

May 2008

SNAP Newsletter



From the Editor

Dear Friends,

We are slowly recovering from the pope's visit. For a week the world watched as the pope was forced to publicly acknowledge the clergy sex abuse crisis. Survivors from across the country responded to these statements, repeatedly asking for actions not more "lofty" words and empty promises. We fielded requests from media from around the world, giving us a chance to reach survivors and educate people about sexual abuse by clergy and the hierarchy's part in the cover-up. We were repeatedly asked about our "staff", people are amazed when they find out there are so few people on staff and that SNAP runs on the most amazing, talented, dedicated group of volunteers anywhere.

Because of people like you, this crisis has not quietly gone into the night. We continue to offer support to survivors, to expose predators, hold the hierarchy responsible and protect children. Thank you!

We are gearing up for the national conference. (look for details on page 6. Each year the conference gets bigger and better. I know that is hard to believe but it is true, just look at the list of speakers!

See you in July.

Barbara Dorris

Victim of Abuse Thinks Little of Pope's Apology

By Jeffery Kurz, Record-Journal April 27, 2008

CHESHIRE - When Pope Benedict XVI visited the United States for the first time, he expressed remorse over the sexual abuse scandal that has rocked the American church. The pope met with a handful of victims and, during Mass at Washington's Nationals Park before 50,000 people, said "no words of mine could describe the pain and harm inflicted by such abuse."

Though surprised that the pope so directly spoke about the issue, Jim Hackett remains unimpressed. The 44-year old computer program-

mer, who lives in Cheshire, went public in 2005 with his story of being sexually abused three times by the same priest in 1976, when he was an altar boy and middle school student at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Hamden.

Hackett considers the pope's comments public relations "spin."

"Now he's saying he's sorry, again," said Hackett. "They're trained to be consoling."

Hackett was among 43 victims sharing \$22 million in a settlement of abuse



claims with the Archdiocese of Hartford.

The pope's words ring hollow because the church continues to work to prevent abuse claims from coming forward, he said.

"Now that it's out there, how are they going to protect their image?" he said. "The only way to do that is to say we're going to handle

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Indiana clergy pleaded with diocese to hire accused priest

By Sam Hemingway, Burlington Free Press May 7, 2008

A bishop for the Indiana Roman Catholic diocese where the Rev. Edward Paquette was in trouble for molesting boys in 1972 pleaded with the bishop of Vermont's diocese to give Paquette a job, according to an internal church document.

"I begged Bishop (John) Marshall to give Father Paquette a chance," said a portion of the April 27, 1972, note written by Bishop Leo Pursley of the Fort Wayne, Ind., diocese. Marshall was then bishop of the Vermont diocese.

Pursley's remark was contained in a previously confidential Indiana church document that lawyers for the Vermont diocese Wednesday displayed to a Chittenden County Superior Court jury hearing evidence in a

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Donate to Help SNAP

Please consider becoming a sustaining member of SNAP. Sustainers pledge to send SNAP a set amount every month to help the organization grow in size and strength. Your donations allow us to protect the vulnerable and to heal the wounded. Your help will protect children. Sign up to become a sustaining member on our website SNAPnetwork.org or you can join by filling out the enclosed envelope.



Survivors Network of those Abused
by Priests

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Questions? Suggestions?

Contact: snapdorris@gmail.com

Indiana clergy (cont.)

case of a former Burlington altar boy who alleges Paquette molested him in 1978.

The former altar boy contends Paquette groped him between 40 and 100 times in the sacristy at Christ the King Church in Burlington in the late 1970s. The sacristy was a room located next to the altar at the church.

The alleged victim, now 40 and a resident of Lakewood, Colo., has sued the diocese contending it failed to properly supervise Paquette, resulting in his abuse. The Burlington Free Press does not disclose the identities of alleged victims of sexual crimes without their consent.

Diocesan lawyers have argued that the church made personnel decisions based on the best information it had at the time and should not be held liable now for inci-

dents that occurred 30 or more years ago. Paquette is not a defendant in the case.

During testimony at the trial Tuesday, a lawyer for the Colorado man showed the jury newly obtained Indiana diocese documents that provided details about misconduct by Paquette going back to 1963. One document described how Paquette was once picked up by police in Massachusetts after being found in a parked car with a teenage boy.

The lawyer, Jerome O'Neill, said the discovery of the documents showed that the Vermont diocese failed to do an adequate background check on Paquette before hiring him. The diocese's lawyer has claimed the Indiana diocese didn't provide Vermont everything it could have about Paquette.

Want to be better informed? Give us your email address!



Postage is not only getting more expensive, it is slow. With email, we can send you breaking news instantly. You won't have to wait for a printed newsletter. Keep your email address current. If you switch providers, please share your new address with us. SNAP does not share or sell our information.

Simply send your email to snapadmin@gmail.com to be included in our secure database. Don't have a computer? Most public libraries have free internet access. To learn more on how to set up a free email account, ask your local librarian, or go to <http://www.wikihow.com/Create-a-Webmail-Email-Account>

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Victim of Abuse (cont.)

this. To come out and say he's sorry about it is disingenuous."

Hackett, who was included in a victims' photography exhibit at a SoHo art gallery during the pope's visit, waited three decades before going public with his story.

In an e-mail message following an interview at a Cheshire restaurant, he explained why he felt it was ultimately necessary to speak out.

"I think it is important for people to understand, not only that these things are happening and being covered up by those who purport to be a moral compass for society, but, also people need to understand what a lasting effect the abuse has on the victims," he wrote.

"Victims are subjected to a lifetime of internal strife that causes low self esteem, and in many cases self-destructive behavior often resulting in alcoholism, drug abuse, and even suicide."

Since the pope's visit, victims from across the nation have been calling in for the first time to the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, said Beth McCabe, co-leader of the organization's Connecticut chapter, which has about 75 members.

"What's really interesting to me is that every single survivor I talk to, they think they are the only ones," said McCabe, a 59-year-old Canton resident who was abused by a priest

when she was growing up in Long Island.

"It is just such a betrayal," McCabe said. "Survivors are dealing with it on a sexual level, an emotional level, and most importantly on a spiritual level. We were taught they were God's messengers."

The pope's comments were "a small step that is coming way too late," McCabe said. "Yes, it's good he said those things, but it's taken the church so long to acknowledge the pain and suffering of the survivors, and there's a lot of cynicism from the survivors."

"Unless there's some very concrete action that follows, his words will be meaningless," she said.

Hackett describes himself today as "a struggling Catholic." He and his wife and two daughters no longer attend church services.

"I believe in God and the Bible and what it says about how you should behave," he said.

Hackett was in the seventh grade when the first abuse occurred. Before he was molested, he was an excellent student; afterward, he struggled, with C's and D's, he said.

"I'm lying in bed at night pissed off at the world, thinking about how I'm going to bash this guy's head in," he recalled. "It definitely takes the zest for life right out of you."

Even though his parents complained

to the school, the priest was allowed to stay on. The priest was Hackett's gym teacher in the eighth grade.

"It would have been difficult enough if he had disappeared from my life after I'd turned him in," Hackett said.

The Rev. Louis Paturzo, whom Hackett accused of molesting him, was stripped of his priestly faculties following the settlement, according to published reports.

It wasn't until he was about 18 that Hackett said he felt like he could get on with his life.

"As years went by I'd still go to Mass, but I'd still be thinking about that," said Hackett, referring to the sexual abuse that had taken place in the back of the altar.

When friends of his were killed in an accident, Hackett said he wanted to pray for them, but found himself too haunted by the memory of his experience. "My faith was tainted by that," he said.

For years, Hackett kept the experience mostly to himself. He had been considering filing an anonymous, or John Doe, complaint against the church when in 2002 he watched an account of the priest scandal on television news. The memories flooded back, "and I thought, should I come out?" Hackett said.

"Not from the perspective of what

"Unless there's some very concrete action that follows, his words will be meaningless"

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Victim of Abuse (cont.)

happened to me, but of little kids," he said.

"I decided at that point I wanted to come out," he said. He contacted the Bridgeport firm of Tremont & Shelton, which was handling cases of clergy sex abuse victims. The settlement with the Archdiocese of Hartford was reached in October 2005.

"My whole thing was getting the story out there," he said. "I didn't want the money."

In a statement released when the settlement was reached, Hackett said: "While I am grateful that the diocese has offered this compensation, I want to make it perfectly clear that no amount of money can replace what was taken from me at the hands of a child molester who wore a Roman collar and called himself, 'Father.' No financial compensation can even begin to make up for the horror that I endured and the subsequent feelings of loneliness and rage that are all too common for the victims of such atrocities against children."

Tremont & Shelton has represented

more than 100 victims since the firm started handling church abuse cases in 1993. Many of the priests involved in settlements are still within the church, said Cindy Robinson, a Tremont & Shelton attorney.

Many victims are unable to be as articulate as Hackett when it comes to talking about what happened to them, Robinson said. "There are many people who will never have a whole life," she said.

"It takes a lot of courage to come out and talk to the media the way he has," she said.

In his e-mail message, Hackett wrote: "every time a story is published about survivors of abuse, more victims come forward seeking help in attaining the empowerment that I have been fortunate enough to finally find within myself."

During his five-day visit to the U.S., the pope said it's important "that those who have suffered be given loving pastoral attention."

"The pope said he expected churches to reach out to victims," said McCabe. "They, quite frankly, treat us as lepers."

"... I want to make it perfectly clear that no amount of money can replace what was taken from me at the hands of a child molester... No financial compensation can even begin to make up for the horror that I endured and the subsequent feelings of loneliness and rage that are all too common for the victims of such atrocities against children."

-Jim Hackett

"None of us will ever, ever get over this," she said.

The Archdiocese of Hartford did not respond to requests for comment for this story.

The Connecticut chapter of the Survivors Network for those Abused by Priests is on the Internet, at www.snapct.org.

Want to help?

SNAP is trying to increase its collection of the Official Catholic Directory (also known as the 'Kennedy directory').

They're especially looking for a copy from the following years:

1974, 1976, 1980, 1981, 1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1997, 2006, 2007, 2008 and any from the 1950's or 1960's.

If you have any of these directories or know someone who does, please contact Sheena at the SNAP Office at 312 455 1499 or SNAPadmin1@gmail.com

Thank you!



SNAP Ad Book



The ad book subsidizes the conference allowing us to bring a first class event at rock bottom prices.

The **SNAP Support Survivors Ad Book** for the Year 2008 will be utilized by thousands of SNAP members. It will be included in the program book for the 2008 conference and it will be posted on the SNAP web site.

The **Support Survivors Ad Book** accomplishes three goals:

- 1) It is a tangible way for loved ones and concerned parishioners to show they care about survivors,
- 2) It is SNAP's way of reinvesting in survivor businesses, art and services,
- 3) The **SNAP Support Survivors Ad Book** sales will support a significant amount of SNAP's yearly operating budget. SNAP provides support to thousands of survivors every year through its 60 peer-led support groups across the nation and educates the public to help end the cycle of abuse.

SNAP's mission is to shine the light of truth by supporting one another in personal healing and to pursue justice and institutional change by holding individual perpetrators responsible and the church accountable. The SNAP board members and SNAP survivors thank you for your support.

Survivors and supporters may also use the ad book to memorialize or honor a loved one.

DEADLINE: June 15, 2008. Text or black and white camera-ready or electronic artwork MUST be received by June 15th. This deadline is firm, so we encourage you to plan your ad and send in the materials well ahead of that date. If you have artwork, it must be black and white only (no color). You can mail to us artwork on paper, ready to be scanned. Or you can scan it yourself, and e-mail us the electronic version, in TIFF format, 300 dpi resolution.

For more information, contact Barbara Dorris 314-862-7688 or snappdorris@gmail.com

Here are the two ways to submit order and payment:

1) Fill out the order form, then mail it and artwork/text as well as your payment by check to SNAP, 700 North Green, Suite 504, Chicago, Illinois 60622

2) Submit order form and credit card payment information via internet at SNAPnetwork.org thorough the Donation page. Select: 1) one time donation 2) the correct dollar amount for your ad size and then 3) type "AD BOOK" in the comments section of the form. The last step is to 4) e-mail electronic artwork separately to snapadmin1@gmail.com

| Ad Book Prices | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| BASIC | SPECIAL |
| Full Page: \$300 (7 1/2" x 10") | Centerfold: \$2,000 |
| Half Page: \$150 (7 1/2" x 5") | Inside Front Cover: \$1,000 |
| Quarter Page: \$100 (3 3/4" x 5") | Back Cover: \$1,000 |
| Eighth Page: \$50 (Business card) | |
| Patron List: \$10 | |

CUT OUT THIS FORM

Then, fill-in requested information. Make checks payable to SNAP - Survivors Network. Mail form, payment, ad text and any camera-ready art work to:

SNAP

700 North Green, suite 504, Chicago, Illinois 60622

We will return a confirmation to you via your e-mail address.

We must receive payment and artwork by June 15, 2008.

Questions? Contact Barbara Dorris, 314-862-7688,

SNAPdorris@gmail.com

Ad Contract Information

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Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: ____ - ____ - _____

Contact Person: _____

E-mail address: _____

Ad Size: _____

For memorial or tribute, name of person honored: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

SNAP National Conference 2008!

That time is almost here! Come join us in the Windy City from July 11-13 to participate in breakout sessions and hear some amazing speeches. The speaker list includes:



When:

July 11– 13, 2008



Where:

Hyatt Regency
McCormick Place
Chicago, IL



See old friends and
meet new ones!
Register today!

Frank Keating

Former head of the bishops' sex abuse review panel who compared the bishops to the Mafia and who left because of the lack of cooperation from the bishops

Angela Shelton

A dynamic actress, activist, comedian and author who has been working to educate people about abuse

Marci Hamilton

A brilliant constitutional attorney, author and outspoken advocate for survivors. She recently appeared on national CBS and CNN to comment on the recent FLDS case where children were taken by the state of Texas

Victor Vieth

An inspiring ex-DA promoting a plan to eliminate child sexual abuse in three generations

Jason Berry

An investigative journalist and author who was the first to expose abuse by priests in 1985 and just completed the documentary "Vows of Silence"

Wendy Murphy

A powerful author, columnist, former prosecutor and frequent CNN, Fox News & national network news commentator

Eugene Kennedy

A former priest, now a professor of psychology at Loyola University of Chicago, who is one of the nation's most respected writers on religious topics

Tom Doyle

Was the Secretary-Canonist at the Vatican embassy in Washington DC affording him the opportunity to observe, first hand, the mechanisms of power in the church; first recipient of VOTF's "Priest of Integrity" Award

Patrick Wall

A former priest, pastor, monk, and judge on church tribunals, who co-authored "Sex, Priests, and Secret Codes" and now advocates for victims

Timothy Lytton

Professor at Albany Law School and author of "Holding Bishops Accountable: How Lawsuits Helped the Catholic Church Confront Clergy Sexual Abuse"

Our program will include break out sessions dealing with acupuncture, yoga, and hiking as a tool of healing, support groups for women, men, loved-ones of survivors, and those abused as vulnerable adults, as well as how to discover the work history of a predator and how to reach out to the media to get your story told. We'll also have early morning walks along the lake front, a silent auction and so much more.

To register, go to SNAPnetwork.org and follow the prompts to conference registration. See you there!