

I will start with a quote from the bible Matthew 18:5-7

Jesus said “Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me”.

“But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith in me would be better drowned in the depths of the sea with a great millstone around his neck”.

These are the words of Jesus that you as a Catholic priest have sworn to uphold. Because of the stature as a priest that you enjoyed in the community you were afforded the perfect opportunity to take advantage of an innocent child. You were a predator who enjoyed the cloak of the church and you preyed on the very innocence you swore to protect.

I trusted you, my parents trusted you and the community trusted you. I believed in God, I believed in the Catholic Church and I believed in you. Because of you I have lived a lie my whole life. You could have done great good; you chose to inflict great pain.

I have been affected emotionally, questioning my sexuality as a teenager, wondering why a man would be attracted to me in the way you were. Growing up after you left my life I became withdrawn, a lonely soul consumed with fear, indecision and self loathing. I have lived and relived every terrible sinful thing you did to me, every day and every night. I have no rest from you, no escape. You consume my thoughts every day and you haunt my nightmares every night. I wake up from these nightmares to be consumed by the memory of you, I smell you. My grades suffered and so did my family life. I had no friends and no one I could trust or turn to. I prayed for you to stop. I thought my God had deserted me.

I wanted to die. The countless times I thought the easy way out of this hell was to take my own life. I planned the best way to kill myself so that nobody would find my body. I wanted to just disappear. One time I came close to suicide I was locked up in a psych ward on a form one. You were free and guiltless. I am obsessive and terrified when I see church authority figures near my children. Intimacy with my wife and soul mate is not how I want to love her. I use alcohol to mask, bury and temporarily hide from the lifetime of pain that you gave me.

Physically my body has gone through so many problems. I shake so bad I cannot hold a cup of coffee nor do simple tasks. The burning pain in my chest is fueled by the daily anxiety I suffer. I am so tired, my body aches to rest and sleep but you have made sure I cannot do that.

I have not been able to support my family. They are burdened financially by me as I cannot work. I lost my career. I have been told by medical professionals I will never be able to work again. My wife and children are in a battle to survive with the very limited disability income I now receive, which is less than 1/4 of my former salary.

What you did to me does not stop with me, the ripple effect has been devastating on my family, friends, people I have confided within the church community. This hurt and pain will never go away. My wife has stood beside me through the pain but has suffered greatly. My children have the confusion of why daddy can't work and why they can't get what other kids do. I feel I am letting them down as a role model.

Friends and people I have confided in have seen me deteriorate in front of their eyes, yet they still support my decision in bringing

you to some kind of earthly justice. I was an innocent child and no one can know the pain of the last 30 plus years. You are a predator who preyed on the innocent and the weak and hid behind the robes of the priesthood and the church.

I am requesting that out of these proceedings you will never be allowed to be alone in the company of children for the rest of your life. I hope that you truly are remorseful for your sins. I look forward to you meeting your creator and receiving judgment.

I know that you would have never have tried to manipulate your perversion on someone my age. I want you to remember and look at the child. The child whose life you destroyed. The child you preyed on and who had a life of hopes and dreams waiting for him to fulfill. The child who had the right to live a life and grow to a man without the pain you inflicted.

You only thought to satisfy your own lust and sick sinful pleasures. To do that you destroyed my child, this child.