did they think it was a -- a -- a big deal

11:28:56 12 for their kids to be taken places by a priest?

11:29:00 13 A. I think so.

11:29:02 14 MS. CHENG: Calls for speculation.

11:29:06 15 BY MS. OLIVER:

11:29:08 16 Q. Do you have any estimate as to the total

11:29:16 17 number of times that abuse took place at the drive-in

11:29:18 18 theater?

11:29:20 19 A. Maybe six times a year.

11:29:41 20 Q. Over how many years?

11:29:45 21 A. The four years.

11:29:48 22 Q. Okay. And were you forced to orally copulate

11:29:54 23 Robier every time you went to the drive-in?

11:29:59 24 A. Most of the times.

11:30:01 25 Q. And --

11:30:02 1 A. Unless I got sick.

11:30:04 2 Q. What do you mean unless you got sick?

11:30:06 3 A. Because sometimes he -- you know -- you know,

11:30:11 4 the -- the fluid would make me sick.

11:30:16 5 Q. Would you throw up?

11:30:18 6 A. Uh-huh.

11:30:19 7 Q. In the car?

11:30:20 8 A. No. Outside. Or later.

11:30:25 9 Q. And when you say "the fluid," you mean the

11:30:27 10 ejaculate?

11:30:28 11 A. Yeah.

11:30:36 12 Q. On the times you went to the drive-in

11:30:38 13 theater, would Robier make you touch his penis every

11:30:43 14 time you went to the theater?

11:30:45 15 A. I would say so.

11:30:46 16 Q. And would he also insert his finger into you

11:30:49 17 on every occasion you went to the drive-in theater?

11:30:51 18 A. Oh, yes.

11:30:53 19 Q. Would he do the same -- strike that.

11:31:01 20 It's my understanding that you and your

11:31:03 21 sisters would rotate in the front seat with -- with

11:31:06 22 Robier; right?

11:31:08 23 A. Uh-huh.

11:31:09 24 Q. Is that yes?

11:31:09 25 A. Yes. Yes.

11:31:11 1 Q. Did you observe him doing the same thing he
11:31:13 2 had done to you to your sisters?
11:31:15 3 A. No. I never looked up in the front seat.
11:31:18 4 Q. What were you doing if you were in the back
11:31:21 5 seat?
11:31:22 6 A. Just sitting there. Never really saw the
11:31:29 7 movies. Couldn't tell you what they were.
11:31:37 8 Q. Marion P. sort of described going to like a
11:31:40 9 special place, a -- a dark box, she sort of described
11:31:44 10 it as, when the abuse was ongoing. Did you do the
11:31:48 11 same type of thing? She just sort of retreated into
11:31:53 12 herself and went to a special place.
11:31:54 13 A. Yes.
11:31:54 14 Q. Where did you go? How did you deal with it?
11:31:58 15 A. I would almost pretend I was asleep, and
11:32:02 16 there were stairs going up to the -- the sky, and then
11:32:04 17 I would go up to the sky and be safe (indicating).
11:32:11 18 Q. Did you ever look down the stairs?
11:32:12 19 A. Yes. Hope would -- sad that I had to come
11:32:15 20 back down.
11:32:18 21 Q. When during these events would you in your
11:32:26 22 mind come back down from the stairs?
11:32:29 23 A. The next morning.
11:32:33 24 Q. You'd sort of stay.
11:32:37 25 A. Then when the sun would come out it was

11:32:40 1 | better than at nights.

11:32:41 2 | Q. Okay. Did most of the abuse take place in

11:32:44 3 | the evening?

11:32:44 4 | A. For the movie theater, yeah.

11:32:47 5 | Q. What about in the Becker home? Was that

11:32:49 6 | generally in the evening?

11:32:51 7 | A. Yes.

11:32:51 8 | Q. Okay. And you would basically kind of go

11:32:57 9 | into yourself on the evenings of abuse and sort of

11:33:00 10 | stay there in your own mind until the next morning.

11:33:02 11 | A. Uh-huh. Yes.

11:33:06 12 | Q. And so is it fair to say that you didn't

11:33:11 13 | observe what Robier did to your sisters, if anything?

11:33:15 14 | A. No. You -- you -- you might see him move his

11:33:19 15 | hand over, and then you just couldn't face it.

11:33:23 16 | Q. So you never watched him abuse your sisters.

11:33:27 17 | Is that fair to say?

11:33:28 18 | A. I might have seen it, but I would pretend it

11:33:36 19 | wasn't there. I mean, I would see him -- him bring

11:33:41 20 | his hand and see him take up -- you know, put up the

11:33:43 21 | dress. Then I would just -- when he got that far,

11:33:46 22 | then I wouldn't look.

11:33:47 23 | Q. Okay.

11:33:52 24 | A. It's always the anticipation that you were

11:33:56 25 | the next one. That was the hard part. You'd prefer

11:33:59 1 to go first. I'd want to be in the front seat so I
11:34:04 2 could go and get it over with.

11:34:07 3 Q. Because you knew what was coming when you --
11:34:07 4 A. Oh, yeah. Yeah.

11:34:07 5 Q. Did you ever protest to Mr. and Mrs. Becker
11:34:08 6 that you didn't want to go to the drive-in movies with
11:34:12 7 Robier?

11:34:13 8 A. Yes. I used to always say I was sick.

11:34:15 9 Q. And she would take your temperature, and if
11:34:17 10 you didn't have one you went anyway.

11:34:20 11 A. Exactly. We'd wrap ourselves in blankets to
11:34:25 12 make us hot. That didn't work. Mary Ann M. and I --
11:34:30 13 she probably doesn't remember -- we tried a lot of
11:34:33 14 methods.

11:34:33 15 Q. What else did you try to get out of it?

11:34:35 16 A. We tried a chill, so we would go lay on the
11:34:38 17 tile floor in the bathroom, the cold water on us or
11:34:42 18 ice cubes to get us chilled.

11:34:45 19 Q. Did that work?

11:34:46 20 A. No. No.

11:34:47 21 Q. Did you try anything else?

11:34:50 22 A. We said we had a sore throat.

11:34:54 23 Q. Did that work with Mrs. Becker?

11:34:55 24 A. No, 'cause -- no.

11:34:57 25 Q. What was her response to that?

11:34:58 1 A. She would look down our throat and see that
11:35:01 2 there was no redness there, so we were okay.

11:35:05 3 Q. Did she ever ask you why you were always
11:35:08 4 claiming to be sick when Robier was coming around?

11:35:11 5 A. She said because we wanted attention.

11:35:18 6 Q. Did you ever have any physical injuries from
11:35:22 7 what Robier did?

11:35:24 8 A. I used to bleed a lot in my anus.

11:35:28 9 Q. Did he penetrate you anally?

11:35:30 10 A. Uh-huh. At the beach. He would take you out
11:35:36 11 as far as you could go, and then when you wouldn't do
11:35:39 12 what he wanted you to do, he'd drop you in the water
11:35:43 13 'cause -- say, "I can't swim," when we would go out.

11:35:46 14 Q. So he'd take you out to -- in -- in the water
11:35:49 15 to a point where the water was over your head?

11:35:51 16 A. Oh, yes. Yes.

11:35:53 17 Q. And if you didn't cooperate, he'd let go of
11:35:55 18 you.

11:35:56 19 A. Uh-huh.

11:35:58 20 Q. And what would happen then?

11:35:58 21 A. Well, you'd struggle and struggle, and
11:36:00 22 finally he'd pick you up when you couldn't breathe
11:36:04 23 anymore. And then one time he took off the bathing
11:36:09 24 suit and I lost it.

11:36:14 25 MS. CHENG: Let's take a break.

11:36:16 1 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are going off the
11:36:18 2 record.
11:36:18 3 The time is 11:35.
11:36:52 4 (Recess taken from 11:35 a.m. to 11:44 a.m.)
11:44:35 5 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: We are going back on the
11:44:41 6 record.
11:44:41 7 The time is 11:44.
11:44:45 8 BY MS. OLIVER:
11:44:46 9 Q. Mrs. Griswold, we were talking about Robier's
11:44:49 10 abuse of you at -- at the beach.
11:44:52 11 A. Yes.
11:44:52 12 Q. And is it your testimony that one time he
11:44:56 13 took off your swimming suit while you were in the
11:44:59 14 water and you lost the swimsuit somewhere in the
11:45:02 15 water?
11:45:02 16 A. I didn't actually lose it, but he was able to
11:45:05 17 bring it back to -- to get it.
11:45:07 18 Q. Okay. Did he abuse you in the water?
11:45:12 19 A. Yes.
11:45:13 20 Q. What did he do to you in the water?
11:45:15 21 A. He would hold me. My back would be to his
11:45:19 22 front (indicating). He'd take off the bathing suit,
11:45:22 23 and then he would insert his penis in my rectum.
11:45:26 24 Q. How many times did that occur?
11:45:31 25 A. Probably three or four times. Then I used to

11:45:36 1 start screaming because it hurt too much, and he
11:45:39 2 stopped doing it.

11:45:43 3 Q. Would he penetrate in your anus all the way?
11:45:52 4 A. I don't know. It just hurt so much.

11:45:56 5 Q. Was there anybody around in the water when
11:45:59 6 this was happening?
11:46:00 7 A. No, because he'd take us one at a time.

11:46:02 8 Q. Were there any other adults or swimmers or
11:46:05 9 anything around?
11:46:06 10 A. It always seemed to be overcast. I don't
11:46:11 11 recall. I -- if there was, I didn't really see
11:46:14 12 anybody.

11:46:15 13 Q. Okay. After he would do this to you in the
11:46:27 14 water, would he then bring you back up to the beach?
11:46:30 15 A. Yes.

11:46:31 16 Q. Did any abuse take place on the beach?
11:46:34 17 A. Yes. A little.

11:46:37 18 Q. What did he do on the beach?
11:46:39 19 A. Oh, he would fondle you, your breasts, if you
11:46:44 20 had breasts. And you [sic] would stick his finger up
11:46:48 21 his -- up your vagina.

11:46:50 22 Q. Were your sisters present when that occurred?
11:46:54 23 A. Yes.

11:46:56 24 Q. Where were you on the beach when that took
11:46:59 25 place?

11:46:59 1 A. On the sand on -- he had an old navy blanket,
11:47:03 2 and then he had one that we'd lay on and then one he'd
11:47:08 3 cover us with.

11:47:08 4 Q. So are you covered when he's touching your
11:47:11 5 breast area and digitally penetrating you?

11:47:14 6 A. He would put down the swimsuit, and then he
11:47:17 7 would move -- I mean the top of it, and then lay part
11:47:21 8 -- he would just move over so he didn't have to take
11:47:25 9 them off.

11:47:25 10 Q. Were there any other swimmers, sunbathers,
11:47:30 11 folks around anywhere on the beach?

11:47:33 12 A. Not that I recall, but very desert -- I don't
11:47:37 13 -- there could have been, but I never saw them.

11:47:40 14 Q. Okay. What beach did you -- did this occur
11:47:42 15 at?

11:47:42 16 A. The Silver Strand.

11:47:43 17 Q. Was it always the same beach?

11:47:45 18 A. Always the same beach.

11:47:48 19 Q. Were your sisters next to you on the blanket
11:47:53 20 when he was fondling and digitally penetrating you?

11:47:58 21 A. Yes. We never played. We never played on
11:48:05 22 the beach or on the sand or in the water. It was
11:48:07 23 never play. Never play.

11:48:09 24 Q. What was he wearing?

11:48:10 25 A. A bathing suit.

11:48:17 1 Q. Did you see Robier do anything to your
11:48:23 2 sisters on the beach?
11:48:27 3 A. I saw him fondling Mary Ann M. and I believe
11:48:28 4 Marion P.
11:48:29 5 Q. What about Marie C.?
11:48:31 6 A. He probably did, but I didn't see it.
11:48:36 7 Q. Okay: Did you see Robier digitally penetrate
11:48:41 8 any of your sisters?
11:48:43 9 A. Yes.
11:48:44 10 Q. And that was on the beach.
11:48:48 11 A. Yes.
11:48:49 12 Q. How many times did Robier molest you? It was
11:48:53 13 three or four times where he anally penetrated you --
11:48:56 14 A. Right.
11:48:57 15 Q. -- in the water; right?
11:48:58 16 A. Right.
11:48:58 17 Q. How many times did he sexually abuse you on
11:49:01 18 the beach?
11:49:02 19 A. Every time we would go to the beach.
11:49:05 20 Q. How often would you go to the beach?
11:49:08 21 A. We'd sometimes -- it would be in the fall.
11:49:16 22 Maybe eight times a year. It -- it's just really
11:49:25 23 difficult. I -- I wish I could give you more precise.
11:49:29 24 Q. That's your best estimate.
11:49:30 25 A. That would be my best estimate.

11:49:31 1 Q. And would -- did -- how long a time frame did
11:49:37 2 the eight times a year of abuse at the beach occur?
11:49:40 3 A. The problems when you're a child it seems
11:49:49 4 like that's all your whole life. It's -- you know, at
11:49:53 5 the movie, the beach or at the house, it doesn't seem
11:49:56 6 like there's anything else happens in your life at
11:49:59 7 that (indicating) period of time.
11:50:01 8 Q. Was there ever a period of time where Robier
11:50:04 9 was coming around less often to take you to the movies
11:50:07 10 or the beach?
11:50:07 11 A. The latter part when he stopped coming.
11:50:11 12 Q. Did his visits decrease in frequency before a
11:50:14 13 period of time before he ceased coming around at all?
11:50:18 14 A. It seemed a little less time. Let's see.
11:50:23 15 '59 didn't see -- '58 a little -- a few times less.
11:50:27 16 Q. Do you know why Robier was coming around less
11:50:30 17 frequently in those years?
11:50:32 18 A. No. Had no idea. I never wanted to find
11:50:35 19 out.
11:50:35 20 Q. We've talked about Robier abusing you in the
11:50:46 21 living room of the Becker home; right?
11:50:47 22 A. Right.
11:50:48 23 Q. And the dining room of the Becker home;
11:50:50 24 right?
11:50:51 25 A. Right.

11:56:25 1 remember a second time.

11:56:26 2 Q. Okay. Over the four or so years that Robier

11:56:30 3 was sexually abusing you, did you ever tell Mr. or

11:56:35 4 Mrs. Becker?

11:56:36 5 A. No.

11:56:37 6 Q. Did you discuss it amongst your sisters

11:56:39 7 during those four years?

11:56:40 8 A. No.

11:56:42 9 Q. Did you tell any adult during the time that

11:56:46 10 Robier was abusing you that he was abusing you?

11:56:50 11 A. The only thing I ever said was to Monsignor

11:56:52 12 O'Leary. I told Monsignor O'Leary that Father Robier

11:56:58 13 was doing things to me that made me feel strange, but

11:57:03 14 I never said abuse. I probably wouldn't have known

11:57:08 15 what the word meant.

11:57:10 16 Q. Did you give Monsignor O'Leary any details?

11:57:16 17 A. No. He never asked.

11:57:18 18 Q. Where were you when you had this conversation

11:57:20 19 with Monsignor O'Leary?

11:57:22 20 A. I was right outside the church.

11:57:24 21 Q. And -- outside.

11:57:26 22 A. Outside the church, right. Outside the door

11:57:28 23 of the church.

11:57:29 24 Q. How did that come about that you told this to

11:57:32 25 Monsignor O'Leary?

11:57:34 1 A. We were having confession, and Father Robier
11:57:37 2 was hearing the confessions, and I didn't want to go
11:57:41 3 to confession to Father Robier. So I went out and I
11:57:45 4 was crying, and Monsignor O'Leary asked me why I was
11:57:51 5 crying. And I said I didn't want to go to confession
11:57:54 6 to Father Robier.

11:57:56 7 And he said, "Why?"

11:57:57 8 And I said that, "He does things to me that
11:58:00 9 makes me feel strange," something like that.

11:58:02 10 And he said not to lie about Father Robier
11:58:05 11 and to go back and to -- that he wouldn't hear my
11:58:11 12 confession. I had to have my confession heard by
11:58:15 13 Father Robier, and that if I didn't make lies -- tell
11:58:18 14 lies about Father Robier, that I would go to hell and
11:58:22 15 the usual stuff.

11:58:25 16 Q. How old were you when you told Monsignor
11:58:28 17 O'Leary?

11:58:29 18 A. I was probably 11. Ten or 11.

11:58:37 19 Q. So you were in fourth or fifth grade?

11:58:39 20 A. Right.

11:58:40 21 Q. Monsignor O'Leary responded to you saying
11:58:54 22 Robier does things that makes you feel strange by
11:58:58 23 informing you not to lie about Robier?

11:59:00 24 A. Right.

11:59:01 25 Q. Did you say anything when he said that?

11:59:03 1 A. I just said -- I cried and I didn't want to
11:59:06 2 go to confession to Father Robier.
11:59:08 3 Q. Did you go to confession with Father Robier
11:59:11 4 that day after speaking with Monsignor O'Leary?
11:59:15 5 A. I pretended I did.
11:59:16 6 Q. But you didn't actually go.
11:59:18 7 A. I didn't go. Huh-uh.
11:59:19 8 Q. Did you ever go to confession with Robier
11:59:23 9 after the abuse began?
11:59:24 10 A. No.
11:59:25 11 Q. Had you been to confession with Robier before
11:59:28 12 the abuse began?
11:59:29 13 A. You know, I don't remember.
11:59:33 14 Q. Okay.
11:59:33 15 A. I don't remember.
11:59:34 16 Q. Who did you go to confession with during the
11:59:38 17 period of time Robier was abusing you?
11:59:41 18 A. A lot -- lot of times the -- your class would
11:59:45 19 go on a Friday, and then other times it would be on a
11:59:48 20 Saturday.
11:59:48 21 Q. And who would be doing the --
11:59:49 22 A. Oh.
11:59:49 23 Q. -- confessions?
11:59:50 24 A. Monsignor O'Leary.
11:59:52 25 Q. Okay. Did you ever tell Monsignor O'Leary in

11:59:56 1 | confessional about Robier's abuse?

11:59:59 2 | A. No, I didn't.

12:00:00 3 | Q. The only time you spoke with him was that one

12:00:03 4 | time outside the church.

12:00:04 5 | A. Right.

12:00:05 6 | Q. And he thought you were lying.

12:00:06 7 | A. Right.

12:00:07 8 | Q. Did you tell any other adult, other than

12:00:18 9 | speaking to Monsignor O'Leary briefly outside the

12:00:23 10 | church, about what Robier was doing to you?

12:00:25 11 | A. No.

12:00:25 12 | Q. When was the first time you told anybody

12:00:28 13 | about what Robier was doing to you after the one brief

12:00:35 14 | incident with Monsignor O'Leary?

12:00:38 15 | A. I never told anybody else.

12:00:38 16 | Q. Until you began the lawsuit process?

12:00:39 17 | A. Right. In 2003, around there, yeah.

12:00:53 18 | Q. Did you and your sisters ever discuss the

12:00:57 19 | Robier abuse before the lawsuit process got going?

12:01:00 20 | A. No.

12:01:01 21 | Q. How did you and your sisters pursuing a

12:01:13 22 | lawsuit against the church come about?

12:01:15 23 | A. Initially my sister Mary Ann M. had mentioned

12:01:22 24 | to Marion P. -- Marion P. was going through something.

12:01:27 25 | Mary Ann M. had mentioned to Marion P., Well, you know