

## ~ *Pembroke Diocese vs Local Abuse Victim* ~ Part 2

been doing this work for 12 years and Mike is one of a handful of clients who are at the top of the list for how they have taken responsibility for their healing process. He found Sylvia's Site on his own and that helped him."

Sylvia's Site is online and it helps and supports victims of abuse. Fitzgerald told The Times he leaned on its founder through long, late night phone calls. He then helped others on the site by accompanying them to their discovery sessions of court dates. He continues to have friends among them.

Talach concluded, "Mike believes that many people knew what was going on so in some ways it is a collective responsibility.

"The most important thing is that his story is a message to other victims of anything and a healing for Mike and others. Please let them know that at some point the world will know what happened to them. It's also a message to those who victimize that even though they may die we can still find you.

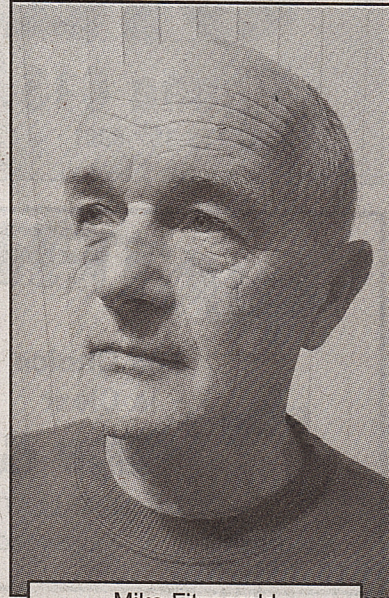
"Mike's situation, and with any

Maloney case, is there was an extra reason why people would not come out against him, beyond him being a priest, because he came from such a renowned family.

Mike Fitzgerald's life has changed. He is grateful for the support of his wife Marla throughout this ordeal and their six year marriage remains sound. He is happy about his closer relationship with his son and he hopes his relationships with his three daughters improves. His relationships with his siblings have improved recently, though he knows it has been hard for them to discuss what he has been through. Before he contacted The Times he advised his family he wanted his story to be told.

On September 10, Fitzgerald said, "I realized a dream on Tuesday, a dream I have had since I was about 15. I always wanted to fly and on Tuesday I soloed for the first time."

On September 4, The Times requested comment from the Pembroke diocese office. On September 10 Monsignor (Msnr.) Bridge called and said Bishop Mulhall was on a day off, but he had asked that any questions be written and forwarded to him. On September 15 we were informed that the bishop had received the seven questions, however Msnr.



Mike Fitzgerald

Bridge's E-mail said, "It will be some time before he gets to reply," stating the bishop was at the Canadian Catholic Bishops' Fall Plenary Session in Cornwall until September 18. The final request for comment and notification of the date of publication of the story was made on September 22.

On September 23 Msnr. Bridge's message, relayed through Father Smith, came on our return call.

Father Smith said, "I have a brief message from Msnr. Bridge who said, 'The diocese is not able to comment.' And I have no other information"