A Are you asking me about the sexual jokes he would tell me every now and again out of the blue?

Q Well, I'm asking you --

A Yes, sir.

Q So you --

A Those things were not appropriate. I didn't quite know what to do about those things because they were weird. Or comments such as, "Men have to relieve themselves sexually every few days."

Q Let me ask you this, Ms. Thibodaux: When was the first time that Michael Breaux did or said something to you or in your presence that you deemed to be sexually inappropriate?

A I do not remember the exact time. I can go back in my journals and look, if that would help you.

Q In terms of your best estimate, were things like that happening during the first year that he was at the Cathedral?

A No. No, sir.

Q Were things like that happening -- inappropriately going while your husband was
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A It was the --
Q -- as compared to the hundred or more hugs that you all had already exchanged that you deemed appropriate?
A Hugging more of the whole body. That got progressively worse and was much worse after my husband died.
Q So somewhere around 2001, 2002, through the date of your husband's death, you believe that there was inappropriate hugging going on?
A It began to be so, correct.
Q So over that five or six-year period, there was inappropriate hugging going on, in your mind, being initiated by Michael Breaux. And then it got even worse after David died in 2007?
A Correct.
Q And other than you believed that it was inappropriate because there was more body contact with the hugging during that period of time, was there anything else during that five or six-year period prior to David's death that you deemed inappropriate about the hugging?
A The sexual jokes -- oh, about the hugging?
Q About the hugging.
A When people hug you and they don't let go when
wasn't thinking about that stuff the first year. I was getting -- trying to get over the fact that my husband had died and I had two daughters.

Q After David died, you've already told me the -- it was essentially the same kissing routine. The hugging, did that change?

A That started to get worse.

Q After David died, was there still some just little shoulder, handsy, innocent --

A Uh-huh (affirmative response).

Q -- appropriate hugs?

A Oh, yes, sir.

Q But you say that some of the hugs got worse?

A Yes, sir.

Q You described the ones you didn't like before David died as there being more body contact with the hugs.

A Yes, sir.

Q How did the hugs get worse than that after David died?

A They were closer contact. When I would start to break it off, he wouldn't. He would put his hand in the small of my back and press.

Q Do you need to take a break?
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MELODY THIBODAUX

about any instances of inappropriate touching
that you contend occurred.

A One time, he pinched me on the butt, and I tried
to pretend it was a joke. Another time --

Q Well, let's take one at a time. When did that
occur?

A It was before all of this stuff, specifically
since -- I don't remember if it was before or
after. I don't --

Q Before or after what?

A David died. But I was -- I tried to pretend it
was a joke. Another time he came up and kissed
me on the back of the neck. I told him I was
not comfortable with that.

Q Let's take one at a time.

A Oh, all right.

Q The pinch on the butt, where did that take
place?

A Sacristy.

Q Before, during, or after mass?

A I don't remember, but I was in the sacristy.

Q You pretended that it was a joke. Does that
mean you laughed it off?

A Tried to, uh-huh (affirmative response).

Q Did you verbalize anything as you were laughing

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Q: Do you remember how many -- how long before David died that particular incident occurred, whether it was months --
A: No.
Q: -- years? How many times over the course of working with Michael Breaux or since you've known Michael Breaux did he inappropriately touch your bottom?
A: That once that I recall.
Q: Just one time?
A: I believe so.
Q: The next instance of inappropriate touching that you recall is what?
A: Kissing on the back of the neck.
Q: Do you remember if that was before or after David died?
A: After. I believe it was after. And I immediately told him I was not comfortable with that.
Q: Where were you when this occurred?
A: Sacristy.
Q: Do you know if it was before, during or after mass?
A: I don't remember, but I was getting something out of the long drawer -- looking for something.
A  Uh-huh (affirmative response). That's -- I think so. That was hard.
Q  And after that initial time that he -- you say he kissed you on the back of the neck, it never happened again; is that correct?
A  Not on the back of the neck, no, sir. And not after that, because I made myself distant.
Q  But you were making yourself distant at the time that you say he kissed you on the back of the neck, correct?
A  Yeah. But I had my back to the rest of the sacristy. I had no control over where people walk, sir.
Q  Now, what would have been the next instance of inappropriate touching on the part of Michael Breaux after the --
A  when he grabbed my breasts.
Q  Take me -- what led up to it, what happened, and the details and circumstances of that incident.
A  On that incident?
Q  Yes, ma'am.
A  I was walking out onto the altar to go do the announcements about five minutes before the mass started. He told me, "You're crooked." And so I said, "Okay," and I held out my arms and said,
"All right, straighten my vestment." So he did, and then he reached down and squeezed my breasts. I was shocked. I didn't know what to say. All I can think is that what came out of my mouth next came straight from God. I said, "I do not recall having invited you to put your hands on me in that manner." And I turned around and went out. I was in church. You don't want to make a scene in church. I wish I had now. But I went out and I tried to steady my voice so that I could say the announcements. When he grabbed me that way, I had half of my body on the altar itself. I had my back to the congregation. So nobody saw what he did because there was no one except for him on the front side of me.

Q Now, how much time had passed between the kiss on the back of the neck and this --
A Several months.

Q -- event that you've described on the altar?
A Several months.

Q So between the time -- after he kissed you on the back of the neck up until the time of the event on the altar, there was zero contact between -- physical contact between you and
Michael Breaux, correct?

That is correct.

During that period of time, were you and Michael Breaux being friendly with each other just in conversation?

I was polite to him, yes, sir.

And you all shared small talk?

Not a whole lot. I felt weird.

So leading up to the event on the altar, you had many months before decided zero physical contact between you and Michael Breaux, correct?

Uh-huh (affirmative response).

Correct?

That is correct. And we did nothing else outside -- he asked me to do things with him outside of work a few times, but I never did.

During that period of -- that cease and desist of physical contact time, somewhere in the middle of it is when the neck kissing incident occurred, correct?

Uh-huh (affirmative response).

Correct?

That is correct.

A couple of months goes by, and now we've got the event on the altar?
A That is correct.
Q So Michael Breaux tells you --
A "You're crooked."
Q -- "You're crooked."
A That had happened before, because my vestments slip.
Q So it was not unusual for Michael Breaux to help you straighten your vestment?
A When it had happened before, he straightened it, yes.
Q Since I have no clue as to how often something like that might happen or how often he might assist you with it, over the course of the years, how many times, approximately, do you think he could have --
A I don't know.
Q -- straightened your vestment for you?
A Four -- four or five. I don't know. Some -- not very many, but, you know, more than once.
Q In all the times he had straightened your vestment prior to this particular time, nothing inappropriate occurs; is that --
A No, sir.
Q Is that correct?
A That is correct.
remembering -- so that there will be DNA evidence, stuff like that.

Q Have there been any other instances of inappropriate contact or touching on the part of Michael Breaux directed towards you since the incident you describe on the altar?

A No, sir.

Q Has there been any physical contact whatsoever between you and Michael Breaux since the incident?

A No, sir.

Q And that was, as best you recall, back in somewhere around November of 2008?

A That is correct.

Q The -- in your statements, you describe some of the inappropriate touching by Michael Breaux as being his rubbing his genitalia on you during --

A When he was hugging me.

Q During hugs?

A He was too close and wouldn't let go.

Q How many instances were there when Michael Breaux, in your mind, was giving you a hug and rubbing his genitalia on you?

A I want to say around ten, perhaps fewer, but not many fewer.
PETITION FOR DAMAGES

The petition of MELODY THIBODAUX, a person of the full age of majority and a domiciliary of Lafayette Parish, Louisiana, with respect states that:

1

Made defendants to this lawsuit are MICHAEL G. BREAUX, a person of the full age of majority and a domiciliary of Lafayette Parish, Louisiana and THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE, a corporation organized and operating under the laws of the State of Louisiana and THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH a corporation organized and operating under the laws of the State of Louisiana; which defendants are individually, jointly and solidarily liable to petitioner for the full amount of her damages together with legal interest from the date of judicial demand until paid and for all costs of these proceedings for the following reasons

2

At all times relevant to this matter petitioner was and is employed by defendant THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH hereinafter referred to as ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL as a cantor and member of the church choir

3

At all times relevant to this matter defendant, MICHAEL G. BREAUX was and is still employed by the defendant, ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL as a sacristan

4

While acting in the course and scope of his employment with defendant, ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, defendant, MICHAEL G. BREAUX did commit multiple batteries against petitioner culminating on November 30, 2009, with grabbing her breasts in the Cathedral immediately prior to the commencement of mass

5

Petitioner reported these criminal offenses to her pastor, Father Keith Derouen who instructed her to keep them to herself

6

Instead of immediately taking steps to remove defendant, MICHAEL G. BREAUX from his position, Father Derouen instead instructed petitioner to perform her duties from the floor of the Church instead of from her previous place on the altar where defendant, MICHAEL G. BREAUX performed his duties
The actions of Father Derouen humiliated petitioner and made her feel like the one who did wrong instead of the victim of criminal acts causing her to feel punished for reporting defendant, MICHAEL G. BREAUX'S actions.

Father Derouen even told petitioner that she was also at fault for what happened by allowing it to happen.

At all times relevant to this lawsuit Father Derouen was acting in the course and scope of his employment not only as pastor the defendant, ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL but also as a priest for defendant, THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE.

At all times defendant, MICHAEL G. BREAUX was acting in the course and scope of his employment with ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL and THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE.

Upon information and belief, prior to petitioner reporting defendant, MICHAEL G. BREAUX'S criminal acts against her, THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE AND ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL had received complaints about defendant, MICHAEL G. BREAUX putting them on notice that he posed a threat to women in the parish, yet they did nothing about these complaints.

Other persons employed by the defendants, THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE AND ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL have likewise tried to intimidate her into remaining silent about what defendant, MICHAEL G. BREAUX has done to her causing her further emotional distress, isolation and depression.

The damages asserted to have been suffered by petitioner were caused solely by the actions of defendant, MICHAEL G. BREAUX, defendant ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL and defendant THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE.

Defendant, MICHAEL G. BREAUX is liable into petitioner for her damages due to the batteries committed against her which batteries include grabbing her breasts, hugging her while grabbing her hips, pulling her against him and rubbing against her.

Defendants, ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL and THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE are liable to petitioner for her damages asserted herein for its negligence which includes.