

**THE CORNWALL
PUBLIC INQUIRY**



**L'ENQUÊTE PUBLIQUE
SUR CORNWALL**

Public Hearing

Audience publique

Commissioner

The Honourable Justice /
L'honorable juge
G. Normand Glaude

Commissaire

VOLUME 143

Held at :

Hearings Room
709 Cotton Mill Street
Cornwall, Ontario
K6H 7K7

Monday, October 1, 2007

Tenue à:

Salle des audiences
709, rue de la Fabrique
Cornwall, Ontario
K6H 7K7

Lundi, le 1 octobre 2007

ERRATA

September 20
Volume 141
Page 123, Line 1

What Ollie's asking you is, did you report -- once
you found out that C-8

Should have read

What all that he is asking you is, did you report --
once you found out that C-8

Appearances/Comparutions

Ms. Julie Gauthier	Registrar
Mr. Pierre R. Dumais	Commission Counsel
Ms. Janie Larocque	
Ms. Reena Lalji	Cornwall Police Service Board
Ms. Diane Lahaie	Ontario Provincial Police
M ^e Claude Rouleau	Ontario Ministry of Community and Correctional Services and Adult Community Corrections
Ms. Judie Im	Attorney General for Ontario
Mr. Peter Chisholm	The Children's Aid Society of the United Counties
Mr. Steven Canto	Citizens for Community Renewal
Mr. Dallas Lee	Victims Group
Mr. David Bennett	The Men's Project
Mr. David Sherriff-Scott	Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall
Ms. Gisèle Levesque	and Bishop Eugene LaRocque
M ^e Danielle Robitaille	Mr. Jacques Leduc
Mr. William Carroll	Ontario Provincial Police Association
Ms. Nadya Tymochenko	Upper Canada Districk

Table of Contents / Table des matières

	Page
List of Exhibits :	iv
RULING ON MOTION FROM RON LEROUX BY THE COMMISSIONER/ DÉCISION SUR LA REQUÊTE DE RON LEROUX PAR LE COMMISSAIRE	1
FATHER CLAUDE THIBAUT, Sworn/Assermenté	6
Examination in-Chief by/Interrogatoire en-chef par Mr. Pierre Dumais	6

LIST OF EXHIBITS/LISTE D'EXHIBITS

NO.

DESCRIPTION

PAGE NO

1 --- Upon commencing at 2:03 p.m. /

2 L'audience débute à 14h03

3 **THE REGISTRAR:** This hearing of the Cornwall
4 Public Inquiry is now in session. The Honourable Mr.
5 Justice Normand Glaude, Commissioner, presiding.

6 Please be seated. Veuillez vous asseoir.

7 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you. Good
8 afternoon, all.

9 --- RULING ON MOTION FROM MR. RON LEROUX BY THE
10 COMMISSIONER/DÉCISION SUR LA REQUÊTE DE M. RON LEROUX PAR
11 LE COMMISSAIRE:

12 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Let me begin by giving my
13 ruling on a motion by Mr. Leroux. There were two
14 applications. The first one was to be excused from
15 continuing his testimony before the Inquiry.

16 So Mr. Ron Leroux has appeared as a witness
17 before the Inquiry. On August 15th, 2007, counsel for Mr.
18 Leroux, Mr. Pradeep Chand of Lang Michener, agents for
19 Harrison Pensa, brought a motion seeking that Mr. Leroux be
20 excused from continuing his testimony before the Inquiry.

21 On September 10th, 2007, I ruled that Mr.
22 Leroux would be excused from giving further testimony and
23 these are my reasons.

24 Following the commencement of Mr. Leroux's
25 cross-examination, Dr. Wayne Nadler raised concerns about

1 his continued testimony with Commission counsel. Mr.
2 Leroux had retained counsel, the firm of Harrison Pensa,
3 who had sent Mr. John Swales to provide witness support for
4 him. When his mental health became an issue, I
5 specifically requested counsel to attend; hence, Mr.
6 Chand's appearance before the Inquiry.

7 In the course of hearing submissions of
8 counsel in support of the motion, I suggested that a
9 further psychiatric assessment would greatly assist me in
10 determining the issue of whether Mr. Leroux should be
11 excused from giving further testimony and that the report
12 should answer three questions.

13 First: Is Mr. Leroux fit to continue in his
14 cross-examination? Two: What harm, if any, would he
15 sustain should he be cross-examined? Three: What, if any,
16 accommodation can be made for Mr. Leroux to ensure that he
17 can complete his testimony without suffering serious and
18 long-term consequences?

19 Following the adjournment of the hearing, a
20 clinical psychologist, Dr. Ken Welburn, assessed Mr. Leroux
21 and his counsel provided the Commission with Dr. Welburn's
22 report which is dated August 29th, 2007.

23 In response to whether Mr. Leroux is fit to
24 continue his cross-examination, Dr. Welburn simply answered
25 "No". I would have wished that Dr. Welburn address the

1 principles that psychiatrists are familiar with, notions of
2 fitness to stand trial and fitness to give instructions, et
3 cetera, but he did not do so.

4 Mr. Leroux has instructed his counsel that
5 he does not wish to continue his testimony based on the
6 medical report. In addition to Mr. Leroux's desire not to
7 continue, Dr. Welburn has indicated that should the cross-
8 examination continue, Mr. Leroux's mental health would
9 continue to deteriorate further, posing very serious risks
10 to his person.

11 Dr. Welburn also indicated that at present,
12 there are no accommodation measures we could take for Mr.
13 Leroux in order to ensure that he could complete his
14 testimony without suffering serious and long-term
15 consequences.

16 On the basis of the compelling medical
17 evidence before me, I am satisfied that under the
18 circumstances Mr. Leroux should be excused from having to
19 give further testimony before the Inquiry.

20 Given that I specifically requested counsel
21 to attend to speak to the issue of fitness, that I strongly
22 suggested that an assessment be obtained and in review of
23 Mr. Leroux's limited resources, I find these to be
24 extraordinary circumstances.

25 Accordingly, I will be making

1 recommendations to the Attorney General for the payment of
2 attendance fees for one counsel and disbursements incurred
3 from August 15th to September 10th, 2007 as a result of Mr.
4 Leroux's representation on the motion to excuse him from
5 providing further testimony, including disbursements
6 incurred as a result of my asking for a second medical
7 opinion.

8 With respect to the ruling on the
9 application for standing and funding of Mr. Leroux, I say
10 as follows.

11 Mr. Leroux through his counsel, Mr. Pradeep
12 Chand, agent for Harrison Pensa, filed an application for
13 standing and funding in this Inquiry on August 21st, 2007.
14 Mr. Chand appeared before me on September 10th, 2007 to
15 present oral submissions in support of the application.

16 After hearing the submissions, I advised
17 that the application for standing and funding would be
18 declined with reasons to follow. These are my reasons.

19 I am not satisfied that Mr. Leroux's
20 involvement as a witness to certain facts at issue before
21 this Inquiry constitutes an interest in the subject matter
22 of this Inquiry which is sufficiently substantial in direct
23 so as to warrant a grant of standing in Part I or Part II
24 of the Inquiry.

25 As Associate Chief Justice O'Connor stated

1 in the ruling on standing and funding on the Commission of
2 Inquiry into the actions of Canadian officials in relation
3 to the Maher Arar matter delivered on May 4th, 2004, merely
4 being witness does not itself constitute a substantial and
5 direct interest.

6 I note the incongruity raised by the fact
7 that his application for standing is based on a factual
8 foundation, which would call for his appearance as a
9 witness before this Inquiry rather than his being granted
10 party status, was brought on the heels of his motion to be
11 excused as a witness before the Inquiry.

12 Mr. Leroux's role as a witness before the
13 Inquiry has been pursued to the fullest extent possible.
14 For reasons set out in the accompanying ruling on the
15 motion seeking that Mr. Leroux be excused from continuing
16 his testimony before the Inquiry following several days of
17 testimony, he has now been excused as a witness. I note
18 that there is no evidence that Mr. Leroux is fit to
19 instruct counsel and, accordingly, that participation as a
20 party with standing would even have been possible had I
21 granted him standing.

22 For these reasons, Mr. Leroux's application
23 for standing and funding is denied.

24 Thank you.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** Good afternoon, Commissioner.

1 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Good afternoon, sir.

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** I'm prepared to call our first
3 witness this afternoon, C-1.

4 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

5 **(SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)**

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** I guess while there's a
7 break in the action, I should point out that there is still
8 some ambiguity as to what time we are starting on Tuesday
9 following the long weekend, which is next Tuesday.

10 I guess we will have to stay tuned and
11 perhaps we can come to some resolution by tomorrow. So
12 counsel should be aware that the start-up time on next
13 Tuesday is still up in the air.

14 All right. Thank you.

15 **(SHORT PAUSE/COURTE PAUSE)**

16 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Bonjour.

17 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Bonjour.

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** Good afternoon, sir.

19 Perhaps I'm going to ask a few questions
20 from the witness and perhaps he should be sworn in as C-1
21 before we get going, Mr. Commissioner.

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right, that's fine.

23 **FATHER CLAUDE THIBAULT:** Sworn/Assermenté

24 **--- EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY/INTERROGATOIRE EN-CHEF PAR MR.**
25 **DUMAIS:**

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** Sir, you've been referred to in
2 these proceedings over the last year or so as "C-1", which
3 means that you have a moniker instead of your name being
4 publicized.

5 When you indicated to the Commission that
6 you intended to testify here today, we brushed the issue of
7 the publication ban that was in effect following your
8 participation as a victim in a criminal trial. At that
9 time, you provided us with a consent so that we could
10 obtain an order to lift the publication ban.

11 Over a year ago or a little less than a year
12 ago, the Commissioner, based on submissions that I made and
13 based on the existence of this outstanding criminal
14 publication ban of Justice Paris, made a mirror order
15 granting you the moniker C-1 if anyone wished to refer to
16 your name in these proceedings.

17 I understand from our discussion, sir, that
18 you are content for the Commissioner to lift that ban today
19 and to give your evidence without any ban. Is that
20 correct?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** That's correct.

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Very well.

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** Therefore, Commissioner, the
24 order that you issued -- or the publication ban that you
25 issued back on October 5th, 2006 simply mirrored the section

1 486 ban of Justice Paris and that publication ban covers
2 the name of a number of different victims, so the ban
3 should simply be lifted for this witness.

4 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right, and this
5 witness is?

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** Father Claude Thibault.

7 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Bonjour.

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Bonjour.

9 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right, so the order
10 that I had imposed, the publication ban that I had ordered
11 on October 5th, 2006, giving a moniker to the Claude
12 Thibault of C-1 is hereby lifted.

13 Before we go any further, Maître Dumais, I
14 see there is at least one face that I don't know if I'm
15 familiar with in the lawyers.

16 **MR. SHERRIFF-SCOTT:** This is my colleague,
17 Gisèle Levesque.

18 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Bonjour.

19 All right, good. Thank you.

20 Good afternoon, Father Thibault, how are
21 you?

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Good afternoon.

23 A bit nervous, but I'm glad to be here.

24 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** I understand, Father Thibault,

1 that before we get started that you do you have some sort
2 of an opening statement or a comments that you wish to make
3 and I advised you that I would provide you with that
4 opportunity before we start with the questions.

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay. First of all, I
6 would like to thank you for accepting to lift the ban; that
7 was my wish.

8 I would like to specify something before I
9 start.

10 Some already know and others about to find
11 out, I come from a rather unique or at least particular and
12 different position or perspective.

13 I was a teenager when I suffered sexual
14 abuse and different forms of abuse by priests.

15 Responding freely to God's call, I later
16 became a priest myself.

17 I had just recently been ordained a priest
18 when allegations of sexual abuse were made against him by
19 me and by others and when he was charged and convicted.

20 I am pleased to be pursuing my vocation as
21 priest today, however, as I come here today before this
22 Public Inquiry I wanted to be clear that it is my own
23 decision. It's by my own free will after much reflection
24 and prayer that I come here. It is freely that I decided
25 to step out of secrecy and to break my silence.

1 I come in my own name and I don't represent
2 anyone but myself, therefore, I'm not here to speak on
3 behalf of the church or the diocese of the priests, nor am
4 I here to speak to speak on behalf of other victims of
5 sexual abuse. I'm here to tell my story and to address the
6 institutional response to my allegations because I believe
7 that I'm the only one who can tell my story.

8 I come to speak about my own experience, my
9 recollection of it and my reflections on it, because I
10 believe and hope that my story can shed light on the matter
11 and help the Commission in its mandate.

12 I also believe that I've already been part
13 of the healing process in this community. I hope to be
14 helpful to Phase II of this Inquiry.

15 I've been fortunate to get help along the
16 way and I want to continue to give back some of the good
17 that I have received. I want to bring hope to those who
18 have been abused and I want to help them believe that there
19 is life after abuse.

20 Finally, if my presence here and my
21 testimony can prevent even one person from becoming a
22 victim of such abuse, it will be worth it.

23 Thank you.

24 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Merci.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** Thank you, Father Thibault.

1 Start at the beginning then. I understand
2 that you were born and raised in the Cornwall area. Is
3 that correct?

4 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

6 And can you just give us an idea of what
7 your date of birth is and whether or not you have siblings
8 or parents still alive and whether or not they still reside
9 in this area?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I was born June 9th,
11 1960, here in Cornwall and I have a brother and five
12 sisters, and my parents are still living here in Cornwall.

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** And your siblings, do they
14 reside in the Cornwall area as well?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Except for one in Edmonton
16 and one in Orleans, the others are here in Cornwall.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right, so everyone is still
18 local?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Say that again?

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** Everyone is mostly local then?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, pretty well.

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

23 Now I understand as you were growing up with
24 your parents, that you were of the catholic faith and you
25 were a practicing catholic. Is that correct?

1 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes.

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** And which church or which
3 parish were you effected to or where were you practicing
4 at?

5 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Sainte-Thérèse-de-Lisieux,
6 here in Cornwall.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** And is that during your entire
8 youth then?

9 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** So if you can, Father, give us
11 an idea of whether or not you were involved in parish
12 activities; whether or not you were practicing catholics on
13 a regular basis. Just try to give us a little bit of a
14 taste.

15 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Well, we went to church
16 every Sunday but also quite often during the week. My
17 parents were always involved in the church so we just
18 followed suit.

19 I became involved in -- especially in a
20 youth group at the parish whenever I was in high school;
21 became reader at the church. I was an altar server as a
22 kid and I also became eventually member of the parish
23 pastoral council. We would work on parish suppers, all
24 kinds of things.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

1 Now, I understand as well that you, when you
2 attended school as a youth, that you would have attended
3 catholic schools. Is that correct?

4 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** Perhaps you can give us an idea
6 where you were in grade school?

7 **FATHER THIBAULT:** I went to, first of all,
8 Sainte-Thérèse School from kindergarten to grade 6 and then
9 Notre Dame School for grade 7 and 8.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** And then what about high
11 school?

12 **FATHER THIBAULT:** High school was at La
13 Citadelle. At that time La Citadelle was a public school.
14 French public.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right, so it's a catholic
16 school at that time?

17 **FATHER THIBAULT:** No, it wasn't a catholic
18 school but I think there was only one student that wasn't
19 catholic at that time, so it was very c-atholic-like.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** So predominantly French
21 catholics attended La Citadelle?

22 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes.

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

24 Now I understand that when you attended
25 school -- and perhaps you can just indicate -- do you

1 recall what year it was when you first -- when you were in
2 grade 9?

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** 1974.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. And my understanding is
5 that you did four years of study at La Citadelle. Is that
6 correct?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I did.

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** And I understand when you
9 attended the high school, you became involved in catholic
10 activities. Is that correct?

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I did. I was, if I
12 remember correctly, even starting in grade 9 I was involved
13 in the comité de la pastorale that organized different
14 pastoral activities. We had -- every once in a while we
15 had masses and different activities, so I was involved in
16 that pretty well from the beginning.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** And I understand that at one
18 point in time you were introduced to Father Deslauriers.
19 Is that correct?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

22 And perhaps you can just tell us how you
23 came to meet?

24 **FATHER THIBAUT:** He arrived at the high
25 school, at La Citadelle, in the fall of 1977. I was in

1 grade 12 at that time, and he was introduced as our
2 chaplain; he was full-time chaplain. And as -- from what I
3 remember was the first one to be there full time and he was
4 in charge of la comité de al pastorale, the pastoral
5 committee, and I was involved with that. So that's how I
6 first got to know him.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** What does that mean that he was
8 a school chaplain?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** He was there as a priest
10 and he was a bit of a spiritual guide to the students. He
11 organized different activity; prayer services. Also became
12 a bit of a counsellor for a number of us in religious
13 matters and he organized a movement called R³ and was quite
14 involved with that.

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** But by then the school
16 had become a Catholic school?

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

18 **THE COMMISSIONER:** No?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, it's not till 1990, if
20 I remember correctly, that the funding for catholic schools
21 came about. So it's quite a few years later.

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** He was paid by the school
24 board but it was -- it was a public board but paid as a
25 catholic chaplain.

1 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** And my understanding, Father,
3 is that you, to a certain extent, befriended Father
4 Deslauriers and you were involved in different activities
5 with him. Is that fair?

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes..

9 **MR. DUMAIS:** And you discussed briefly one
10 of the activities or organizations that you were involved
11 with, R³.

12 Tell us a bit about that. What were their
13 activities and what was your involvement in that and what
14 was Father Deslauriers' involvement?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** As I said -- as I just
16 said, R³ is R³ and "R" for rencontre, meeting. So meeting
17 of oneself, meeting of others, meeting of God. It was a
18 spiritual movement that started with the weekend, you'd
19 attend a weekend, and following that there were meetings,
20 about monthly, and we would look at different aspects of
21 our faith, a bit of faith sharing, prayer, we'd have
22 celebrations. Sometimes there were masses, sometimes there
23 weren't. Sometimes there were confessions, and I was --
24 that started when Gilles came. As far as I know it didn't
25 really exist in Cornwall before then; it existed elsewhere.

1 I got involved starting in January of 1978,
2 so January of my Grade 12, but I was a bit involved
3 beforehand, but then I got quite involved in trying to
4 recruit new members and encourage others to participate. I
5 was on the team a few times and ---

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

7 And where were these activities held? Were
8 they mostly at the school or were they held elsewhere as
9 well?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Are you talking about the
11 retreats or the meetings?

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** Just generally any activities
13 of R³.

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Well, the first year
15 during my grade 12, the retreats themselves took place in
16 Ottawa with people from Ottawa, and Gilles was involved in
17 some of them. The first one that I did he wasn't involved,
18 in January of '78.

19 Then later on we started here in Cornwall,
20 Summertown, at le Juvénat Sacré-Coeur. The meetings were
21 at the beginning held at La Citadelle. Father Gilles had
22 an office and adjacent to that a kind of a meeting room and
23 we would meet there, but at some point we became too
24 numerous so we would hold our meetings in different
25 churches in the city.

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

2 And you spoke earlier of a retreat. So you
3 had weekend retreats or off-site retreats?

4 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** And my understanding is that
6 this first off-site retreat would have been in January,
7 1978?

8 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes. The end of January
9 '78.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** And that retreat was in Ottawa?

11 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes, it was.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** And Father Deslauriers did not
13 participate in this retreat?

14 **FATHER THIBAULT:** He didn't -- he wasn't on
15 the retreat. He was participating in organizing it and
16 came usually -- those who were already members would load
17 different cars and drive those going to the retreat to
18 Ottawa. So Father Gilles was part of that and came with
19 them to get us on the Sunday but was not on the weekend
20 itself.

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

22 So my understanding is as a result of your
23 involvement in these activities and -- you became a friend
24 or Father Deslauriers became a mentor to you, and that at
25 one point in time he became a counsellor to you. Is that

1 correct?

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. He became a good
3 friend. I considered him a good friend, as you said,
4 mentor, but then he became somebody, a bit of a confidante,
5 somebody that I would go to see about different matters
6 going on in my life. Just run it by him and get advice
7 from him. That developed I'd say rather quickly.

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** My understanding is during some
9 of these counselling sessions that Father Deslauriers
10 eventually sexually abused you. Is that correct?

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, eventually.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** And he would have sexually
13 abused on more than one occasion?

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

16 And that would have occurred between January
17 of 1978 and September of 1979. Is that correct?

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** As far as I recall, it
19 would be somewhere in that timeframe.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** And is January, 1978 day
21 rationalized in your mind by the retreat meeting in Ottawa?
22 Is that correct?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, that is when I -- I
24 don't think it happened before the R³.

25 I became more involved with him afterwards,

1 but I was already meeting him at different times. I had a
2 spare in grade 12 and a number of us would just drop in his
3 office and spend our spare there, so I got to know him
4 before the R³ --thank you -- before the R³, but I would say
5 that it was mostly after that. So there was a bit more of
6 a bond after that that I think allowed that, but a lot of
7 the grooming had really started before that.

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** And is it fair to say that
9 between January of 1978 and August of '79, you would not
10 have disclosed this to anyone?

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No. It is not only fair,
12 it's true.

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

14 Now we've heard from other victims who gave
15 evidence of their involvement in this group R³. In your
16 mind is there any significance to that, your participation
17 in R³?

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** What do you mean by that
19 question?

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** Well, the fact that you were
21 involved in the group R³ and subsequently you are sexually
22 abused by Father Deslauriers, and we have heard that from
23 other victims as well. Is there any significance to your
24 involvement in R³?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I really believe

1 that it created or emphasized the relationship with him.
2 It emphasized -- how would I say -- how I saw him as
3 somebody who fun, somebody who seemed to have it all
4 together, somebody who was very intelligent.

5 Through R³ but even outside of R³ that he
6 would talk about degrees that he had -- doctoral degree in
7 Psychology and in Philosophy that he presumably had, so it
8 created -- R³ really created the opportunity to get to know
9 him.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

11 Now, my understanding, Father, is that you
12 graduated in June of 1979 from La Citadelle?

13 **FATHER THIBAULT:** June of 1978.

14 **MR. DUMAIS:** June of 1978?

15 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes, from Grade 12.

16 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

17 And at that time you decided not to complete
18 your Grade 13? Is that correct?

19 **FATHER THIBAULT:** I skipped Grade 13 and
20 went to university.

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** I see. And which university
22 did you go to?

23 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Ottawa University.

24 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. And did you -- which
25 campus did you go to?

1 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I did two years at the
2 Cornwall Campus and then my third year at -- for that
3 degree in Ottawa.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. So then you will still
5 residing in Cornwall during the latter part of '78 and '79?

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I went to Ottawa in
7 1980, the fall of 1980.

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

9 Now I understand that in August of 1979, you
10 did attend another retreat in Trois-Rivières. Is that
11 correct?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. And can you tell us a
14 bit about that? What that retreat was about?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** It had nothing to do with
16 Father Deslauriers. I was a member of a prayer group in
17 the youth group at St. Thérèse Parish and that was a
18 retreat centre in Trois-Rivières that I had been to a
19 number of times for retreat.

20 That particular time there was a retreat
21 involved but I was also there for two full weeks helping
22 out, working on the grounds with them, and so if I remember
23 correctly there was a weekend retreat but I had gone to be
24 part -- or mix in with the community that worked at that
25 centre, that prayer centre, that retreat centre, which I

1 had done in a few times before and did also afterwards.

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** And I understand that during
3 this retreat you came to speak to some one, to a woman ---

4 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** And who did you speak to and
6 what was your conversation about?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** She was a woman that was
8 in charge of that centre that I had gotten to know and to
9 trust, and at some point I -- I was very confused, very
10 mixed up with what was happening with the abuse which was
11 presented to me -- not necessarily in that word, but
12 presented as a form of therapy, and I just had big problems
13 with that. So that at some point I started -- I talked to
14 her about it, kind-of to bounce it off somebody but also to
15 kind-of get it off my chest.

16 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

17 And was this an activity that was part of
18 the retreat or were you just speaking to this woman, or
19 this lady, after hours, if I can put it that way?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** It wasn't part of the
21 retreat. It's ---

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** She's a friend?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, and I had confided in
24 her about other stuff beforehand, so it's not something
25 that necessarily came out of the blues, and so it was a

1 one-on-one situation where, I don't remember exactly how it
2 came about, but I imagine that it was just like, hey, I
3 need to talk to somebody about this.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And by this you
5 mean the sexual abuse ---

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** -- at the hands of Father
8 Deslauriers?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And this woman, do
11 you recall her name?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. Rose-Annette
13 (phonetic) Vachon.

14 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. And she was not a nun or
15 a sister or -- she was just a ---

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** She was a lay woman.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

18 Now, when you disclosed this to her, what
19 did she do or what did she advise, if anything?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Well, she was surprised to
21 hear about that. She -- her reaction was kind of like,
22 m'hm, that doesn't sound too good, and she advised that we
23 go see one of the priests that was working there at that
24 time.

25 And so with my consent, we both went to see

1 that priest to talk about this and check it out. She says,
2 "I don't really know much about this, but let's go see if
3 it's something normal for a priest to do".

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

5 And, I mean, just so that -- I don't want to
6 get into any of the details of the specific abuse, but let
7 me see if I can just summarize.

8 So Father Deslauriers, under the guise of
9 psychological therapy, sexually abused you. So he used
10 that vehicle to abuse you. Is that correct?

11 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

13 And when you say, I spoke to this woman or
14 this lady, that's what you were making reference to, the
15 therapy itself or ---

16 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

18 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes. And I described to
19 her what was done as therapy.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And so then her
21 reaction was that you should be speaking to a priest. Is
22 that correct?

23 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes.

24 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

25 And you did, as a matter of fact, speak to a

1 priest?

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I did.

3 **MR. DUMAIS:** And was that a priest that was
4 at the retreat?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** He was living there at
6 that time, working with that retreat centre.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** And this priest that you spoke
8 to, do you recall what his name was?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. Germain Côté.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. And you explained to him
11 the circumstances of the therapy, the so-called therapy.
12 Is that correct?

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I described to him
14 what had happened ---

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** -- a bit the same way I
17 had described it to Rose-Annette (phonetic).

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. And during this
19 conversation, was she present?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't recall. I don't
21 think she was.

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. And do you recall where
23 you were when this conversation with this priest occurred?

24 **FATHER THIBAUT:** In his office.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. And do you believe that

1 the conversation was a discussion in a confessional?

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I think it was. I'm not
3 convinced but I -- there was a lot of guilt involved, that
4 I felt a lot of guilt. So I'm pretty sure I put it in the
5 context of confession.

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And what was this
7 priest's recommendation or did he say anything to you or
8 give you any advice or ---

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** From what I can remember,
10 like, he confirmed what Rose-Annette (phonetic) had
11 basically said. He said, like, "That doesn't make sense.
12 It's not proper to act in that way". And speaking about
13 what Father Gilles was doing. And he really recommended
14 that that should be stopped.

15 So he encouraged me to speak to Father
16 Gilles and to ask that that so-called therapy that I -- as
17 I say, I don't know if we used that term back then, but
18 that I call it today -- that it stop. I don't remember him
19 ordering me in that sense, but strongly suggest, and I
20 accepted that suggestion.

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

22 And did this priest know you personally?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I had met him a number of
24 times too.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** So --

1 **FATHER THIBAUT:** And so I felt at ease
2 speaking to him. I felt more at ease speaking to Rose-
3 Annette (phonetic) first.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** He knew who you were?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** He knew that you were from
7 Cornwall?

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I'm pretty sure.

9 **MR. DUMAIS:** And do you recall whether or
10 not you had identified at that time Father Deslauriers?

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** If I had told him which
12 priest had done that?

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes.

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't remember.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** You can't say?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't remember.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** Perhaps if I can take you to a
18 document, Father.

19 It's Document Number 114311. And this is a
20 document, Commissioner, that has already been made an
21 exhibit.

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** It's Exhibit 71-A, at pages
24 107856.

25 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Great. Hold on a second

1 there. I do not have 71 in my -- oh, right here. Yes.

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** And, Commissioner, just for
3 ease of reference, it's a transcript of the criminal
4 proceedings, page 47. It's actually Bates pages 1071856.
5 And I am just going to ---

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Do you have that page,
7 sir?

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I do.

9 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Thank you.

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Thank you.

11 **MR. DUMAIS:** And, Commissioner, this is in
12 French and so I'm just going to read it in French because I
13 know that ---

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I understand.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** --- Father Thibault
16 understands, and I have advised all my friends that there
17 will be some reference to French documents.

18 So I'm looking at line 15 and this is while
19 you're -- just to put you in perspective, Father, that is
20 while you're being cross-examined at the preliminary
21 inquiry on September 15th, 1986.

22 So the question that is put to you is:

23 "Vous nous avez également relaté, Père
24 Thibault, que le dernier évènement ne
25 serait pas survenu après septembre '79.

1 Pourriez-vous nous dire sur quels
2 renseignements ou sur quoi vous vous
3 basez?

4 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Just a minute. That's not
5 what I have on the screen.

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** That's where you have it
7 now; where the cursor is there, line 15?

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay. Yes. Thank you.

9 **MR. DUMAIS:** Starting at line 12.

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. Thank you.

11 **MR. DUMAIS:** You got that?

12 And your answer was:

13 "Étant très bouleversé par ça, troublé,
14 mettons, dans mon esprit, mêlé si l'on
15 peut dire, j'avais à ce moment-là
16 rencontré un prêtre lors d'une retraite
17 à Trois-Rivières, puis, en confession
18 je lui ai parlé de ça. Lui m'a
19 éclairé, puis c'est à ce moment-là que
20 j'ai décidé que je ne pouvais plus
21 continuer, que j'ai pris cette
22 décision-là, puis je suis allé, et je
23 me souviens bien ce prêtre-là était là.
24 C'était en '79. C'était au mois d'août
25 '79 que je serais allé à ce moment-là.

1 C'est pourquoi je ne crois réellement
2 pas que ce soit suivi par la paix; je
3 sais que j'ai pris ma décision à ce
4 moment-là que je ne pouvais pas
5 continuer."

6 And I guess my question is: Does that
7 refresh your memory as to whether or not the statement or
8 the discussion that you had with this priest had been ---

9 **FATHER THIBAULT:** In confession.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** --- in confession?

11 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** Thank you.

13 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Yes. And, as I said a
14 while ago, it's very likely. And 1986 was much closer to
15 1979 than we are today. So ---

16 **MR. DUMAIS:** And at that time, Father
17 Thibault, you had not mentioned the name of the woman who
18 suggested you should speak to a priest. Is that correct?

19 **FATHER THIBAULT:** I don't remember being
20 asked specific names at that time.

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay.

22 **FATHER THIBAULT:** In 1986?

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes.

24 **FATHER THIBAULT:** At the preliminary
25 inquiry?

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes. And we'll get to that.

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay.

3 **MR. DUMAIS:** But when you recount the story
4 of August, 1979, you make reference to this priest that you
5 spoke to?

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay. I did not speak of
7 a woman that I had ---

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes.

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** --- previously spoken to?
10 Okay. I don't recall that I didn't.

11 **MR. DUMAIS:** Oh, all right.

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** The document seems to say
13 that, yes.

14 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. All right.

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** But she was in the
16 picture.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

18 Now, following this retreat, my
19 understanding is you came back to Cornwall and you did have
20 a discussion or a confrontation with Father Deslauriers.
21 Is that correct?

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

24 Can you tell us a bit about that?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't know if it was

1 right after I came back, but soon afterwards I went to see
2 him and I asked that the therapy or the help he was
3 offering in that sense that it stop. I told him I don't
4 think that should continue and he respected that.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

6 And had you advised him at that time that
7 you had a discussion with another priest regarding this
8 matter? Do you recall that?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't think I did. I
10 don't think I did. From what I recall, I didn't want him
11 to know.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** Now, you -- at that time, was
13 Father Deslauriers your spiritual advisor?

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, but it's never been
15 official. It wasn't an official mandate or I didn't
16 specifically ask him, "Do you want to be my spiritual
17 advisor", but he acted in that way and I acted towards him
18 in that way, too.

19 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

20 Well, what do you understand that to mean "a
21 spiritual advisor"? What is that to you?

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Basically, a guide in
23 spiritual matters, somebody -- a confidante in which --
24 like he was -- when I had questions about faith, I would
25 ask him. When I was faced between -- sorry, making

1 decisions for my life and things like that in my spiritual
2 life, I would go consult him and ---

3 **THE COMMISSIONER:** But is it something that
4 would just come along that way or is it -- would somebody
5 know in the parish, "Oh, yes, Père Deslauriers is your
6 spiritual advisor"?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** In certain cases it is.
8 Like right now I have a spiritual advisor and it's somebody
9 that I went to see specifically and said I need a spiritual
10 advisor, and I meet with her on a regular basis by
11 appointment.

12 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** But that can be worked out
14 in different ways and with Gilles it was basically -- and I
15 say Gilles, that's the way I called him then.

16 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** With him, it was basically
18 something that developed but it wasn't something that I --
19 on the outside, people probably just thought like I was
20 good friends with him but -- so it wasn't something that
21 people could say, "Okay, well, he's the spiritual advisor
22 for Claude".

23 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

24 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

25 And despite these events, he continued for

1 some time to be your spiritual advisor. Is that ---

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** You mean after 1978 when I
3 asked him to stop the abuse? I didn't call it abuse then.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes, after August of '79?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes.

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. He -- I maintained
8 my relationship with him. He was still a confidante. He -
9 - I still considered him a friend.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

11 And so then at that point in time, the only
12 people that you would have disclosed this to were the two
13 people that you mentioned at the retreat in Trois-Rivières?

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** And neither of them knew
17 him personally. As I say, I don't remember telling them
18 exactly who it was but they wouldn't have known him
19 personally.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** And by that time too,
22 there was really -- when I speak of a relationship with
23 him, I would say it was an abusive relationship much more
24 than just the sexual abuse. It was the manipulation. I
25 was really -- "son emprise" -- help me.

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** "Emprise" is fine. We
2 understand that.

3 **THE COMMISSIONER:** You were ---

4 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Held by him.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** Under his control?

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, under his control.

7 Yes. So I wasn't aware of that at that point but I was
8 very blinded by his -- the impression I had of him and so
9 the relationship was very much affected that way.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Which I think made a big
12 difference in the fact that when I asked him to stop what I
13 call -- well, what it was, sexual abuse, I didn't say to
14 him, "I don't want to ever have anything to do with you".
15 There was fear. There was very mixed feelings.

16 **MR. DUMAIS:** So then my understanding is
17 that you completed your studies at the University of Ottawa
18 and then you decided to enter Saint Paul University in
19 1981. Is that correct?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. And at that time, you
22 continued to have a relationship with Father Thibault ---

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Deslauriers.

24 **MR. DUMAIS:** Father Deslauriers, sorry.

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I'm Father Thibault.

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes, I know.

2 **(LAUGHTER/RIRES)**

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I had a relationship
4 with Father Thibault.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** And so as a Vocational
6 Director. Is that correct?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** M'hm.

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** He was Vocation Director
10 for the French sector of our diocese.

11 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. Perhaps just briefly,
12 can you just explain to us what a vocational director is?

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Vocation director is
14 basically the connection between the -- somebody thinking
15 of entering the seminary; somebody thinking of becoming a
16 priest, and the bishop -- so he's appointed by the bishop
17 to basically take care of the seminarians, make contact
18 with the seminary, keep contact with the seminary and look
19 after our wellbeing and formation.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

21 So then was he the only Catholic Vocational
22 Director at that time?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** For our diocese?

24 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes.

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, there were two. There

1 was another one that was for the English sector for the
2 diocese.

3 **MR. DUMAIS:** So then -- and that was Father
4 Gary Ostler. Is that correct?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, it was at that time.

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** And he was in charge, if I can
7 say that, of the English-speaking seminarians?

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** That's correct.

9 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And everyone that
10 was French had Father Deslauriers as a vocational director?

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** That was about the way it
12 was; at least it was my understanding. You were French,
13 you had Gilles. You were English-speaking, you had -- you
14 were connected with Father Gary.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** And again, Father Thibault, is
16 that something that just occurred naturally or were you
17 just expected to meet with him or were you asked to meet
18 with him? How did that happen?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I would say kind of
20 gradually because I already knew him. There was already
21 interaction with him.

22 So when I started talking about the
23 possibility of entering the priesthood, the fact that I was
24 thinking about it, he certainly encouraged me along that
25 path and whether he is the one -- it probably would have

1 been the case that he would have been the one to say to me
2 to me at some point, "Well, I'm the Vocation Director. So
3 you're speaking to the right guy about it." He didn't need
4 to refer me to anybody else and -- but I also eventually
5 became aware that that was the case, that he was appointed
6 by the bishop for that task.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

8 Now, I understand when you were in second
9 year at Saint Paul Seminary that you did have a discussion
10 with one of your friends by the name of Steve Anesse
11 (phonetic). Is that correct?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Steve Amesse.

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** Amesse. Oh, that's an ---

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** A-M-E-S-S-E.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. So he's a friend of
16 yours?

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** Is he a fellow seminarian?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** And so you had a number of
21 discussions about him regarding Father Deslauriers. Is
22 that correct?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I referred to him at
24 times and Steve became quite concerned about the type of
25 relationship I had with him because he became aware that it

1 wasn't a normal -- what he considered a normal relationship
2 between a vocation director and a seminarian, and started
3 confronting me in the sense of saying like that guy has way
4 too much power and control over you.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** And eventually you came to
6 disclose the sexual abuse to Steve Amesse. Is that
7 correct?

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Steve Amesse, yes.

9 **MR. DUMAIS:** Amesse, sorry.

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** That's okay. It's -- yes,
11 it took a bit of a while because I really resented his
12 comments at first, and again it was a sign of that control.
13 I can see that today. I really defended Gilles, but
14 eventually he started kind of cracking me up or whatever
15 and so eventually I did share with him what had happened
16 sexually and the abuse that I had suffered. And again at
17 that -- even at that point, I'm not quite sure that I was
18 at first realizing that it was abuse because I really --
19 Father Gilles had worked a lot on saying, "Well, I can help
20 you but you got to trust me; you've got to trust me; you've
21 got to trust me." So I wanted so much to believe, even
22 after it stopped, that he had done that to help. And --
23 but I disclosed what had happened to Steve.

24 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And is it at that
25 point in time or was it through conversations with Steve

1 that you came to realise that there may actually have been
2 more than you as a victim?

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. Up until that time
4 and especially the way Father Gilles had worked and made me
5 feel so special and so unique, and a number of times where
6 he said, "I can help you, but -- like, I wouldn't do this
7 for just anybody, but you're special", and that grooming
8 that goes on, it never even occurred to me -- like, I never
9 -- at least I don't remember ever saying, like, "I wonder
10 if that is happening with anybody else."

11 But that day where I disclosed that to
12 Steve, his question to me or his comment was, "Claude, if
13 he did that to you, how many others did he do that to?"
14 And that day was like a veil lifted from in front of my
15 eyes and I said to him, I said, "Ah, yeah."

16 And I had no proof of anybody else at that
17 point but it's at that moment, my second year of seminary
18 that I started realising that I probably was not the only
19 one.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And is it fair to
21 say that as a result of this realization and your anger,
22 that you started having trouble at school?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. Not in my courses,
24 but at the seminary.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** It's a problem with your

1 attitude?

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. I really rebelled
3 against the system, against anybody who had to do with the
4 Diocese or with Gilles, anybody who was friends with
5 Gilles, but also authority in general.

6 I really had a rough time. I was really
7 churning and realizing -- starting to realize what had
8 really happened and it was very difficult because there was
9 lots of denial in the sense that I would say to myself,
10 like, how could I be so stupid, and yet, I knew I was
11 intelligent. But I was debating with that until the day I
12 realized it had nothing to do with my intelligence, but
13 with the trust that I had put in him and that he had
14 abused. But I really did go through a rough time in my
15 second year in the seminary.

16 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And my
17 understanding is that you had a spiritual advisor at the
18 seminary as well?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. When we entered the
20 seminary, we were asked to take a spiritual advisor on the
21 staff of the seminary.

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And so at one point
23 in time you had this meeting or this conversation with your
24 spiritual advisor; is that correct?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** He questioned me on my

1 attitude, on my behaviour. He was very concerned about
2 that. But I refused to tell him why I was doing -- what
3 was going -- I didn't -- I couldn't tell him at that time.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And I understand as
5 well that after your second year, there was some type of
6 report or assessment of how you were doing that was
7 prepared; is that right?

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. It was standard
9 procedure in the seminary to have, at the end of the year,
10 sort of an evaluation. There was an auto-evaluation that
11 we were asked to make of our progress during the year, but
12 also the staff would meet and discuss the situation of
13 every seminarian and from that, the Rector, who was in
14 charge of the seminary, compiled the report that was sent
15 to the Bishop and to the Vocation Director.

16 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And my
17 understanding is that this report, for this particular
18 year, was somewhat negative?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, it was.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** And the Rector had a meeting
21 with you or had a discussion with you with respect to its
22 content?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. That was also
24 standard procedure that we'd meet with the Rector and he
25 would discuss our auto-evaluation; he'd discuss the

1 comments in general of the staff, the seminary team,
2 without telling us who had said what; and the
3 recommendations for them and then he'd basically indicate
4 to us what he was planning on putting in his report, that -
5 - if I remember correctly, the report was sent to the
6 Vocation Director who then passed it on to the Bishop.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. In this report was
8 there any recommendation in there that you be expelled or
9 that you be asked to take some time off to reflect on
10 whether or not you wanted to continue or -- was there a
11 conclusion in there?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Basically, what he was
13 telling me was that the seminary team was very -- a bit
14 split on that issue, that some strongly felt that I should
15 be asked to leave or at least take a leave of absence, more
16 in terms of, let him go take care of his problems and then
17 maybe come back later on. And the Rector made me aware of
18 that and mentioned, if I remember correctly, that that
19 would be alluded to in the report, but that he would
20 recommend that I come back and basically he told me, we're
21 going to give you a chance.

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now, following the
23 end of the year and following the report being sent to the
24 Bishop, I understand that you took it upon yourself to meet
25 with him; is that -- with the Bishop?

1 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I knew the report
2 wasn't necessarily positive and, excuse the expression; I
3 needed to cover my ass, so I went to see the Bishop. I
4 made arrangements to see with -- the Bishop, to discuss it
5 with him.

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** That was Monseigneur
7 LaRocque?

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, that was Monseigneur
9 LaRocque at the time.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** And is that usual for the
11 Bishop to receive a copy of your report from the seminary
12 and then to meet with a seminarian or is that ---

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Usual? I can't really
14 tell. I don't think it's the only time that I discussed
15 it. I think what was unusual was that I took the step to
16 make sure to meet with him.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** M'hm. All right.

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I can't recall.

19 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. So before you set
20 out for that meeting, had you decided in your mind what you
21 wanted to discuss or what you wanted to say or did you have
22 a plan?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I wouldn't say a full
24 plan. I basically wanted to discuss with him what was
25 there and to tell him that it was true; that I was going

1 through a rough time, that I was sorting things in my life
2 and in my mind, as I had said to my spiritual director,
3 because when he had commented, and it was a bit that kind
4 of approach with the Bishop.

5 When you want to clean your basement, you
6 create a mess to start off and then kind of clean it out.
7 And I was in the middle of that mess and I wanted him to
8 understand that it wasn't actually the final result, and I
9 wanted him to -- to get his support but understanding to
10 some extent.

11 So that's a bit -- I didn't go in with the
12 idea of disclosing anything specific.

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** So you hadn't decided to
14 disclose anything about Father Deslauriers?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Not about the sexual abuse
16 but I had planned and I did say to him that I -- how did I
17 word that -- I said to him, "I want you to know that
18 between Father Gilles and I, things aren't too good."

19 Because that too, I was aware that I had
20 taken some distance from Father Gilles although I couldn't
21 break all ties because he was Vocation Director, and I
22 wanted the Bishop to be aware that there was a bit of rift
23 there and give, kind of my side of the story because I was
24 afraid that Father Gilles could make up a story because I
25 had realized by then that he often lied to me, and lied to

1 others, and that he could easily try to manipulate the
2 Bishop and give me trouble worse than I was already in.

3 So by saying to the Bishop that I wanted him
4 to know that things weren't too good, I also said to him, I
5 have the impression that he's not through with me and he's
6 playing games behind my back, speaking about Father Gilles.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. But what was your
8 concern? Why did you want to meet with him?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Because --

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** What was your concern that the
11 Bishop would read your report, this report?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I was concerned that he
13 wouldn't really understand what was going on but I was very
14 much concerned, as I just said, that Father Gilles who was
15 aware of the report -- because if I remember correctly, he
16 would get the copy and pass it on to the Bishop, and if
17 that wasn't the case, he would get a copy.

18 So he was aware of it and he was aware of
19 some of the stuff that was going in my life and I was very
20 concerned that he'd make up some story to the Bishop and
21 that the Bishop would say, "Well, you're not the type of
22 guy we want as seminarian".

23 Even though I knew the seminary was ready to
24 give me a chance, I wanted to make sure that the Bishop
25 would also give me that chance.

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And at that point
2 in time in your life, it was still your intent to complete
3 the seminary?

4 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. Yes, I still had a
5 desire to become a priest, definitely.

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** Now, how was this meeting set
7 up? Did you call or how does this happen?

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I probably called his
9 secretary and asked to meet with the Bishop. That was
10 usually the way we proceeded. I don't -- one thing I'm
11 sure I did not ask Father Gilles to arrange that meeting.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** M'hm.

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** That, as Vocation
14 Director, did happen at times.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes.

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Because he was really the
17 middleman and made sure he was the middleman, but that time
18 I bypassed him for sure.

19 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And do you recall
20 giving anyone the reason for this meeting or ---

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Before the meeting?

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes.

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I would probably have said
24 to his secretary I just want to go discuss my evaluation
25 and my year in the seminary.

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now, and this
2 meeting would have occurred where?

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** At the Bishop's office.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** And tell me about the meeting,
5 how that went, whether -- what you discussed and what you
6 told him?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Well, we discussed the
8 evaluation to a certain extent, the -- how would I say, the
9 year at the seminary, not just what was in the report. But
10 as I just mentioned, at some point I said to him, to Bishop
11 LaRocque, "I want you to know that things aren't too good
12 between Father Gilles and I. I have the impression that
13 he's not true with me and he's playing games behind my
14 back."

15 And at that point, the Bishop basically
16 said, "Be careful; those are grave accusations" and I
17 really felt at that point he was closing the door and I
18 shut up. We did -- I didn't leave right away. We talked
19 about other stuff, but I dropped that aspect.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Fair to say that at
21 that point in time the Bishop thought highly of Father
22 Deslauriers?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. Yes, and that was
24 part of my fear because he was -- I perceived Gilles as
25 being the Bishop's right-hand man, that he really -- really

1 trusted and there's a number of occasions where we had to
2 discuss situations and things to present to the Bishop and
3 Gilles would say, "Well, you can go speak to the Bishop
4 yourself but if he says "no", we're done. I can go and I
5 know how to talk to him and we can probably get what we
6 want."

7 Basically, today I read that and I say he
8 was telling me I can go and manipulate him and we'll get
9 what we want. And so he was -- the Bishop really trusted
10 him and I was very aware of that. So that's why it was
11 very risky for me even to make the comment that I had made
12 about feeling that he wasn't true with me and playing games
13 behind my back, but I was opening the door a bit.

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** So those words -- your
15 conversation with the Bishop would have been in French?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** And can you tell us -- do
18 you recall what words you used in French?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Oui.

20 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Oui.

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Je veux que vous sachiez
22 qu'entre Gilles puis moi ça va pas tellement bien. J'ai
23 l'impression qu'il n'est pas vrai avec moi puis il me joue
24 des jeux dans le dos.

25 **THE COMMISSIONER:** O.k. Merci.

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. So suffice it to
2 say then that you would not have disclosed that you would
3 have been the victim of sexual abuse at the hands of Father
4 Deslauriers; is that right?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, not at that time.
6 Before I go further, I will also translate his -- well, not
7 translate -- give you the -- his very words were,
8 "Attention; c'est des grosses accusations".

9 **THE COMMISSIONER:** O.k. Merci.

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I did not disclose to him
11 anything about the sexual abuse at that time and I wasn't
12 planning on telling him at that time either, but his
13 response closed the door to even that possibility.

14 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. What if he would
15 have been opened and understanding, any chance that you
16 would have told him?

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't think I would have
18 told him that day. But I was trying to open a door because
19 I had a desire to go further, eventually, but I -- I can't
20 speak because it -- I can't say really because it didn't
21 happen, but I don't necessarily think that I would have
22 said that that day.

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now, I understand
24 that they permitted you to go back and complete your
25 studies.

1 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I did.

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** And I understand that in 1984-
3 '85, you underwent a pastoral internship at St. Columban's;
4 is that correct?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, St. Columban's Parish
6 here in Cornwall.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes.

8 **THE COMMISSIONER:** A what?

9 **MR. DUMAIS:** Pardon me?

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** A what? I mean what kind
11 of internship?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Pastoral internship.

13 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Thank you.

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** So training.

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Sure.

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** As an intern.

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. So then my
19 understanding is you're an intern and you're under the
20 supervision of a priest; is that correct?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** Who was that priest at that
23 time?

24 **FATHER THIBAUT:** It was Father Gary Ostler.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And the other

1 vocational director?

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, it happened to be and
3 that was following my suggestion. I knew that I was a
4 Francophone. I had been involved in my parish, the French
5 sector of my parish because the parish was bilingual at
6 that point, but I wanted to see how I could function in an
7 English milieu.

8 So I suggested that it may be a good idea to
9 be in an English parish that also offered many
10 opportunities of learning and St. Columban's was chosen
11 based on that.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Father Gary was pastor at
14 the time.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** Now, I understand that at that
16 time as well, you had a new spiritual advisor; is that
17 correct?

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Not when I arrived there
19 but beginning of 1985 I started looking to have somebody
20 and I did find a religious sister in Ottawa that I would
21 drive out to Ottawa to meet with.

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And I guess the
23 idea is you were done with your seminary and I guess you no
24 longer had any association with this spiritual advisor; is
25 that fair?

1 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, and I could have
2 continued with him I imagine but I was dissatisfied. So
3 that's why I wanted somebody but I wanted somebody
4 different.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And this sister,
6 Sister Myrna Ladouceur, is that right?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Myrna.

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** Myrna of Sacred Heart in
9 Ottawa.

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, Soeur du Sacré-Coeur
11 in Ottawa.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And at one point in
13 time, did you have any discussion with her with respect to
14 Father Deslauriers?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. I'd say rather
16 quickly I started talking about my relationship with Father
17 Gilles since I had known him and different difficulties
18 that I had had with him in the way he directed me and the
19 control he had.

20 I did not at first speak to her about the
21 so-called therapy or the sexual abuse, but I spoke about
22 the lies that I had endured and the manipulation, other
23 forms of abuse, abuse of authority. I discussed many of
24 those things with her.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And was she

1 counselling you to do anything?

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, she coached me I
3 would say and I don't remember if I asked her to coach me
4 or she suggested, probably a mixture of both, but coached
5 me into meeting with Father Gilles and confronting him on
6 those issues, which I did on March 21st, 1985.

7 I realized only afterwards it was first day
8 of spring and it was a spring day in my life. So I
9 basically went to see him after preparing with Sister Myrna
10 and went over a number of issues and said when -- when you
11 did this, when you said that, this is what it what it had,
12 the impact it had on me, this how I felt. And although I
13 had not spoken to Sister Myrna about the sexual abuse, I
14 also confronted him specifically on that aspect, and
15 brought that back and told him -- talked to him about the
16 impact that it had had on me and how I felt at that time
17 about it.

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. That was a good day
19 for you personally.

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, it was.

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** The other thing that I had
23 prepared with Sister Myrna and that I did to him in very
24 clear words, I'll say it in French first.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** M'hm.

1 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Le contrôle que je t'ai
2 donné sur ma vie, je viens le reprendre. So the control
3 I'd given you over my life, I'm taking it back. And it
4 really, really is what happened.

5 I had come to realize that he was a friend
6 that I was terrified of, and you're not terrified of
7 friends. So for the first time, he wasn't up there and me
8 down here; he was at my level and it really broke the fear
9 and it broke the control.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** So what was his response,
12 if any? Do you know?

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** In terms of the -- when I
14 spoke about the sexual abuse, he basically said, "I'm
15 sorry; I did that to help you." And I said, "I'm sorry; it
16 didn't help." And but, like, it wasn't, I'm sorry I hurt
17 you; it was basically, I'm sorry you didn't work out.
18 That's the feeling that I got. And he listened to me very
19 carefully that day but did not respond very much.

20 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** But I got the feeling in -
22 - how would I say -- in his eyes that he understood very
23 clearly that I wasn't a happy camper.

24 **MR. DUMAIS:** Now, I understand that you
25 continued to have a relationship with your spiritual

1 advisor. So you continued to be -- she continued to be
2 your advisor?

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I continued to go see her
6 on a regular basis, in Ottawa.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** And I understand that at one
8 point in time, that you did disclose that you had been
9 sexually abused by Father Deslauriers?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. In November of that
11 same year, 1985, I basically said to her, there's something
12 I didn't tell you about when we were preparing on my
13 meeting with Gilles Deslauriers, and I disclosed to her, at
14 that time, about the abuse.

15 And by that time, I was aware that it was
16 abuse and aware of the impact of it, and I discussed that
17 with her.

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now, what was her
19 reaction or what did she recommend?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I'm not sure what she
21 recommended. I -- how would I say -- I took the bull by
22 the horns, and I told her that I knew by that time that I
23 had to speak to the Bishop about it, and that I was
24 planning to do so but I felt that I couldn't talk to him
25 about that before my ordination.

1 I was deacon already at that point, and
2 before being ordained priest, because it was too much of a
3 risk, again, because of the power that Father Gilles had,
4 and the trust that the Bishop had towards Gilles.

5 I wasn't sure, first of all, that the Bishop
6 would believe me; that it would be my word against Father
7 Gilles' words, and that I was just kind of a nobody almost.
8 And that I -- I felt that after being ordained, I probably
9 would have a bit more leverage.

10 And so I said to her, I know I have to speak
11 to him, and she agreed with that, definitely. And I said,
12 I'm giving myself six months within my ordination. I had
13 no idea how and when I'd do it. I was very afraid but I
14 knew I had the responsibility to let the Bishop know what
15 had happened.

16 At that point, I still did not know that
17 there was anybody else that had suffered the same thing,
18 but I was more and more aware that I didn't want anybody
19 else to have to go through what I went through.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And that was
21 towards the end of 1985?

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, November 1985.

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** And, at that time, did you know
24 when you were to be ordained?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I was aware that I'd

1 be ordained in February of 1986.

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And from -- and if
3 I can just finish off this -- and between January 1st, 1986
4 and the date of your ordination, had you heard anything
5 about any other victims of Father Deslauriers?

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Because we've heard
8 evidence from Benoit Brisson that he would have disclosed
9 this to his parents and two other people during that period
10 of time. So you had not heard anything?

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I was totally unaware of
12 that at that time. I had since heard that too, found that
13 out, but I was unaware that that was going on.

14 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Perhaps,
15 Commissioner, we can take the afternoon break here.

16 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes. Thank you. Prendre
17 la pause.

18 **THE REGISTRAR:** Order. All rise. À
19 l'ordre. Veuillez vous lever.

20 This hearing will resume at 3:35.

21 --- Upon adjourning at 3:19 p.m./

22 L'audience est ajournée à 15h19

23 --- Upon resuming at 3:38 p.m.

24 L'audience est reprise à 15:38

25 **THE REGISTRAR:** This hearing is now resumed.

1 Please be seated. Veuillez vous asseoir.

2 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Mr. Dumais?

3 **FATHER CLAUDE THIBAUT:** Resumed/Sous le meme serment

4 --- EXAMINATION IN-CHIEF BY/INTERROGATOIRE EN-CHEF PAR MR.
5 **DUMAIS:** (Continued/Suite)

6

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Father Thibault, so
8 we had left off at your ordination, which was on February
9 1st, 1986; is that correct?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

11 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And shortly
12 afterwards or about a week afterwards, I understand that
13 you received a call; is that correct?

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. The Friday evening,
15 February 7th, I had been away for the week. When I came
16 back my mother told me that Madame Brisson, who was my
17 grade 7 and 8 teacher, had called and I returned the call
18 that evening, February 7th.

19 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And what did she
20 tell you?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** She basically -- she was
22 aware that I had had problems. She mentioned that she was
23 aware that I had had problems while I was in the seminary,
24 and she asked me, "Was it regarding a certain priest" and I
25 did not respond. And she went on saying, "Because one of

1 our sons, I won't name him, but the one you went to school
2 with has had problems."

3 **MR. DUMAIS:** M'hm.

4 **FATHER THIBAUT:** And I simply said, "Can I
5 go see you?"

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And my
7 understanding is that you did that night, you did ---

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

9 **MR. DUMAIS:** --- meet with both Lyse Brisson
10 and her husband; is that correct?

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I met with both of them.

14 **MR. DUMAIS:** And where did you meet with
15 them?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** At their home, here in
17 Cornwall.

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. And what was the
19 conversation that happened at the house?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** That's where they
21 basically told me that their son had shared with them, in
22 January, that he had been sexually abused by Father Gilles
23 Deslauriers. And they basically told me who they had
24 talked to and described it, and told me that they had --
25 they did believe their son.

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And, at that time,
2 so on February 7, 1986, you were still not aware of any of
3 this. So other than your conversation with Madame Brisson,
4 you had no knowledge of any of the allegations against
5 Father Deslauriers?

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No. That was the first
7 time I ever found out that there was somebody else. I did
8 not disclose to them that evening that I had been sexually
9 abused, but I told them -- I thanked them for sharing that
10 with me and I told them it confirmed some doubts that I had
11 been having for a while.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now, she as well
13 indicated that she had spoken to a number of people about
14 this; three of them being Father Ménard, Father Bisailon
15 and Father Vaillancourt; is that correct?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** They informed me of that
19 that evening, that they were aware of this.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now, if I can just
21 take you to a transcript or proceeding; that would be
22 Volume 56, the evidence of Lyse Brisson, on October 12,
23 2006, at pages 46 and 47.

24 **THE COMMISSIONER:** So are we supposed to
25 have -- Madam Clerk, do you have that around? Do you have

1 a hard copy. No. Okay. Ça va aller sur le --

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. So if I can just put
3 things in perspective. So that's following Madame
4 Brisson's evidence.

5 She's being cross-examined by Mr. Lee and
6 you will see that she gave her evidence in French.

7 So the questions are in French and the
8 answers are -- sorry, the questions in English and the
9 answers are in French. So I'll just go through her version
10 of these events and then I'll ask you a question
11 afterwards.

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** So starting at page 46 ---

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** And "C-1" is, of course,
15 you.

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I recognized that
17 last fall.

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** And on line 8:

19 "During your meeting with Mr. ..."

20 -- I'll just use the surname --

21 "During your meeting with Father
22 Thibault, did he discuss with you a
23 meeting he had with Bishop LaRocque?"

24 The answer:

25 "Oui, deux ans et demi auparavant, ou à

1 peu près."

2 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Just hold on a second
3 there; let me re-read that.

4 Okay, yeah.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** A question from Mr. Lee:
6 "Did he tell you what was said at this
7 meeting?"

8 "Qu'il s'était plaint à l'évêque des
9 traitements que Gilles -- oui, que
10 Gilles Deslauriers avait eu et que
11 l'évêque ne l'avait pas nécessairement
12 cru. Il ne s'était pas senti écouté."

13 **THE COMMISSIONER:** "Il s'était pas senti
14 écouté."

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** "Il s'était pas senti écouté."
16 Question from Mr. Lee:

17 "Did Father Thibault, when you were
18 speaking to him at your meeting, tell
19 you that he was sexually abused by
20 Father Deslauriers?"

21 Answer from Madame Brisson:

22 "Au début, j'avais pas mentionné d'abus
23 sexuel concernant Benoit. J'avais
24 juste parlé que Benoit était à l'envers
25 à cause des rencontres qu'il avait eues

1 avec Gilles Deslauriers. Là il m'a
2 dit, 'Lise, il faut absolument que tu
3 me dises quelque chose. Est-ce que
4 c'était sexuel?' Puis j'ai hésité,
5 puis il a dit, 'C'est bien important
6 pour moi que tu me dises', puis j'ai
7 dit, 'Oui, oui, c'était de la
8 sexualité'."

9 Question from Mr. Lee:

10 "And did he then tell you that he was
11 sexually abused by Father Deslauriers?"

12 Answer from Madame Brisson:

13 "Il s'est mis à pleurer puis il a dit,
14 'C'est la même chose qui m'est
15 arrivé'."

16 **THE COMMISSIONER:** And then the last
17 sentence:

18 "On s'est pas étendu sur le sujet. Je
19 pense que c'était pas nécessaire."

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay.

21 **THE COMMISSIONER:** So that's what she told
22 us at the inquiry.

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** So do you agree with her
24 version of the events of that meeting, Father?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** It doesn't coincide with

1 my recollection totally. I was under the impression that
2 they did tell me that it was sexual without my asking. It
3 could very well be, but definitely I did not disclose the
4 sexual abuse that I had endured that night. I later on did
5 but I did -- as I say, I thanked them for believing their
6 son because I felt that it was revealing or confirming
7 doubts that I had.

8 Inside, I wanted to tell them but I wasn't ready to tell
9 them right away. So I just said, basically, I'll do what
10 ever I can, because they were asking me if I could help
11 them in this matter and I just basically said, "Well, I'll
12 see what I can do".

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Then if I
14 understand, your evidence is you would not have disclosed
15 to Madame Brisson that you had been sexually abused during
16 this particular meeting on February 7th.

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** Now, so that's the second part
19 of her evidence. So the first part then is that you would
20 have told her that you had this discussion with the bishop,
21 and I'll try to translate, that you -- about the
22 maltreatment that you had suffered at the hands of Father
23 Deslauriers.

24 Do you recall any discussion with respect to
25 that?

1 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't necessarily recall
2 sharing that with them that evening. I know I spoke to
3 them about it at some point, but I certainly did not tell
4 them that -- mention any -- that I had talked to the bishop
5 about any sexual abuse.

6 As I say, after this -- this one meeting, I
7 did see them at other times and I shared with them some of
8 the events that had happened with Gilles and -- but I know
9 that I didn't say, well, I told the bishop two years ago,
10 let's say, that I was sexually abused because that was not
11 the case.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. But you could have
13 had a conversation with her about the meeting, a meeting
14 which would have occurred with the bishop two and a half
15 years previous?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I am pretty sure
17 that I did because as I say, I went through much of what
18 had happened and as far as I recall, I did discuss with
19 them that I had gone to see the bishop, what I relayed to
20 you, in line with my evaluation after my second year and
21 what I had discussed with the bishop at the time.

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And we are assuming
23 that this previous meeting with the bishop is the meeting
24 which you previously spoke about today ---

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, I imagine that

1 that's what she was referring to, because, as I said, I
2 would have relayed that to her and that's what she would
3 have be referring to last fall.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

5 Now, how did you leave things with her? Did
6 you tell her that you weren't going to do anything or say
7 anything to anyone or meet with anyone afterwards?

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, not that night, at
9 least not in my recollection. I basically said, "Well,
10 I'll do whatever I can to help in this matter", but I had
11 no idea how I was going to proceed. I say I have no idea;
12 I don't know if it's that night or the next day there, but
13 I decided to consult Father Denis Vaillancourt, but I did
14 not say to them, at least in my recollection and I think
15 that recollection is pretty good, that I would do this or
16 that. I just said like I'll see what I can do.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

18 And before you contacted Father
19 Vaillancourt, did you contact your spiritual advisor or
20 Sister Ladouceur?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I called up Sister
22 Myrna. If I remember correctly, it would be on the
23 Saturday morning, and I told her what happened the night
24 before and I said to her, "I realized that somebody has
25 opened the door for me. I have to go see the bishop about

1 this and tell him that I was also sexually abused." And I
2 said to her, "I am running this by you. If I am doing
3 something stupid, let me know."

4 And she asked me, "Do you feel -- do you
5 want to do this?" And I said, "No, I don't, but I feel I
6 have to". And she says, "Are you ready?" I said, "Well, I
7 will be". So she says, "Well, go ahead".

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

9 And my understanding is before you met with
10 the bishop that you did set up a meeting with Father Denis
11 Vaillancourt as well?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** And who was he at that time?
14 Did he -- was he simply a parish priest or did he occupy
15 another function?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Denis was a parish priest.
17 He was Chancellor of the Diocese, which he still is, but he
18 was very involved with R³. He was basically Gilles' second-
19 in-hand man. Is that how you say it?

20 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Right-hand man.

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Right-hand man. Thank
22 you. So I knew him quite well and I was aware the
23 Brisson's had told me who they had spoken to, and out of
24 those three it's the one that I knew best and that for me
25 was the most natural one to speak to.

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. So you gave him a
2 call and you set up this meeting?

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** And where did you meet?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I met him at the rectory
6 at St. Columban's, although at that point I was living in
7 Alexandria. I met him at St. Columban's where I had done
8 my internship and it was also neutral ground for me.

9 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

10 And what was the conversation about? Do you
11 recall what you told him, and what he said?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I told him -- we talked
13 about Benoit and I told him that I also had been sexually
14 abused and that I knew I had to go and speak to the bishop
15 and basically asked him to help me to facilitate that. And
16 as far as I remember, he is the one who made the
17 appointment for me to see the Bishop.

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

19 And would you -- so then you would have
20 disclosed to Father Vaillancourt that you had been a victim
21 of sexual abuse as well?

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

24 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, I told him very
25 clearly what I would be talking to the bishop about.

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** So was there any other
2 discussion at this point in time about other victims that
3 have come forward or whether or not he was aware of --
4 whether he had other information with respect to these
5 allegations?

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, not that I recall. We
7 spoke about Benoit Brisson but -- and about my case but I
8 don't remember any indication on his part that there were
9 anybody else.

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** So what advice did he
11 give you, if any?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I would say he encouraged
13 me in my decision to go speak to the bishop.

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** And there wasn't big
16 advice. I don't remember him saying, "Well, say this,
17 don't say that".

18 **THE COMMISSIONER:** No, but I'm wondering, at
19 this point, Father Deslauriers is still around.

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

21 **THE COMMISSIONER:** He's still active in the
22 ministry, if I call it that?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, he was still parish
24 priest in Navivity.

25 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. And you're talking

1 to his second in command, kind of thing. Did you have any
2 worries that he might ---

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Go blab to Father Gilles?

4 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Well, either go blab to
5 Father Gilles or try to protect him or anything like that?

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I had pretty clear
7 indication from the Brissons that he was very
8 understandable and I mean there's always a risk in
9 disclosing sexual abuse.

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** And I mean there was fear
12 in doing so but I had a feeling I could trust him. I knew
13 him well enough and even in his reaction to me, it was a
14 very compassionate reaction and whether it was at that time
15 or later on, he really indicated how he had been fooled
16 himself.

17 And so he was -- he was supportive. He
18 never said to me, "Oh no, don't talk about this" or tried
19 to prevent me in any way, shape or form.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Father Thibault,
21 are you aware that at one point in time there was a
22 committee that was set up -- and I'll just jump ahead a bit
23 here. It was called "Un comité ad hoc pour le cas de
24 l'abbé Gilles Deslaurier". Were you aware that there was
25 this committee that was set up to investigate this?

1 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, under the
2 responsibility of Monseigneur Guindon.

3 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

4 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I was aware of it.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** And I just want to point out to
6 you one section of that transcript. We will eventually get
7 back to your involvement in that but I mean I'm just going
8 to take you to -- and that's document number 738435.

9 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Is this a new exhibit?

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** Sorry, Commissioner, it's
11 Exhibit 72 which was filed previously.

12 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Which page in there?

14 **MR. DUMAIS:** Madam Clerk, does this show as
15 a "C" exhibit? It does. Thank you.

16 So I'm just referring to Bates page 7167086.
17 So, Father, that would be the number in the top left-hand
18 corner.

19 **THE COMMISSIONER:** It would be page 8 on the
20 right-hand side, I believe.

21 Maître Dumais, is that correct?

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** On the left-hand side.

23 **THE COMMISSIONER:** No, page 8 is on the
24 right-hand side.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** Right, but the numbering starts

1 over again throughout this entire transcript.

2 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Ah, okay, okay. All
3 right.

4 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I'm not sure which one
5 you're talking about.

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** It's okay -- never --
7 don't listen to me, just listen to Maître Dumais.

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** Although it's at the beginning
9 here; so it's the eighth page. You're correct,
10 Commissioner.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** I'm sorry. I should
12 restate that. Do like the rest of them; don't listen to me
13 and just carry on.

14 7167086, is that right?

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** That's correct.

16 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** So about mid-page, again, this
18 is the testimony that Father Denis Vaillancourt gave at the
19 Comité ad hoc and it refers to your discussion or your
20 meeting with him. So I'm just going to read you this
21 passage and you can tell me whether or not you agree with
22 how he relates the meeting.

23 "Le Père Thibault m'a dit qu'il avait
24 eu un téléphone de madame Lise Brisson
25 lui disant d'aller les voir. Alors, il

1 était allé les voir et il lui avait
2 dit, étant donné que c'était un
3 confrère de Benoit Brisson, qu'est-ce
4 qui se passait, quelles sont les
5 souffrances qu'il avait à ce moment-là
6 à propos de l'affaire, et elle avait
7 posé la question au Père Thibault si
8 lui, ça lui était arrivé. À ce moment-
9 là, il n'avait pas répondu à la
10 question des Brissons. Et je lui ai
11 dit, 'Pourquoi me parles-tu de ça?' Et
12 à ce moment-là, il m'a affirmé que ça
13 lui était arrivé à lui aussi, aussi à
14 la reprise et qu'il s'était tellement
15 senti mal à l'aise après le contact
16 sexuel qu'il avait demandé d'aller à la
17 confesse au Père Deslauriers et le Père
18 Deslauriers lui aurait dit, 'Bien, ce
19 n'est pas nécessaire. C'est une
20 démarche psychologique.' Mais quand
21 même, Claude n'était pas à l'aise avec
22 ça et il est allé à la confesse au Père
23 Deslauriers."

24 Does that summarize your meeting or what was
25 said during that meeting, Father Thibault?

1 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. I -- there was at
2 least one of those times in the so-called therapy that this
3 is exactly what happened. He's relating it quite well.

4 **THE COMMISSIONER:** So you're not ---

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** And I shared that with
6 him.

7 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Sorry. You're not at
8 this meeting?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Because at the
11 beginning here I see your name is there, who the comité
12 will hear from and your name is struck.

13 Are you going to get to that?

14 **MR. DUMAIS:** I'll get to that.

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Sorry, sorry.

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** So I won't pay attention to
17 you?

18 **THE COMMISSIONER:** No, don't pay attention
19 to me.

20 **(LAUGHTER/RIRES)**

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** So then -- all right. So then
22 Father Vaillancourt sets up this meeting with the bishop
23 and you attend on the following day; is that correct?

24 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Say this again there. Are
25 you still with this ---

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** No.

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay. Repeat the question
3 please.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. So then Father
5 Vaillancourt sets up this meeting with the bishop ---

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Right.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** --- and you meet with him on
8 the following day?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, on the Sunday, the 9th
10 of February.

11 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And is anyone else
12 at this meeting?

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, I'm alone with Bishop
14 LaRocque at that time.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And tell us about
16 that meeting, what you told him and what you discussed.

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I basically told him that
18 what he had heard about Benoit Brisson had also happened to
19 me. I described to him, probably not in details, but I
20 described to him that I had been sexually abused in the
21 context of what was presented as a therapy and I discussed
22 with him my relationship with Father Gilles.

23 I mentioned to him that at some point I had
24 -- when I had started realizing what had happened, I
25 started realizing that for a time I wasn't becoming a

1 priest for God in God's Church but for Gilles who was such
2 an important person in my life and that I was happy that I
3 had cleared that out before being ordained.

4 I also reminded him of the -- my meeting
5 with him a couple of years earlier and I said, "I don't
6 know if you remember when I came to see you after my second
7 year and I told you that I had the impression that Father
8 Gilles wasn't true with me; he was playing games behind my
9 back. And you said be careful, those are grave
10 accusations."

11 I said to him, "Now, I'm telling you it
12 wasn't just an impression; it was more than impression. I
13 knew that was the truth but you responded that way and I
14 shut up."

15 I also told him that if he had listened, I
16 probably eventually would have told him between -- before
17 that.

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And what was his
19 response to those comments?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Well, one of the responses
21 was when I was describing my relationship with Father
22 Gilles and the control he had and how I almost worshiped
23 him, he said, "That's idolatry" and then he says, "I'm
24 sorry; I don't want to accuse you of idolatry." And I
25 said, "Well, I accuse myself of it because at some point

1 Gilles was my idol."

2 He also at some point said to me, "If only
3 you would have told me that before". And then he stopped
4 dead in his track and he says, "If only I would have
5 listened".

6 He was very, very receptive, very
7 compassionate.

8 I was I'll say terrified of going to see him
9 with this type of information. It really helped to know
10 that he had already heard about what had happened with
11 Benoit but I was still very afraid, but he was very, very
12 receptive at that point and in no way, shape or form then
13 or later did he ever try to say, "Hush, hush, don't talk
14 about this".

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** Any discussion at that point in
16 time as to how matters would proceed from there, whether or
17 not the diocese would do anything or say anything?

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't recall speaking
19 with him at that time about that, what would happen. I
20 don't recall making any recommendations to him in the form
21 of saying, "Well, you should do this or that". I don't
22 recall that.

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And was that the
24 extent of your meeting?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** As far as I can recall,

1 yeah.

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't know how long it
4 lasted. It felt like it lasted for ages.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay.

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** But it went well.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now, I understand
8 one of the things that the bishop did do is set up this
9 committee. Do you recall that?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** The ad hoc committee?

11 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes.

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. Before that when you
13 asked me if there was any discussion of what would happen,
14 I did find out a few days later that the bishop had asked
15 Gilles to leave.

16 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** So had basically dismissed
18 him; so I was made aware of that.

19 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. So you found that out
20 through third parties?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** If I remember correctly,
22 it's Father Denis Vaillancourt who told me.

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. So then there
24 wasn't a meeting. The bishop didn't call a meeting with
25 the priests saying, "Well, this is happening or this is

1 occurring and I've asked them to leave" or anything to that
2 effect?

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Not that I recall. I do
4 recall that Bishop Brodeur who was a former bishop of the
5 diocese died a few days after I was ordained and his
6 funeral was the week following my revelation to the bishop
7 and what I recall is that it's at that funeral that we
8 started hearing -- the priests found out that Gilles had
9 been asked to leave, but there was no -- most people didn't
10 know why. I knew why but most of the priests weren't
11 really told why at that point, as far as I can remember.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now, this committee
13 that was set up by the bishop, how did you find out about
14 it?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't remember how I
16 found out about it.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Do you recall being
18 asked whether or not you were willing to participate?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, I don't recall at all
20 being asked or being told that I wouldn't be participating.
21 I know I wasn't -- I did not participate.

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And perhaps if we
23 can -- if we can just turn to -- again, it's document
24 738435 and it's the first page; so 7167071.

25 **THE COMMISSIONER:** It's the first page of

1 that document with the letter dated the 3rd of April and
2 where your name is struck out.

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** Now, if you ---

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Sorry, did you say seven
6 one or seven two?

7 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Seven two.

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** Actually it's the following
9 page. So this is a piece of correspondence and that's been
10 filed as an exhibit already dated April 3rd, 1986, and
11 perhaps we can just shut the public screen for now.

12 **THE COMMISSIONER:** The public screens are
13 off.

14 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Thank you.

15 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Are they?

16 **THE REGISTRAR:** No, they are not.

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** The public screens are
18 on. So -- but I understand that on November 16th, '06, we
19 dealt with this document and it was no longer confidential
20 but it was just subject to a publication ban.

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** Correct.

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** So that people in the
23 public should be able to see this document and if that's
24 not a correct interpretation, people should tell me now,
25 but my understanding is that we had put it as a "C"

1 document out of an abundance of caution. Then when we
2 worked things out, because I see on mine there's the word
3 "Publication Ban" stamped three times. So it's to alert
4 the public that there is a ban on publication only.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** You're ahead of me,
6 Commissioner, and now that you say that, I do remember that
7 now that we corrected some of these "C" exhibits ---

8 **THE COMMISSIONER:** That's why I'm the
9 Commissioner.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** --- afterwards.

11 All right. So then I'm just looking at that
12 page there and you'll see that it's presumably signed by
13 Bishop LaRocque and it has not been identified as such yet,
14 but that the committee is asked to hear evidence. The
15 first thing that we see there is le Père Gilles Deslauriers
16 and the second name would be le Père Claude Thibault.

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I see that.

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** And your name is crossed off
19 here.

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** And there are other where in
22 the disclosure where your name is not crossed off on this
23 letter. So did you receive any invitation to participate
24 or to give evidence in this proceeding? Do you recall
25 that?

1 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay. I became aware of
2 this particular page last fall. I really don't recall ever
3 being invited to go and I don't recall knowing until last
4 fall that my name had been on there, and I'd been
5 scratched, and I don't know why.

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Because as I say, I
8 remember that I wasn't asked to -- that I was -- that I did
9 not participate but I don't remember being asked and I
10 don't see why I would have refused to go because I had
11 talked to the bishop already and I wanted to contribute in
12 making sure that this wouldn't happen again.

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. But had you heard
14 that this committee had been set up, these three people had
15 been requested to hear ---

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I knew there was an
17 ad hoc committee. I knew who was on it, working on it. I
18 knew they were meeting with victims and some of their
19 family members to look into the whole thing and to make
20 recommendations to the bishop. I was aware of that.

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. All right. And I'm just
22 going to point you out to one specific page and again, I'm
23 going to refer to the evidence given by Father
24 Vaillancourt, and that's Bates page 7167097.

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Seven zero nine seven you

1 said?

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes.

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** And we'll see whether or not
5 that helps your memory. And this is -- I'm looking at
6 about mid-page and this is Monseigneur Guindon who is
7 asking a question to Denis Vaillancourt, and he's saying:

8 "Est-ce que Claude Thibault..."

9 And then Father Denis Vaillancourt answers:

10 "Claude Thibault, je lui en ai parlé.
11 Son nom est sur la liste ici. Il est
12 prêt à venir. Il est un petit peu
13 réticent mais il veut parler lui
14 comment il conçoit que Gilles
15 manipulait des esprits chez les adultes
16 et comment lui il a vécu ça. Puis si
17 c'est nécessaire de parler de son
18 expérience sexuelle avec le Père
19 Deslauriers, il va en parler. J'ai
20 contacté ou plutôt j'ai parlé avec un
21 autre jeune qui m'avait rencontré, un
22 des quatre jeunes à qui j'ai parlé, et
23 lui ne veut pas venir, ne veut pas que
24 son nom paraisse."

25 So do you recall having that conversation

1 with Father Vaillancourt?

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, I don't.

3 **MR. DUMAIS:** It doesn't help. All right.

4 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Sorry.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** It's okay.

6 And perhaps, Commissioner, I did allude to
7 the fact that this particular letter exists elsewhere
8 without Father Claude Thibault's names crossed off and
9 perhaps that should be made an exhibit. I'm looking at
10 document 118854.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Is this a new exhibit
12 then?

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** It is, Commissioner.

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Exhibit P-674 will
15 be -- how do you -- it's a letter dated the 3rd of April
16 1986, sorry, and it's a mandate that Bishop LaRocque is
17 giving to the composition of the committee, the ad hoc
18 committee, and what do you say is different? You just said
19 -- the names are not struck out.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** Correct. As opposed to the
21 correspondence. I see my friend is getting up. I was just
22 about to -- if the public screen can be turned off just a
23 second, Commissioner?

24 I'm advised by my friend, I was just about
25 to say that this document should be protected by the same

1 publication ban that applies to all of the other documents.

2 THE COMMISSIONER: Which doc -- 674?

3 MR. DUMAIS: This last exhibit. The same --

4 -

5 THE COMMISSIONER: M'hm.

6 MR. DUMAIS: --- I guess, the same ban that

7 ---

8 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, the document I have
9 is just one page.

10 MR. DUMAIS: Yes. Correct.

11 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay. And you are saying
12 that there is a name on this page that is a subject matter
13 of the publication ban?

14 MR. DUMAIS: I think it goes further than
15 that. It's one of the names where, I believe,
16 Commissioner, you had recommended that it be edited.

17 THE COMMISSIONER: Okay.

18 MR. ROULEAU: It doesn't appear in the other
19 exhibit that was referred before. That's why you don't see
20 it.

21 THE COMMISSIONER: I am afraid you have lost
22 me but ---

23 MR. DUMAIS: Yeah. Actually, that was a
24 specific request that we had argued about a year ago. But
25 as Mr. Sherriff-Scott has pointed out, I mean, that's fine.

1 We can deal with this in the institutional response and ask
2 the question to either of Father Vaillancourt, any members
3 of the committee that receive this document, and we'll make
4 sure at that time that it's edited.

5 And I believe my friend is right, that we
6 had -- you had granted an edit of that particular name.

7 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. So where does that
8 leave us? Do we have Exhibit 674 before me?

9 **MR. DUMAIS:** Let's just not file it as
10 exhibit, Commissioner.

11 **THE COMMISSIONER:** It is not going to be
12 filed as an exhibit. So 674 does not exist.

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** Thank you.

14 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Oh, I see.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yeah. We see on the screen
16 but, unfortunately, the paper copy is --

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** No. That's correct, and
18 as it should be.

19 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes.

20 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay.

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** Now, a number of
22 recommendations came out after the committee -- this
23 committee issued its report. Were you ever made aware of
24 these, what these recommendations were at the time?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't recall personally

1 coming across or being told verbally of those specific
2 recommendations. I know that there were recommendations
3 made but I don't recall.

4 **THE COMMISSIONER:** And I am sorry. It is
5 probably late in the afternoon. You did or did not want to
6 participate in this?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't necessarily
8 remember being asked.

9 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Right.

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't see why I would've
11 had major problems with it. What Father Denis said would
12 probably be quite accurate, that ---

13 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** --- it wasn't a thing that
15 I was most pleased at going to describe those events before
16 these three people.

17 **THE COMMISSIONER:** M'hm.

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** But I was very much of the
19 intent of making sure that something right was done about
20 this whole situation and to prevent further ones. So I
21 really don't think that I refused to go.

22 **THE COMMISSIONER:** All right.

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** For some reason, I guess,
24 they judged that wasn't necessary and I don't know what
25 those reasons would be.

1 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Thank you.

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay?

3 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. So you indicated
5 that you would've heard about some of the recommendations.
6 Where would you have heard that from?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** None about some of the
8 recommendations, I was aware that the goal of this
9 committee was to advise the Bishop and make recommendations
10 to the Bishop. I don't remember hearing of any specific
11 recommendations at that time, what had been presented to
12 the Bishop.

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** But, as I say, I was
15 aware. When I mentioned about hearing about the
16 recommendations, I meant I knew that that was the purpose
17 of it.

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. So then you would
19 not have been made aware, as a priest of the Diocese, of
20 what -- that recommendations had been made or put in place
21 or were being considered or ---

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. I don't think that
23 that was disclosed to the priest, in general.

24 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. Now -- and this report
25 was filed at the end of May 1986, on May 23rd, 1986.

1 Now, from the initial weekend where you
2 spoke to the Bishop, you spoke to Denis -- Father
3 Vaillancourt and you spoke to Madame Brisson, until early
4 June of 1986, did you have any dealings with anyone with
5 respect to the allegations that you had made against Father
6 Deslauriers?

7 Did anything happen, any events, during that
8 period of time?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** He was -- as I say, he was
10 removed from ministry. I don't think there was -- I don't
11 remember anything formal, but in conversations, I mean, I
12 saw Father Denis at different times. I ended up speaking,
13 at some point, with Father Bernard Ménard who was aware of
14 this and who was aware that I was -- that I had been
15 sexually abused.

16 I did go back and forth at different times
17 with the Brissons speaking with him about it. As I say, I
18 didn't -- as far as I remember, on the 7th of February, I
19 didn't tell them that I also had been sexually abused, but
20 later on, I did. So I had known them for a number of years
21 and -- but I don't remember anything necessarily formal.

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** Nothing formal, nothing
23 official. No statements were made by you in writing or
24 otherwise?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Not that I recall.

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Okay.

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Until, like, until it went
3 out in the press. And -- what was I going to say -- and I
4 don't recall hearing of any other specific victims until
5 the case went basically public.

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now, at one point
7 in time, so at around June 3rd, 1986, you received the visit
8 of two police officers at the rectory; is that correct?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I did.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Can you tell us a
11 bit about that?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** They came totally
13 unannounced. I wasn't totally surprised in the sense I
14 knew there was an investigation going on; I knew the
15 Brissons knew that I had been sexually abused, but I
16 certainly did not expect their visit that day.

17 It was very bad timing also because it was a
18 day where there was a priest meeting. All the priests and
19 the Bishop were meeting at the church in Alexandria, where
20 I was at, and these guys showed up; so I was very self-
21 conscious of that.

22 They went on to basically tell me that they
23 had suspicions or reasons to believe that I had been
24 sexually abused by Father Gilles Deslauriers. They told me
25 first they were working on that investigation. I did not

1 know them; they were total strangers to me. And they told
2 me that reasons to believe that I had been sexually abused
3 by Father Gilles Deslauriers. They told me first they were
4 working on that investigation. I did not know them, they
5 were total strangers to me, and they told me they had
6 reasons to believe that I had been sexually abused by
7 Father Gilles Deslauriers.

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

9 And what was your response?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I denied it. I said, "No,
11 I haven't". I felt really torn inside but I basically
12 panicked. As I say, I didn't expect them and I wasn't
13 ready at that point to disclose that to them, so I told
14 them that I had not been abused.

15 I did say to them -- I believe that --
16 something to the effect, "I believe you're on the right
17 track. You need to continue your work".

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** Right. And prior to their
19 visit, had you considered at all involving the criminal
20 process?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't recall involving -
22 - I do remember Madame Brisson calling me up and letting me
23 know that they had put some criminal charges and she -- I
24 wouldn't say she pleaded, she suggested that I contribute
25 with that, but I -- it's not something that I had really

1 considered.

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** The -- if I may add, after
4 my denial, one of the constables, police officers, got
5 angry and said to me, "What angers me the most in this is
6 the apparent attempt by the church to cover up".

7 I felt that very hurtful because I felt that
8 I was kind of covering up and I really felt torn. I felt
9 like part of me wanted to tell them and I just couldn't at
10 that moment, and that's when I said to them, "Please
11 continue your work". So my worries were basically a scream
12 to them, "Don't stop. You're on the right track". But I
13 couldn't say that.

14 **MR. DUMAIS:** So then, my understanding is
15 they left and you sought legal advice after this?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I called a lawyer
17 who was doing some work for the diocese and I asked to meet
18 with him and I told him what had happened because I wanted
19 to check where I stood with this, what I had done if it was
20 okay or not.

21 And he basically told me that I could not
22 lie and that I could be held in contempt of court or
23 something to that effect.

24 And I said, "Well, what can I say?"

25 He says, "Well you can say 'no comment'".

1 And I said to him, "Yes, but if I say 'no
2 comment', they'll read between the lines".

3 And he says, "Yes, but they can't use that
4 against you."

5 So at my request, he called the police
6 officers. I don't know which one he spoke to but he said,
7 "My client would like to remove his statement that he was
8 not abused and replace it with a 'no comment' statement".

9 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

10 And this lawyer that you spoke to was
11 Jacques Leduc ---

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, it was.

13 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

14 And at that time, did you know that Mr.
15 Leduc had been involved with the comité ad hoc?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I'm not sure.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. So ---

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I know -- I know now, but
19 did I know then, I'm not sure.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** And so you would have called
21 him because you knew that he did work for the diocese?

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I knew he worked for the
23 diocese. I also knew that he had a canon law degree and
24 had studied at St. Paul University, so I had had different
25 interactions with him. Never on an official basis -- but I

1 -- I knew him and I felt I could trust him.

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

3 I understand that at one point in time after
4 you communicated with the two Cornwall police officers that
5 Mr. Leduc called you back?

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** And what did he tell you at
8 that time?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** It's about a week or two
10 later he called me up and he said, "The police officers
11 would like to meet with you". And he basically asked me if
12 I was ready to do that and I asked to go see him.

13 And so I met again with Jacques at his
14 office and at that point I told him that I was ready to
15 collaborate in the investigation.

16 So he called them up and we made an
17 appointment to go meet the police officers and that's when,
18 in his presence, I made my statement -- gave a statement.

19 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

20 And where were you when you made the
21 statement?

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** At the police station.

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** And which police officers were
24 present?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** As far as I can remember,

1 it was Officers Herb and Ron Lefebvre, the same ones who
2 had come to see me on June 3rd, and I gave my statement,
3 answered their questions.

4 Jacques is the one who wrote down my
5 statement while I was talking.

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** So then they would be asking
7 the questions, you would answer and Mr. Leduc would take it
8 down. Is that ---

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

11 And this tape would have been given on June
12 13th, 1986. So does that make sense to you?

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** That's a date that I don't
14 recall.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. Now at one point in
16 time, Father Deslauriers was placed under arrest and
17 charged. Do you recall that? Were you made aware that
18 this ---

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I remember hearing
20 that. How I heard about it, I don't remember; was it
21 through the papers or not, exactly I don't remember. But I
22 was aware that he had been charged following different
23 allegations or accusations.

24 **MR. DUMAIS:** Right. So then following your
25 initial statement to the police, did you have any further

1 discussions with the bishop with respect to what your
2 intentions were, or did you advise him that you had given a
3 statement, or did you have discussion with respect of the
4 criminal process?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** As far as I remember, I
6 told him after giving a statement that I had done that and
7 that I had accepted to collaborate in an investigation and
8 with the law.

9 And when I said, so far as I remember, I did
10 not expect Jacques' call. I didn't expect the police
11 officers to want to see me again and when he called me I
12 immediately went to meet with him.

13 So I really don't recall seeing the bishop
14 or speaking to the bishop in the meantime, but I did inform
15 him that I would be collaborating with the law.

16 **MR. DUMAIS:** And as a matter of fact, you
17 did given evidence at the preliminary inquiry on
18 September 15th, 1986?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** That date I remember very
20 well.

21 **MR. DUMAIS:** And prior to you appearing to
22 give your evidence, did you have the occasion to meet with
23 the Crown attorney that was prosecuting the case?

24 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I did.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** And do you recall who the Crown

1 was?

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Was it Romel Moss?

3 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

4 So you met with him. Can you tell us about
5 that meeting?

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I was -- I got a
7 subpoena. I was asked to go meet with him and I got there.
8 That would have been at the police station, justice
9 building, and there were a whole bunch of other people
10 there -- other victims, family members.

11 And I felt intimidated by that I would say
12 because I had no idea all these people would be there.
13 That's when I found out about some of the other victims and
14 I realized that they found out about me being a victim and
15 again there was -- it was embarrassing.

16 In what I can remember, we all met with
17 them. I met with him individually, but it was a very brief
18 meeting kind-of telling us a bit of what would go on with a
19 preliminary hearing. There was no real coaching, no real
20 preparation in looking at the evidence, at least I really
21 don't remember that.

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** And was this the first time
23 that you realized who the other victims were, other than
24 perhaps the ---

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, because I -- I really

1 don't recall, except for Benoit, of knowing of any others.
2 I knew they had met with a number of other guys and come up
3 with other victims, but in terms of who was who, I really
4 don't remember having found that out before that meeting.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And just looking
6 around that room, I take it you knew everyone that was in
7 there?

8 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Pretty well.

9 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Specifically the other
11 victims, because they were classmates; they were people
12 that I was involved with R₃ with; they were basically
13 friends, not all at the same level, but the other victims I
14 knew; there were some family members maybe that I didn't
15 know as well, but, yeah, pretty well.

16 **MR. DUMAIS:** And, of course, they knew you?

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, they knew me.

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Any discussion
19 during this meeting with the Crown as to whether or not
20 they would be seeking some type of publication ban to
21 protect your identity?

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't remember that and
23 I really don't think there was because when that was told
24 to me that there was one imposed, it was a -- it was really
25 a surprise to me, so -- I really don't think that he said

1 anything about wanting to make that request or even that
2 there was a possibility of that.

3 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Any discussion at
4 that point in time with the Crown's office with respect to
5 victim assistance; that was back in 1986, any discussion
6 whatsoever?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No.

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** Now, you did then, at one point
9 in time, attend the courthouse; you gave your evidence.
10 What happened afterwards, after you finished giving your
11 evidence?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** After giving my evidence,
13 on my way out I was advised -- you see, I -- I was sure the
14 next day there would be headlines telling the whole world
15 that I had testified there and I was really afraid of that
16 but I was ready to take the risk because I wanted to make
17 sure that this would not happen again.

18 But I was advised, "Don't worry; your name
19 won't be in the paper tomorrow. Just before you came in,
20 the judge imposed a publication ban on the names of the
21 witnesses and any -- any information leading to their
22 identification."

23 So I was told that at that point, and I
24 remember -- I don't know if I expressed it, but my feeling
25 was one of relief, but in the other hand was, "Why didn't

1 you tell me that before?" I would not have changed my
2 story, because I -- what I had to say I had to say, but I
3 would have probably relaxed a bit more.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** M'hm, all right.

5 And then did you stick around for the
6 remainder of the preliminary inquiry?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

8 I was free to go home after that but chose
9 to stay as a means of support to the other victims, so I
10 spent the rest of the week in the victims' room with the
11 other victims.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now after the
13 proceedings was done, what were you advised afterwards;
14 what was the next step?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I was informed that
16 eventually that he had been cité à procès; how do you say
17 that?

18 **MR. DUMAIS:** Cité à procès? Sent to trial.

19 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Committed -- committed to
20 trial

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Committed to trial, that
22 that was what the judge had said on certain counts; not
23 necessarily -- and that's vague in my mind there -- that it
24 wasn't necessarily the whole -- the whole picture.

25 And that we -- I remember they told us that

1 it probably wouldn't happen in Cornwall; we would probably
2 have to travel elsewhere.

3 As a matter of fact, one of the places
4 suggested was Sudbury; that we would have to go do in
5 reverse what you're doing, Mr. Commissioner.

6 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** And -- but I -- I later
8 found out that a few days before he was supposed to appear
9 to get his dates for his trial, he appeared before the
10 court and pleaded guilty following some plea bargaining to
11 a number of charges.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. All right, well
13 let's just take it one step at a time.

14 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah, sorry.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** The first thing you told us is
16 you found out that the matter had been -- that he had been
17 committed to trial on some of these counts?

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

19 **MR. DUMAIS:** And so you found that out from
20 whom, or were you there?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, I wasn't there when
22 the judgment was -- was said.

23 I think it's through Jacques Leduc that I
24 found that out but I'm not convinced of that, how I found
25 out exactly.

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. But suffice it to
2 say then, that you were advised at one point in time, is it
3 possible that it was from someone from the Crown's office
4 or someone from Cornwall Police Service?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I really don't think it
6 was the Crown's office.

7 If it wasn't Jacques, it possibly would have
8 been one of the police officers working on the case.

9 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Because I did keep some
11 communication with them through the whole process.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. Now the fact that Father
13 Deslauriers had entered a plea to some of the charges, did
14 you find that out before or after the event?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** What do you mean "before
16 or after"?

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** Father Deslauriers pled guilty
18 to a number of counts?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** Did you find out before he
21 entered the plea that he was going to do so ---

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Okay ---

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** --- or did you find out
24 afterwards that he did?

25 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I found out afterwards.

1 I had no idea he was planning on pleading
2 guilty to any of those counts.

3 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

4 **FATHER THIBAUT:** And I wasn't even aware
5 that he was going to be appearing that day; I found out
6 afterwards that it had happened.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay. So at one point in time
8 you found out that he pled guilty to a number of counts;
9 were you made aware of which counts he had pled guilty to?

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't recall being told
11 which count exactly.

12 I remember being told in -- never
13 officially. In my recollection, Police Officer, Ron
14 Lefebvre, advised me of that, and basically out of courtesy
15 that's the way I received it; just he wanted me to know
16 that there had been some plea bargaining and he had pleaded
17 guilty on some of the counts but I really don't recall
18 knowing which counts exactly.

19 As a matter of fact, last fall, when reading
20 Benoit's testimony, that came up that there were only a few
21 that were retained and I remember like last fall I was kind
22 of like, "Am I one of those?" I had always presumed that I
23 was but I -- it's all of a sudden like I realized that it
24 was -- and like -- so, in the sense that I knew there were
25 some counts that were dropped, but I didn't realize that it

1 was certain victims or presumed victims at the time that
2 their testimony had been dropped totally because I knew
3 there was more than one count for each of us.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

5 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Is that clear?

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** That's clear.

7 And certainly you weren't part -- party to
8 those discussions?

9 **FATHER THIBAULT:** No, not at all.

10 I wasn't asked any advice on what should
11 happen or should not happen.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Now after he
13 entered a plea of guilty, he would have been sentenced. Do
14 you know if he was sentenced on the same day or a little
15 later on; do you know that at all?

16 **FATHER THIBAULT:** From what I recall, I was
17 told the next day that he had received a suspended
18 sentence.

19 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. And did you find
20 out the fact that he had pled guilty to certain counts and
21 the fact that he had received a suspended sentence at the
22 same time or are these two separate occasions?

23 **FATHER THIBAULT:** No, I would say at the
24 same time.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** At the same time, all right.

1 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah.

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** So as far as you can recall
3 then, the first time anyone told any of this to you, he had
4 been sentenced?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Say that again, please?

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** The first time you found out
7 that he had pled guilty, he, as well, had been sentenced;
8 everything was done?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

10 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

11 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** And ---

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Se you're confusing me
14 because you're talking about "he was sentenced" and
15 speaking about a suspended sentence, so legally I don't
16 know if it means the same thing.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Well -- and did you
18 know what a suspended sentence meant when you were advised
19 of that?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Basically he wasn't going
21 to be going to jail; that he had certain conditions on his
22 so-called freedom, I'd say, and needed to follow some
23 therapy and I was told that he had a suspended sentence
24 under the care of Bishop Proulx for two years.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

1 Do you know whether or not he was asked to
2 not have any contact with you?

3 **FATHER THIBAULT:** I don't remember being
4 told that, but there is one time where I did try to call
5 him later on and he told me that he wasn't to have any
6 contact with any victims.

7 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

8 Do you have any opinion as to the sentence
9 he received?

10 **FATHER THIBAULT:** I was very disappointed.
11 I knew that there was a risk that our prosecution of him
12 would lead him to go to jail. That was not my intent at
13 all. I basically had two motives, to make sure that nobody
14 else would have to go through what I went through and also
15 I was aware that he needed help big time. What I had done
16 previously in confronting him in all of this I felt didn't
17 lead to anywhere, so collaborating with the investigation
18 and the prosecution I was hoping that he'd be forced to get
19 that help, which was not the case. I was disappointed. I
20 felt that he didn't get the help that he wanted and he was
21 still dangerous -- not that he wanted, sorry, correct that,
22 that I wanted for him.

23 **MR. DUMAIS:** So then that was a concern for
24 you.

25 **FATHER THIBAULT:** Say that again please.

1 **MR. DUMAIS:** You were concerned about that.

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

3 **MR. DUMAIS:** And given the chance, would you
4 have liked to participate in the sentencing process?

5 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I would have liked to
6 have -- I didn't know at that time that that was possible.
7 I don't know if it was then, but since then I've heard of
8 other cases where there was I guess they call an impact
9 statement and recommendations from victims. I think that
10 would have been something very favourable because I really
11 believe - like, personally I believe that the therapy he
12 was asked to do once a week or something like that was not
13 what he needed. I felt he needed something intense, full
14 time, for a while.

15 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

16 So you have attempted to communicate with
17 him once since then. Is that the idea?

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

19 **MR. DUMAIS:** And that's when he told you ---

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I'd say probably two,
21 three years later.

22 **MR. DUMAIS:** Yes.

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah.

24 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Has he attempted to
25 communicate with you ever since ---

1 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Not at all. Not at all.

2 **MR. DUMAIS:** Okay.

3 **FATHER THIBAUT:** As I say, that one time
4 there was a bit of an attempt of reconciliation, but he was
5 very firm that he could not -- was advised that he couldn't
6 speak to me because I was one of those that brought him to
7 court.

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

9 At one point in time, did you have a
10 discussion with the bishop regarding assistance to other
11 victims?

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. I believe it's after
13 the guilt plea that I met with Bishop Larocque at some
14 point and he said to me: could you please speak to the
15 other victims? He knew that they were friends of mine and
16 he said: could you please speak to them and let them know
17 that if they need any help they can come and see me and
18 I'll see how the diocese can help them?

19 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Did he ask you or
20 did he mandate you?

21 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Mandate is a bit strong, I
22 guess. He suggested and I accepted to do that, which I
23 did. I did speak to the other victims that had testified
24 against him and informed them of that.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

1 The offer that you made, did it involve
2 expenses or reimbursement of expenses? Was any money
3 discussed?

4 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't remember
5 specifically that, but my understanding was mostly in terms
6 of help, to get psychological help. I don't remember like,
7 as I say, money being discussed, but my understanding was
8 that the diocese would -- the bishop would see to it that
9 the diocese would pay those kind of expenses if they were
10 requested.

11 **MR. DUMAIS:** But did you convey that to the
12 other victims?

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, I did.

14 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

15 Did you have any difficulty with playing
16 that role?

17 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Playing that role. No,
18 not really because, as I said, I knew those guys and I knew
19 that it probably would be -- I had easier access to them
20 than the bishop himself. I told them, but I never followed
21 up on that. I felt it was none of my business to go ask
22 any of them: so do you need help; do you remember that I
23 told you this; did you ask for help? I did it and then
24 kind of stepped out of that.

25 **MR. DUMAIS:** And as far as you know, Father,

1 you spoke to everyone.

2 **FATHER THIBAUT:** As far as I recall, yes.

3 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

4 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I'm a pretty thorough guy.

5 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Was the invitation
6 for counselling extended to yourself as well by the bishop?

7 **FATHER THIBAUT:** I don't know if it was
8 extended per se, when he said to me -- he asked me to speak
9 to the other guys I said: well, I need help; can I get it?
10 We made arrangements that I see a therapist. I jumped on
11 the occasion.

12 **MR. DUMAIS:** We are almost done.

13 At one point in time, Father Thibault, did
14 you find out that Father Deslaurier was saying mass in
15 another jurisdiction?

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** How did you find out and when
18 you did what did you do about it?

19 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Well, at first, and I
20 don't remember exactly how long that lasted, but I did find
21 out that he was in the Hull area and it's following that --
22 and as far as I remember it's the Brissons who told me that
23 and it's following that that they decided to go public with
24 the story and put charges.

25 Whether or not he returned there after the

1 trial I don't quite remember, but I do remember that I did
2 find out at some point that he was in Sainte-Adèle, Quebec
3 in the Saint-Jérôme diocese. That I found out through
4 different people who had travelled there on holidays and
5 had come across him.

6 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Is it fair to say
7 that at that time you still believed that Father Deslaurier
8 could be a danger to other youths?

9 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Oh, yes. Yes. I felt he
10 was a potential danger. He was such a manipulator, such a
11 liar.

12 That's also why in December 1986, I believe
13 it was the 19th of December, I met with -- after giving him
14 a call and setting up an appointment I met with Bishop
15 Proulx in Hull. I did not want to, how would I say, pester
16 Gilles, but I had felt -- Bishop Proulx had confirmed me
17 and I had a lot of respect for that man. I had felt that
18 his taking on Gilles under his wings was like saying, oh,
19 don't -- "faites-lui pas mal" -- don't hurt him, and so I
20 wanted him to hear our side of the story. I knew he had
21 heard Gilles' side and I had a pretty good idea what kind
22 of stories Gilles could have told him based on the lies
23 that I had heard him tell me, so I made an appointment with
24 him and I told him basically: I want you to hear the side
25 of one of the victims and not somebody who's angry at the

1 church, who wants to destroy the church; I come here as a
2 priest who loves the church and I want to tell you my side
3 of the story and why I did what I did.

4 **MR. DUMAIS:** And that was a discussion you
5 had with Bishop Proulx.

6 **FATHER THIBAUT:** That was with Bishop
7 Proulx, yes.

8 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right. Was he very
9 receptive to ---

10 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yeah. He listened very
11 well. I realized we weren't really on the same wavelength,
12 but he didn't say anything mean. I got out of there
13 feeling that we had kind of agreed to disagree, but at
14 least he had listened to me and that to me was very
15 important. I had said what I had to say.

16 And Bishop Larocque was aware. I had
17 advised him beforehand that I would be meeting with Bishop
18 Proulx and he was supportive of that.

19 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

20 Actually, you went to meet with Bishop
21 Proulx after a meeting with Bishop Larocque. Is that
22 correct?

23 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes. Knowing that Gilles
24 was on the loose, let's say, I had met with Bishop Larocque
25 and I specifically suggested or requested from him that he

1 remove Gilles' faculties, so that's the permission to
2 celebrate the sacraments. I said to him: I really don't
3 believe that he should be in any situation doing ministry
4 of that kind; he is dangerous. Bishop Larocque's response
5 at that time was: well, I think that I can't do that; that
6 would destroy him.

7 I did not express to him my real feeling,
8 but when I heard that I was not impressed and I felt how
9 many lives has he destroyed, but at least I had said what I
10 had to say.

11 **MR. DUMAIS:** It was following that meeting
12 that you went and met with Bishop Proulx.

13 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Right.

14 **MR. DUMAIS:** And of course in December of
15 1986 he had been convicted at that time.

16 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes.

17 **MR. DUMAIS:** Now, I understand that
18 following your meeting with Bishop Proulx you as well
19 attended another diocese. Is that correct?

20 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Yes, and that I don't
21 recall when, I'd say a few months later. Knowing that he
22 was in Sainte-Adèle, I made arrangements to meet with the
23 bishop, Bishop Valois, who was the bishop at the
24 Saint-Jérôme diocese at the time. I had called him up and
25 told him that I wanted to meet with him. We met at the

1 offices of the Canadian bishops in Ottawa. He was coming
2 for a meeting and that's where we met. Again, I basically
3 presented him a similar scenario that I had with Bishop
4 Proulx saying: I want you to know what kind of guy this
5 is; you've heard his side of the story, I want you to hear
6 mine.

7 I did not feel comfortable at all at that
8 meeting. He told me: don't worry, we're watching him. I
9 said: you cannot watch that man; I know, I've been through
10 it. But we parted and he stayed there.

11 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

12 Do you recall how much time approximately
13 between the two meetings, so the meeting with Bishop Proulx
14 and the meeting with Bishop Valois?

15 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, I can't recall.

16 **MR. DUMAIS:** Could you tell us when he would
17 have left the diocese of Hull? Do you know that?

18 **FATHER THIBAUT:** No, I don't recall when he
19 went to Sainte-Adèle.

20 **MR. DUMAIS:** Do you recall at all meeting
21 with Bishop Gilles Cassabon? Does that ---

22 **FATHER THIBAUT:** Father Cassabon was rector
23 at the seminary when I was there, but I did not meet with
24 him as -- I mean I've seen him but never in line with this
25 particular situation. I don't recall ever discussing

1 Gilles Deslaurier with him after I left the seminary.

2 Yeah.

3 **MR. DUMAIS:** All right.

4 If I can make a suggestion, Commissioner? I
5 believe I'm done. Rather than reviewing my notes, I note
6 that Father Thibault wishes to make a statement and he has
7 prepared a statement. If I can, can we adjourn until
8 tomorrow? He can make his statement tomorrow morning and
9 we can start with the cross-examination afterwards.

10 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Parfait. So let's
11 resume at 9:30 tomorrow morning.

12 **FATHER THIBAUT:** At 9:30. Okay.

13 **THE COMMISSIONER:** Yes. Thank you.

14 **THE REGISTRAR:** All rise. Alors, veuillez
15 vous lever.

16 This hearing is adjourned until tomorrow
17 morning at 9:30 a.m.

18 --- Upon adjourning at 4:58 p.m./L'audience est ajournée
19 à 16h58

20

21

22

23

24

25

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Marc Demers a certified court reporter inthe Province of Ontario, hereby certify the foregoing pages to be an accurate transcription of my notes/records to the best of my skill and ability, and I so swear.

Je, Marc Demers, un sténographe officiel dans la province de l'Ontario, certifie que les pages ci-hautes sont une transcription conforme de mes notes/enregistrements au meilleur de mes capacités, et je le jure.



Marc Demers, CVR-CM