

## DEPOSITION

from Victoria DeRemer

I was 18 years old on March 5.

I have been coming to Mass at the retreat house for seven years.

I have been in the school for six years, since fourth grade. I am now doing 9<sup>th</sup> grade, and I was in Our Mother of Perpetual Help Academy till last week. I am now working on my G.E.D.

How long have you known Father Vanderputten?

Six years.

What has Father Vanderputten done for you?

If it wasn't for him, I would have lost the Catholic Faith, because he was always preaching against TV, and bad friends (I had bad friends before). He helped me with my vocation, and has always encouraged me.

Would you consider him a close friend?

Yes, Father. I knew he always cared for me and I could trust him. He has always given me spiritual books to help me grow in spirituality. He has given me pictures of the Saints. He has always allowed me to go for free on camps, because we cannot afford it. We always get to go to Conferences (that is my mother and I), and we get to clean the church. He has been a friend and father, because I have not really had a father. He is always encouraging me to love God. The most important thing is to love God. Everything else is less important.

Has Father ever shown favoritism?

No, he just encourages me to become a nun, and I know he loves me, because if he did not he would not encourage me to become a nun, for that is the greatest thing that anyone could do.

Are you and your mother always together when you come to the retreat house?

Yes, Father.

Does Father show signs of affection?

He just gives us [redacted] and I) a hug once in a while. He has always given me a hug. That never surprised me, since he always hugs all the little kids.

When did Father start kissing you?

About one or two months ago. He said that it was because a kiss is a sacred thing and one of the best ways to show your love, but it is only an outward sign, and that even if he did not give me a kiss that does not mean that he does not love me.


How often did he kiss you?

Sometimes, once a day, or sometimes every other day.

Where did he kiss you?

On the lips.

Did that surprise you?

He told me before he kissed about the sacred kiss, and that is why I was surprised. He would kiss both  and myself, in one another's presence. Nobody else saw it.

Did you tell anyone that he was kissing you on the lips?

No, Father, because Christ used to kiss his apostles.

Did that give you any impure feelings?

No, Father.

Did Father tell you not to tell anyone?

No, he never told us not to tell anybody.

Did Father ever take you into his office alone?

This would happen often during the day, and he would speak about vocations. He would just give a hug. He only started to give me a kiss in the past couple of months.

Do you think that Father was infatuated with <sup>you</sup>~~me~~?

No, he just loved God. I was not jealous for his love for somebody else, for I knew that he loved everybody. He always called people to his office.

Were you infatuated with him?

I was not infatuated with him. I just thought that it was normal for a priest to love people that way.

Do you often spend the night here?

Yes, we (my mother and I) often stay here when retreats are going on, and sometimes for the following Saturday night. We share the same room, and nothing improper happened.

Did he ever speak to you about trust?

Father said: Do you trust me. I said: Yes I trust you because you are like a dad to me. If he thought I felt uncomfortable with anything he did, he would just ask that.

Can you think of some examples of things that you might have felt uncomfortable about?

No, there were no times when I did not trust him.

Could you tell me what happened on Friday March 31?

Before Compline he said: If you wake up tonight you can come to my office and we will talk. I woke up at 3:00 a.m. I had slept with clothes on, since I did not want to go with my pyjamas into his office. I intended to go there if I woke up, since I wanted the spiritual talk, which he gave me.

He hugged me, and asked why am I hugging you, and do you feel comfortable with this, and does this make you love God more. I answered that it did. He was wearing his shorts and his shirt, then he took off his shirt later. He gave a reason to take off his shirt, but I do not remember.

He was lying on his bed, and then he said turn on the light. We closed the door, and then he hugged me and he kissed me on the lips. Then he took off his shirt and hugged me and sat me on his lap, and he said: Do you understand why I am doing this? Yes Father, because you love me and want me to trust you. Then he told me to go back to bed, after about 30 minutes.

Could you tell me what happened on Saturday April 1?

Before Compline, he said that if you wake up again, come to my office. So I went to bed fully dressed, and I woke up at 2:00 a.m. (daylight time). I came to Father's office. He got up and said go close the door. I could not see him. Then he said turn on the light. When I turned around he was pulling on his shorts, and

did not have a shirt on. I do not know what he was wearing, if anything, but I just saw him naked for a brief glimpse on the side as he hurried to put on his shorts. Then he hugged me, and he sat he on his lap (he was just wearing shorts), and then he touched me on my breasts, by putting his hand underneath my shirt. He just touched them real quick. Then he hugged me. Then he said do you feel uncomfortable if I do this, and I said: No, Father. He kissed me on my lips just very briefly. He said; does this help you to love God more, or me more. I said that it helps me to love God more. He was hugging, and then he asked me if I feel comfortable if I do this, as he was starting to pull down my skirt. Then he said do you trust me, and he just hugged me, and put me on his lap. Then he hugged me, and then he said, I will give you my blessing now, and told me to go to bed, and so I went to bed.

Did you think that Father had any bad intentions on you?

No, because he always asked me first, and I trusted him. Doubts only came into my head on Monday afterwards because of what had happened in Spain last May. Mrs. Engleton accused Father of being too affectionate with the girls. I knew that he went too far, but I loved him. I do not think that he meant any harm. He did not realize that he was being so affectionate with girls, because he is on fire with the love of God.

Did you think that he would try and have sex?

No, I knew that Father Vanderputten would not do that. I was not afraid of that, since I trusted him. I put the thought out of my mind, because it was from the devil. He did not force anything.

Has Father ever kissed you on the breasts?

No, he never did that to me.

Did Father ever touch you on the breasts at any other time?

Just once, over my clothes, as an accident.

Did Father ever touch you on the bottom?

Just a couple of times, but only on top of my clothes.

Did Father ever touch you on your lower private parts?

No, Father.

Did Father ever make any impure remarks?

No, Father. He said that God made the body, but he never said anything particular about my body.

When did you first speak to [redacted] about this?

Sunday afternoon. I said that I went to his office last night, and told what he did. [redacted] said now you know and all three of us can trust each other. She then said what had happened to her. She said that he did the same things to her. She said that she went into his office to get something, because her teeth were hurting, and that he touched her breasts. He hugged her and kissed her and then tried to fix her braces, since her bracket had fallen off. She said that they were never together naked, but just her. She had her underwear and bra on. She never saw Father completely naked. I asked her again, and she said that she never saw him naked.

How do you feel now about this/

I feel that I can still trust Father Vanderputten, and that he was imprudent in his actions on Friday and Saturday. He should not have done those things, but everything else helped me to realize the love of God. He never gave me any impure thoughts or desires, since he always explained why he did those things before he did them. "Do you feel comfortable?"

My mother noticed that I was acting weird. I knew that he would not do it if I did not feel comfortable, because everything that he did he asked me: Do you feel comfortable with this? I said yes, even on the night that the event happened. The following Monday I started doubting if I trusted him. I was going to talk it over with him on Tuesday morning, and tell him that I do not know if that was right.

Do you feel guilty about anything?

I feel guilty for having talked about to my mother, for I feel that I should have talked to him, because he may have solved the problem by not being so affectionate. I feel that Father was imprudent. I went to his office to love God more, and it did make me love God more, and it did not cause any impure thoughts, it was just that the devil was telling me that Father wanted something else. He did not say anything sexual of any kind.

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