

From: John mcguire danalti@hotmail.com
Subject: SB 3 Testimony
Date: March 31, 2019 at 3:56 PM
To:



Mr.Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is John McGuire. I am here to offer my testimony in support of SB 3. I am also speaking for a number of individuals who have been sexually abused by CT clergy, but refuse to be identified until the law has changed.

I was passed over for being an altar boy enough times that by the time Father Curry had finally selected me, I would have done anything, and he knew it. I did what God's messenger told me to do. I let him do things to me, and I did things to him. After being used as his sex toy, I was told that I had tempted him, and I should confess my shame to him and God. I did. After at least four molestation episodes in the rectory, I decided to say no to Father Curry's continuing demands. Father Curry then told me " You are not what God is looking for as an altar boy and you need to leave the church."

I am eight years old, raped numerous times, kicked out of the church, I can't tell anyone what happened because they all hold Father Curry in such high esteem, I am convinced I am gay because of being aroused by a man, and worst of all I have offended God. ~~Just to keep things in perspective, what were you doing when you were eight? What is your eight year old up to these days?~~

The fear of God coming to take me to hell was something no one could help me with. Every day of my life was governed either by the fear of God coming to strike me down and send me to hell, or the thoughts of putting an end to the waiting with suicide. My dreams and aspirations were to make it through the day without going to hell, not getting to be a fireman or a professional ball player. "Gotta try and make it to tomorrow, don't want to die today... or do I?" This was the foundation on which I built my future. ~~ALL LIFE HAS BEEN A MESS. I HAVE HURT MANY PEOPLE WITH MY ABUSE. MY LIFE HAS BEEN A MESS. HONK~~
Fast forward to an age where I am old enough to understand that Father Curry was not told by God to rape me. I am not on God's hell-bound list, they are. I am a garden variety sinner, nothing more. I am forty eight years and three weeks old, and I have found the strength to speak of it. I call a lawyer to see if I can hold the church accountable for his raping of me, and I am told I am too late. Three weeks too late. I have lost my decades-old battle, just because I couldn't figure it all out alone before turning forty eight.

The victims' silence, shame, guilt, and fear of God all work in favor of non-culpability for church pedophiles, and those who have enabled them. Lack of evidence, making sure there are no witnesses to the abuse, using the threat of God's wrath against a child, priests being relocated once accusations surface, secret files staying hidden or being destroyed, forcing victims into the public eye just to be heard; clergy pedophiles and their enablers don't need any help from weak laws. The deck is already stacked in their favor with the church's policy of secrecy and attrition, and the priest wielding God's power to outwit the child with spiritual blackmail for sex.

We are pleading for an even playing field. Some victims do stand a chance at a settlement if they can speak of the abuse soon enough, but having to fight church lawyers for five to seven years before they settle out of court is just more molestation of the victim. As if being raped and living in silence for decades isn't enough, victims who come forward have to endure character assassinations, stalling tactics, describing the priest's private parts in detail, suppression of evidence that would help the victim, endless written and videotaped depositions, switching lawyers mid stream so one has to start all over again, wearing the victim down more than he or she is already, and flat out denial of crimes they have supposedly documented.

We are here today asking for some protective equipment because the players on the other team are armed to the teeth. We are asking for our day in court. What's right and just have nothing to do with the passage of time.

I think time should favor the victims seeking the strength to speak of their trauma, and not those hiding behind a rock with their crimes.

The church has molested most of our lives, already. We just seek to govern what's left of it, and not live in damage control until we die. SB 3 would allow ALL victims of clergy rape an attempt at healing. As the law is now, only the strong stand a chance at healing. Please pass this bill into law.

John Timothy McGuire

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