

# NEWS

*For Immediate release*  
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## ***Former Erie Priest Anticipates the Release of the Report of the 40th Pennsylvania Investigating Grand Jury.***

*James Faluszczak, himself a victim of abuse by a priest, and himself still feeling called to the priesthood, left ministry because the Church ignored his claims.*



BUFFALO, N.Y., Monday, May 21, 2018 – “Even as Fr. Martin was molesting me, I maintained my devotions and felt close to God. Out of my experience of prayer and helping others as a teenager, I felt God was calling me to be a priest. I gradually realized that what Martin was doing to me was sick and I was able to break out of it. After I was ordained a priest in 1996, I had a clear sense that I was helping people as a teacher, chaplain, campus minister, school administrator and pastor. Ministry was fulfilling a lot of the time. It was an honor to stand with God’s people and offer their prayers to God, and to speak words of consolation and challenge to them. But it became obvious that I couldn’t speak for an institution which I now regard as corrupt. The constant reminders of the abuse I experienced drove me to cope by using substances as a form of triage. The constant presence of bishops and diocesan officials who engaged in the coverup, and the presence of other dysfunctional priests in my life, made it impossible for me to be healthy in that environment. It is a source of enormous pain that I had to leave ministry.”

***Statement of James Faluszczak: “Two dioceses in PA have gone on the record saying they will either outright block or attempt to delay the release of the PA Grand Jury Report.***

***Expect that Pennsylvania state statutes pertaining to this type of Grand Jury will be clearly explained in coming days: the Grand Jury, at its core, was simply investigating. There are no defendants here. This tool is not statutorily adversarial. This is what a state does when it, essentially, takes the pulse of the Common Good; and judges whether the set of communal aspirations shared by its citizens are really being met.***

***Given the recent revelations by The Church in Buffalo, NY, and Erie, PA, and with most of the State of Pennsylvania awaiting this report, those of us who either regard ourselves as victims or survivors, are, more than anything, looking for a mechanism for our voice to be heard.”***

## **Contacts**

**Rev. Thomas Doyle, OP.** After working in the Vatican Embassy in Washington, DC, Tom is familiar with the historical dynamics the Church has used under protection of diplomatic immunity to process cases of clergy sexual abuse. He has been an expert witness in countless investigations by various courts in the US and internationally. He is a founding member of the group <http://www.catholicwhistleblowers.com>. He may be reached for comment at [doyle45@verizon.net](mailto:doyle45@verizon.net).

**Terry McKiernan.** Terry is the director of [Bishop-Accountability.org](http://Bishop-Accountability.org), the international database which tracks data, perpetrators, investigations, and individual dioceses related to clergy sex abuse. He can be reached at (508) 479-9304 or [mckiernan1@comcast.net](mailto:mckiernan1@comcast.net).

**Robert Hoatson.** Bob is a founder and executive director of the victims advocacy group <http://www.road-to-recovery.org> which assists victims as they seek connections to counseling, financial assistance, and legal representation. Bob is also a member of <http://www.catholicwhistleblowers.com>. He can be reached at (862) 368-2800 or [roberthoatson@gmail.com](mailto:roberthoatson@gmail.com).

**Mitchell Garabedian.** Attorney Mitchell Garabedian is a dogged victim attorney in Boston, MA who was featured in the Academy Award winning film Spotlight. He can be reached at (888) 995-2214.

**Patrick Wall.** Patrick is an attorney in the law firm of Jeff Anderson Associates and is legal counsel for many victims. Additionally, he is a former priest, canon lawyer, and collaborator with Richard Sipe and Tom Doyle who compiles and presents extensive historical and present data on the abuse of children by Catholic clergy. He may be reached at 888/920-9258 or [PatrickJWall@andersonadvocates.com](mailto:PatrickJWall@andersonadvocates.com).

**Judy Block-Jones.** Judy is a victims advocate representing SNAP in Pennsylvania, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests [http://www.snapnetwork.org/judy\\_block\\_jones](http://www.snapnetwork.org/judy_block_jones). She can be reached at (314) 776-9277.

**Richard Sipe.** Richard is one of the foremost chroniclers of clergy sex abuse in the United States and in the larger Church. A former priest involved in the work of treating clergy abusers, he has a wealth of knowledge related to the historical and clinical dimensions of this tragedy. He may be reached at [info@awrsipe.com](mailto:info@awrsipe.com).