

8. 5.9.

STATEMENT OF: REV. FR. BRUNO ENDA MULVIHILL
 OF: ULRICHSPLATZ 4,
 D-86150, AUGSBURG,
 GERMANY

OCCUPATION: PRIEST
 DATE OF BIRTH: 17/7/1945
 TAKEN ON: 8TH JUNE 1995
 AT: CENTRAL DETECTIVE UNIT
 BY: MICHAEL MURRAY D/INSPECTOR

I HEREBY DECLARE THAT THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF AND THAT I MAKE IT KNOWING THAT IF IT IS TENDERED IN EVIDENCE I WILL BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION IF I STATE IN IT ANYTHING WHICH I KNOW TO BE FALSE OR DO NOT BELIEVE TO BE TRUE.

My name is Bruno Enda Mulvihill. I was born in Galway on 17/7/45. I am at present a priest of the Norbertine Order working in the city of Augsburg. I am a solemnly professed member of the community of Kilnacrott Abbey, Co. Cavan. I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree from the NUI and hold graduate and post-graduate qualifications in Theology from German Universities. In September 1963 I entered Kilnacrott Abbey as a Novice. I was ordained on 25th July 1971. When I entered the Abbey, Right Rev. Phelim Colwell was Abbot. Very Rev. Kevin Smith was the Prior. There were about 18 members in the community at that time. At that time Fr. Brendan Smyth had once again become a resident member of the Community, after having returned from the Diocese of Menavia in Wales. In the Spring of 1964 on various Sunday mornings the then Bursar Michael McKeon used take me for a smoke behind the altar boys' sacristy. On a number of Sunday mornings at that time we heard the cries of sobbing of children. I could hear them call out words like "No - leave me alone." These cries came from the Sacristy after the catechism class. Unfortunately I cannot say who these boys or girls were as all contact with the outside world was forbidden during the noviciate. Due to the

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construction of the building I could not see these children. Fr. McKeon enlightened me as to the nature of the matter. He told me that Fr. Brendan Smyth was interfering with the children and that he had a history of child sexual abuse going back to the late 1940's. He said that we should inform the Abbot. We did this and were met by a rebuff by Abbot Colwell presumably because the Abbot had a posting for Fr. Brendan Smyth lined up in the U.S.A. From 1965 until early 1968 Fr. Smyth was posted to Providence, Rhode Island, U.S.A. Early in 1968 I answered a phone call from Bishop Russell McKinney of Providence asking for Abbot Colwell. The Abbot was at that time in hospital in Dublin. He asked me to inform the Abbot that Fr. Smyth was landing that morning in Shannon Airport his appointment having been terminated because of his "sexual misdemeanour." With the Prior, Father Philip Nash, we drove to Dublin and I gave the Abbot the message, which really didn't surprise him as he recalled immediately that Fr. Brendan had returned to the Abbey on two previous occasions "under a cloud." He said that Fr. Brendan had been returned from Scotland "because of irregularities in the National School" and from Wales because of "trouble with juveniles." It was quite obvious that the Abbot was referring to sexual abuse. In the Summer of 1968 I was cleaning out some vacant rooms. In the vacant room which was previously occupied by Fr. Brendan Smyth I found a Decree of the Congregation of Religious in Rome referring to Fr. Brendan Smyth ordering that he not leave the precincts of the Abbey without the provision of another priest and that his faculties for Confession were to be rescinded for the rest of his life. The Decree contained a sentence to the effect that this was the copy to be handed to Fr. Brendan Smyth personally. I found this Decree in a drawer in the desk. The prior being

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absent I approached the sub-prior Fr. Killian Mitchell and handed him the Decree. He assured me later that day that he had placed it on Fr. Brendan's personal file held in the Abbott's Office to which he Fr. Mitchell had access - I do not remember the date of the Decree but it must have been after Fr. Brendan's return from Providence, presumably because of the intervention of Bishop McVinney directly to the then Abbot - General Norbert Colwell in Rome. I cannot recollect the signature or other details of the Decree. Abbott Colwell died on the 24th December 1968. Fr. Philip Nash was automatically then appointed Administrator until Fr. Kevin Smith was elected Abbot on June 12th, 1969. In 1970 I undertook preliminary studies in Munster, Germany. I would visit Kilnacrott two or three times a year for 2 or 3 months at a time. During one of these visits I saw that Fr. Brendan Smyth was driving a Northern Ireland registered car. I saw that he was leaving the Abbey unaccompanied and that he was hearing Confessions. I informed Abbot Smith of what I saw. He said that Fr. Brendan had been penalised enough and that the provisions of the Decree were too stringent anyway. He said that he had spoken to Fr. Brendan and that he was satisfied that there would be no further misdeamour. I cannot recall when this conversation actually took place. Sometime later, again I cannot say exactly when, I saw Fr. Brendan Smyth leaving a small store room in the Abbey Auditorium with a small female child, maybe 9 or 10 years of age. She was sobbing. He left the child go its own way and he returned to the canteen shop counter. He worked in this shop during Bingo sessions in the Auditorium. I suspected that the child had been abused in some way. I told Fr. Brendan Smyth. I told the Abbot Smith about the incident. He told me that he didn't want me "watching confreres." Unfortunately I do not

know who this child was. At another stage a child, a boy aged about ten to eleven years from the vicinity of the Abbey told me that Fr. Brendan Smyth had "stuck his hand up my arse again." I don't know who this boy was. I told Abbot Smith who turned the wheel around and suggested that I would only notice such behaviour because I must be of similar sexual orientation to Fr. Brendan. Around the same time which was early 1970's a local boy whose first name was [REDACTED] and who seemed to me to be of low intelligence ran past me in the Repository and muttered "He's at me again." Fr. Brendan appeared at that moment from around the corner and went into the community quarters. This boy [REDACTED] would have been about twelve or 13 years of age at the time. He lived in the first house on the left on the [REDACTED] coming from the Abbey.

24.1.1995 Bruno E. Mulvihill

In the summer of 1974 a function commemorating the fifteenth anniversary of the arrival of the Paemonstratensians in Ireland was held at Kilnacrott Abbey. Among the prominent guests were the Papal Nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop Alibrandi and the local Diocesan Bishop of Kilmore Bishop Francis McKiernan. I spoke with each of them separately concerning the serious situation of Kilnacrott Abbey as a Religious House. Archbishop Alibrandi was not interested in listening to my complaints. The major complaint that I mentioned to him was an impending scandal of unforeseeable dimensions concerning Fr. Brendan Smith whose name I mentioned. The Nuncio told me in a sarcastic manner that I would be better off studying Theology in Rome rather than in Germany. Because of the unsatisfactory response I decided at a later date to put the matter in writing. A

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copy of this letter is appended to this statement. The letter is dated 1st November 1974. After the Jubilee Mass I spoke with Bishop McKernan. I told him the same as I had told Archbishop Alibrandi. Bishop McKernan devolved the conversation around to his schoolboy days together with Abbot Smith at St. Patrick's College, Cavan. He showed no interest in my complaint. For this reason I also put my complaint to him in writing at a later date (1st November 1974). A copy of this letter is attached to this statement. Bishop McKernan's predecessor Bishop Quinn, then deceased, was aware in 1971 at the time of my ordination of Fr. Brendan Smyth's sexual devicous activities of which he made no secret in a conversation with me after the ordination ceremony. Going back somewhat in time I remember that in 1966 or 1967 I called to the Garda Station in Ballyjamesduff and I spoke to a Sergeant there. I do not know his name. I told him of my worries about Fr. Brendan Smyth's activities. Fr. Smyth was not at that time resident in the Abbey, he was in the U.S.A. However, for me it was a matter of the good name of the monastery. I got no satisfaction whatsoever from him and was totally frustrated. My conviction was as firm as ever that something had to be done in this extremely volatile matter. From 1974 on I was heavily involved in research and teaching in the Universities of Bonn and Bochum, which meant that my visits to Ireland became less frequent. In a visit to Kilnacrott in early 1985, Easter time, with a German lawyer friend Mr. Wenkebach we stayed in the Abbey for some days. As a result of my discussions with students, during which concern over Fr. Brendan Smyth's activities were constantly voiced, I was issued with a Solemn Warning in writing by Abbot Smith. This warning prohibited me from speaking or writing to any member of the community in writing. I wrote to him on 20th August 1985 totally rejecting this shameful and such measure. A copy of this letter is attached to his statement. In September 1985 before my visit to Ireland with Mr. Wenkebach, I travelled to California at

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my own expense for the Abbatial Blessing of Abbot Ladislaus Parker and to meet with Abbott General Marcel Van de Ven who is the Superior General of the Norbertine Order. I also wanted to meet with First Member (Definitor) of the Abbots General Council, Abbot Benjamin Macken of De Pere Abbey, Wisconsin. I met with all three. I told the Abbot General and Abbot Mackin of the desolate state of affairs at Kilnacrott Abbey including the dangers for the Irish Church at large. I mentioned the carry on of Fr. Brendan Smith in detail. Both of them expressed their surprise and disbelief but promised that they would look into the matter and do what they could. It resulted in the appointment of Abbot Parker of Orange, California, a well known trouble-shooter, to do a searching Visitation of Kilnacrott Abbey and Dependencies in September 1986. I will forward a copy of this Visitors Report to Inspector Murray when I return to Germany. In the course of my long discussions with the two Visitors Abbot Parker as already mentioned and Fr. Robert Finnegan, Parker described Kilnacrott to me as a "suicide candidate." "You can talk to a suicide candidate for as long as you wish but if he's serious about it he's going to commit suicide in the end." My only motive for being so persistent was my conviction that a definite case of child abuse in itself utterly despicable and reprehensible was being treated flippantly by Abbot Smith and that despite my protests Fr. Brendan Smith was continuing to abuse children. It disgusted me that the major religious superior, Abbot Smith, was covering up on a massive scale a gross injustice to individuals and to society. While Brendan Smyth was having for a few minutes his foul sexual satisfaction he was doing this at the expense of turning innocent children into psychic cripples for life with all attendant consequences. These innocent children have been turned into social misfits by the evil deeds of one, whose actions were condoned and covered up on a massive scale and irresponsibility. I have taken this matter as possible within ecclesiastical circles but without any tangible results. I

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have even brought this matter to the notice of the press and I am readily available for interview by the Gardai at any time. I will forward copies of all documents mentioned in this statement at my earliest convenience. This statement is correct.

SIGNED: BRUNO E. MULVIHILL

WITNESSED: MICHAEL MURRAY D/INSPECTOR

WITNESSED: A. P. McNALLY D/SUPERINTENDENT

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