



SNAP Survivor Network of those Abused by Priests

Will you help survivors of abuse by priests?

So it probably won't be YOUR kid who gets molested. . . .

But some Belleville area child might be, or might have already been hurt by Fr. Real "Ray" Bourque, who was sent here quietly four years ago. He has admitted sexually abusing boys in at least two states.

Not once, however, did a single Belleville Catholic official tell you, or tell anyone, that a known child predator, wearing a Roman collar, now lives here.

Just last month, we learned this through local media accounts. (See News Democrat, April 13)

It gets worse. . . .

This acknowledged child molester roams freely in the community, driving himself unaccompanied and unsupervised.

Just this week, we learned this through more local media accounts. (See News Democrat, May 23)

It gets worse. . . .

Now, your bishop claims he's 'powerless' to do anything about Bourque. That's of course ridiculous. He's the shepherd of this flock. His first obligation is to keep Belleville Catholics safe.

Bourque belongs to a religious order, the Oblates. Still, this is Braxton's diocese. He has a duty to protect your kids and be honest with you about the risks he's knowingly taking.

Don't let it get any worse. . .

For the safety of children and the healing of the church, we urge you to:

- contact your families, friends, and former parishioners and ask if they were hurt by Bourque,
- urge anyone who was molested, by anyone, to come forward and get help,
- call police if you suspected, witnessed or experienced any abuse, and
- call Bishop Braxton. Tell him you care about kids and want to see this predator in a secure treatment center.

We are members of a support group called SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAPnetwork.org). Please feel free to call us at 314 566 9790 or e mail us: gymsoul@hotmail.com

Who are we? We are men and women who were sexually molested as children by Catholic clergy. We are members of a support group called, SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAPnetwork.org). Our goal is to heal the wounded and protect the vulnerable.

Why are we here? Fr. Daniel McGuire, once a very popular nationally-known author and prominent Jesuit, will be back in criminal court on Monday facing charges of molesting two boys in Elkhorn, Wisconsin. He currently lives in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, according to Friday's Chicago Tribune. In addition to the criminal charges, McGuire also faces several civil child molestation lawsuits, some involving the abuse of Chicago area children.

According to the national abuse policy adopted by America's bishops in Dallas in 2002, no 'credibly accused priest' can present himself publicly as a priest. Yet McGuire wore his Roman collar and clerical garb in court on Friday and is expected to do so again next week.

What do we want? We believe that it's wrong for an accused priest to do this. And it's wrong for church officials to ignore this violation of their sex abuse policy.

Cardinal Francis George should intervene and prevent McGuire's misbehavior, or at least emphatically and publicly decry this blatant attempt to win sympathy from the jury and disregard bishop' repeated promises to abide by their national policies on abuse.

Cardinal George will likely try to split hairs and deny responsibility or authority over McGuire. But each bishop and cardinal is responsible for every priest living or working in their respective dioceses. And the Cardinal can publicly speak out against wrong-doing, even wrong-doing he thinks he can't prevent.

How Can You Help? Call or e mail Cardinal George. Tell him to exercise some leadership and publicly decry McGuire's continued abusive actions.

Call or e mail Fr. McGuire's superiors, the Jesuit Provincial of the Chicago Jesuits, Society of Jesus.

Why Does This Matter? Every time an abusive priest misbehaves, it hurts the Church. Every time a timid bishop ignores that misbehavior, it hurts the Church.

When church officials violate or let others violate their promises, it undermines faith in the leadership of the church. It also tells victims that bishops haven't changed, and that their pledges to handle abuse better in the future are just hollow words.

And if Fr. McGuire plays on the emotions of this jury and walks free as a result, innocent children will be vulnerable.

SNAP
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