

Name: DL 40

Date: 14th November 2014

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

Witness Statement of DL 40

I, DL 40 will say as follows: -

Personal Details

1. I was born on [REDACTED] on the Antrim Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I was born out of wedlock and remained in care system until the age of 16.

2. My mother married a [REDACTED] man, the son of a doctor, and they had two daughters. I made contact with my mother in 1994 and we have had an on/off relationship since. My mother did not once visit me in care, even though she knew I was made a ward of court at the age of ten.

3. I never met my father [REDACTED]

St Joseph's Baby Home 1964 until 1968

4. I was placed in St Joseph's Baby Home very shortly after my birth and remained there for 4 years. I do remember the layout of the home and can remember the paddling pool in the small area at the back of the home.
5. I cannot recall any issues with my time in the babies' home.

Nazareth Lodge 15/09/1968 – 19/09/1977

6. I was placed in the nursery wing of Nazareth Lodge - the Bethlehem Group headed by **SR 71** and two lay members of staff. The group contained approximately 20 children of various ages. I also remember the nuns coming back from going out for voluntary collections to look after us. Their hand bags were full of coinage.
7. **SR 71** was a lovely warm person; she was gentle and a great painter. I remember her painting the nativity setting for the Christmas crib. I kept in contact with her right up until her death.
8. I was placed up for adoption on several occasions, but for whatever reasons I could not settle and returned to Nazareth Lodge. I remember one family, the **██████████** from **██████████** Belfast – they wanted to adopt me, but ended up adopting another **██████████** girl. The family immigrated to **██████████** and I was fortunate to visit them in **██████████** in 1977. There were other families particularly from **██████████** Belfast who would take us out either for weekends or day trips.
9. I remember at Christmas times we attended many parties organised by outside bodies for us orphans. These were great occasions and I have many fond memories and I am grateful for what people did for us. We attend summer days out with the pupils from Garron Tower on the Antrim coast and in the great school St Killian's College campus.
10. When I was old enough I became an altar boy and **SR 150** looked after us – she was a very kind and gentle person. I remember when she died and I attended her funeral. With the exception of Brendan Smith – all the chaplains were very kind to us. **DL 262** took us to day trips on Portrush and another priest (not the Chaplain) **██████████** took us out at weekends to his parish in Portadown.

Lay Staff

11. There was two lay staff along with **SR 71** who looked after us children. They were a mixed bunch; all of them were young girls in their early teens or late twenties. **NL 196** was a lovely person who took great care of me and brought me out to her family home in **██████████**. When she left the Lodge, I remember being totally devastated and cried for many months at night. This August I met up with **NL 196** again and stayed with her along with my two sons. **NL 197** from **██████████** was also a great person – she took me out at the weekend to her family farm. There was **NL 66**

- NL 66** (a fiery type of person) from [REDACTED] was generally alright sort of person; I would have a chat and drink with her today about our times in the Lodge.
12. There were two members of staff that I need not get on with. There was **NL 202** who always picked on me and gave other children more rewards (sweets) than me – she always put me down. There was **NL 203** who was extremely strict and moody; she would slap us children when we misbehaved. When this occurred, the Sisters would not be around and the sisters would have never witnessed this from the laystaff.
13. **NL 122** one of the handy men, was a nasty person and a real bully - he frightened all of us children and, if we went out of bounds on the grounds, he would hit you. He hit me several times for being up near the garages. However, his work colleague **NL 11** was a great man.
14. Older Lodge boys also visited us on a Sunday and brought us laughter and treats. **NL 14** **NL 125** (who I am still in contact today), **NL 125** RIP, **NL 125** (emigrated to Australia), **HIA 135** **HIA 135** RIP, **HIA 132** **NL 198** **NL 198** RIP, **HIA 21** and **NL 201** RIP. These men and their families ensured we got a presents at Christmas time. [REDACTED] also kept rabbits in the field near St Augustine's school.

Holidays in Ballyhornan, Co Down

15. Each summer we would holiday in Ballyhornan, staying in old RAF converted huts. We had a great time. The cook was wonderful and we ate well - smashed potatoes and sausages – ice cream and jelly etc. We would have visited Guns Island, played on the rocks, swam on the second beach and slid down the steep grass banks on cardboard. The RAF personnel and their open topped land rovers would drive from the various camps. Cows would go up the lane and the children would the sewer pipe into the sea etc. These are just a few memories I have of my time in Ballyhornan.
16. We also got friendly with the long term holiday makers from Belfast and attended the children's disco in the fish factory, come temporary church hall. When I return to Ireland, I always try to get to Ballyhornan. As I have already stated I visited the place in August with my two sons.

Other Children

17. I remember other children in our group -NL 57 & NL 56 [REDACTED] NL 145
 NL 145 [REDACTED] HIA 210 & [REDACTED] etc. Like any children, growing up we
 had our fights and arguments. Other people from other groups who spring to mind
 include HIA 104 the HIA 149 Family, [REDACTED] The [REDACTED] and The
 HIA 141, HIA 93 [REDACTED] We all played in the open meadow fields outside and we were all called in at the
 end of the day by our group saint names.

School & Education

18. We went to school in the Lodge before St Michaels was built. The teacher I remember
 most was NL 63 He was a strict man but very fair. I do not know why I was
 backward and I quote an educational psychologist who concluded after her sessions with
 me, "A lovely person but deeply retarded". I do believe my education, for whatever
 reason(s), was well below the national average.

19. I remember St Michael's School being built and open. It was a lovely building and it was
 great to mix with outside children in modern buildings, although to be fair outside children
 did attend the Lodge school, but not so many. I attended special class sessions with
 NL 63 and I remember being in SR 30 and [REDACTED] class – both
 were fine as teachers.

20. It was not until I went to secondary school at St Augustine's on the Ravenhill Road that I
 started to take education more seriously with the help of a fantastic special needs
 teacher [REDACTED] a truly wonderful man.

Redevelopment of the Lodge

21. SR 62 took charge of the Bethlehem Group from SR 71 Like
 any other child growing up I did have my fair share of run-ins with her. She was a "one
 off" nun, but I say this from the bottom of my heart, she cared for each and every child in
 her group. I maintained contact with her right up until her death.

22. I visited her in several Nazareth Houses in Blackburn, Middlesbrough and/or Newcastle
 and Kilmarnock. I unfortunately did not attend her funeral as I did not know she had
 passed. However, I did visit her grave to pay my last respects in Kilmarnock. The Mother

in Charge gave me her purse and rosary beads which I have still today in my possession.

23. I remember the vast redevelopment of Nazareth Lodge; dormitories being split up into single and smaller rooms. Sitting rooms and kitchen being re-developed into smaller family size units. The work men were also a good bunch; the [REDACTED] Brothers and their contractors and [REDACTED] etc. They brought music and it was just great seeing the work being undertaken and men about the place.
24. We all mucked in with helping to keep the accommodation clean. I use to love waxing and buffering the wooden floors. We used the buffer as a ride for sitting on.
25. Food was also better with the new kitchens and we were allowed supper before going to bed (including coffee).
26. **SR 62** let me stay in her group for an additional year and as already stated I attended St Augustine's Secondary. It was my decision to go the Rubane House in 1977, as I wanted to be around the other older boys that I had grown up with.

Father Brendan Smyth

27. I was sexually abused in Nazareth Lodge by Brendan Smyth, not sure of the exact dates. I think he did some sort of special religious retreat for the nuns – but I am not entirely sure. He stayed in the Parlour in the front of the main house.
28. Smyth went on to sexually abuse me in Rubane House, Kircubbin. At Nazareth Lodge, I did not tell any of the nuns as I could not quite work out what was going on; although I knew it was totally wrong. When I was older I did tell **BR 1** what was going on and I told him I did not want to meet with him again. My meetings with him stopped.
29. I made a statement to the RUC in the 1990s and he was subsequently charged and imprisoned along with many other sexual crimes. I will not go any further detail here, as there should be full police records available.

Conclusions

30. I lived the hand I was dealt with. Compared to my sons generation, mine and their lives, are poles apart and I accept that life then was very hard with no state help.

31. I firmly believe the Congregation of the Poor Sisters of Nazareth tried their best in looking after us orphans. One nun and 2 young girls looking after a group of around twenty vulnerable children was a big ask compared to today's society.
32. My two only regrets while I was in Nazareth Lodge was meeting Brendan Smyth and my under development of education.
33. I am truly grateful for the works of the sisters and, right up to day, maintain direct contact. I invited [REDACTED] SR 52 and [REDACTED] SR 121 to my sons' baptism and was delighted they attended. I got an invite to the 150 year old celebration of the Order and gladly attended in Hammersmith.
34. I am a practising Catholic and my three boys attend Catholic primary and secondary schools in London.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed

[REDACTED] DL 40

Dated

19 / 11 / 2014.

HIA REF: _____

Witness Name: **NL 122**

THE INQUIRY INTO HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE 1922 TO 1995

WITNESS STATEMENT OF **NL 122**

NL 122 will say as follows:-

1. I was born on [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED] area with the family name of **NL 122**. I changed the spelling of my name slightly in later life. I believe I was placed as a baby in the nursery at St Joseph's Baby Home before moving to Nazareth Lodge Home aged five years where I remained until eleven years. I then moved to Kircubbin until I was sometime around the age of sixteen years. I have no wish to discuss my own experiences in any of these homes.
2. I returned on occasion to Nazareth Lodge on Saturday mornings where I sometimes helped out a man named **NL 198** who worked as a handyman. **NL 198** retired and I secured his job. My duties were to maintain and repair the properties and facilities on site. There was also some general gardening and labouring. My immediate supervisor was **NL 11**. There were other employees there as well as me who did the same work such as **NL 200** and **NL 201**. I have no knowledge of a [REDACTED]. I never had any dealings or supervisory roles in respect of the children at the home. I have never chastised or punished any child at the home. I have read the allegations apparently naming me and I deny them absolutely.
3. I was asked to appear at a police station and had the allegations put to me. I did not bring a solicitor as I had nothing to fear from the investigation and denied the allegations to the police completely. The only explanation I can make is that the complainants are making a mistake over identification. I also believe that I never worked into nights and that the children at the home would have been at school when I was at work as I finished normally between 4.30 and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday. I had no connections to any of the children and would not even have known any of them during my employment.
4. I deny sexually or physically abusing any child at any time in any way. I deny the allegations and suggestions made by **NL 8**, **DL 40** and **HIA 48**. There is simply no truth in this and the incidents as described never occurred.

Dated this ^{10th} day of February 2015

Signed **NL 122**

PRIVATE

19. I remember as a child walking up to the chapel in Nazareth Lodge, I don't know why I was there or why I was on my own but I remember hearing voices in the chapel. It was dark and along the corridor the chapel was on the left hand side. I remember looking in and Smyth was there with a young [REDACTED] guy, the young guy was crying I could see the tears tripping down his face. I looked at him and I remember thinking to myself I know why you are crying because he was alone with Smyth. I didn't do anything I just walked on and to this day it is one of the foremost memories of my mind.
20. Time in the home was always governed by routine you had a set breakfast, set tea, school time and everything else in between. The staff were often the victims of attacks by the children and I remember **NL 5** being assaulted and thumped on the back of the head.
21. **NL 5** wasn't cruel unlike some of the other staff she as strict. When I reflect on my treatment in the home it wasn't as bad as some of the stories I have heard.
22. **NL 5** asked me one day would I like to be adopted. I did not know the meaning of the word but I skipped about outside with [REDACTED] saying I'm going to be adopted. We weren't allowed on the grass at the home in case we got cold and if we did venture onto it we had to explain ourselves to **NL 5**

Adoption 1979/80

23. I was adopted by [REDACTED] in and around 1979/80. It was strange a young Belfast boy going into a rural community. Inside the [REDACTED] home I was well protected but outside I was bullied beyond belief. At every opportunity I was beaten by the other children but I was afraid to

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68. My group were not called the Whippets. The story about the whippets arose in this way – there was a boy called **DL 40** - a lovely boy and an Irish dancer – he made up a rhyme about my group “7 little whippets great and small and **NL 5** **NL 5** owned them all “. **DL 40** was about 11 or 12 and he made that up himself since I had seven boys at the time.

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STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] DL 40

AGE OF WITNESS [If over 21 enter 'over 21'] : OVER 21

I declare that this statement consisting of 4 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 10 day of August 1995

WILLIAM NIBLOCK
SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

by whom statement was recorded or received

[REDACTED] DL 40
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I am the above named person and I reside at an address known to the Police. Some thirty years ago my mother entered into a relationship in Belfast with a student from [REDACTED] who was studying at Queen's University, Belfast, and as a result of this I was born on [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] On my birth I was placed in the St Joseph's Baby Home which is contained within the Nazareth Lodge Complex in Belfast. I stayed at St Joseph's until I was three years old and then I was placed in Nazareth Lodge. When I was about seven or eight years old I was made an alter boy and assisted the visiting Priests during Mass. when I was around nine years old, a Priest called Father Brendan Smyth started to take Mass on a regular basis. Father Smyth on his arrival started to become quite friendly with each of the alter boys. He would give us all sweets. I remember one day in particular, Father Smyth was with me in the Nazareth Lodge Building. He was holding my hand and walking along a dark corridor. He stopped and started to kiss me right on the lips. He got down and pulled me towards him and he felt my backside on the outside of my trousers. He would have done this for approximately ten minutes. I was young with no mother or father and I thought he was just being kind to me. He did this to me

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

STATEMENT OF [REDACTED] SR 62

AGE OF WITNESS [If over 21 enter 'over 21'] : OVER 21

I declare that this statement consisting of 2 pages, each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence at a preliminary enquiry or at the trial of any person, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated this 22 day of January 1996

WILLIAM NIBLOCK DCONST

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

by whom statement was recorded ~~or received~~

[REDACTED] SR 62

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

I am the above named person and I reside at an address known to the police. On or around March 1971 I was placed in Nazareth Lodge Childrens Home in Belfast along with my brother Martin. My other two brothers HIA 41 and NL 127 were moved from Nazareth Lodge to the De La Salle Boys Home in Kircubbin, when they were eleven or twelve years old. As I got older I began to wonder why I had been taken away from my mother and I asked [REDACTED] SR 62 why. She told me that I wasn't wanted by my mother and that she was nothing but a drunken whore. This obviously distressed me. My first few years at the home I don't really remember as I was very young, but when I was eleven years old [REDACTED] SR 62 took over charge of me from another nun. I

was assaulted by [REDACTED] SR 62 a number of times for very minor things such as smoking and not doing my duties within the home.

I was the oldest girl in my group of 13 children and the oldest boy was a boy called [REDACTED] DL 40 [REDACTED] SR 62 used to make us

both take a bath together and that was something I didn't like. I remember one day I was in the staff bathroom having a smoke. I turned the hot water on so no one could smell the smoke and I was smoking at the half opened window when she walked in. I was alone and had

SNB 60080

INCIDENT B255 210896 OP22

OTHER DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

11

DOCUMENT D1002

- is that right.

SR 62

Yes.

Because [REDACTED]

SR 62

Yes.

Right, that's we're, we're talking about the same person.

SR 62

Yes.

Ahm, what ah, this girl says in relation to DL 40 and herself is that ah, she was made to bath together with DL 40 so obviously -

SR 62

That's ridiculous.

- she was concerned that she was made to bath with a child and she was saying around this time she would have been 13 years of age, that kind of age group.

SR 62

Oh no she never, they had separate ladies toilets and separate boys -