

NEWS

For Immediate Release
Contact: jim@faluszczak.com

Thirty-seven Attorneys and Law Firms Which Have Sought to Block or Redact Portions of the Report of the 40th Investigating Grand Jury Donated to Senator Joe Scarnati.



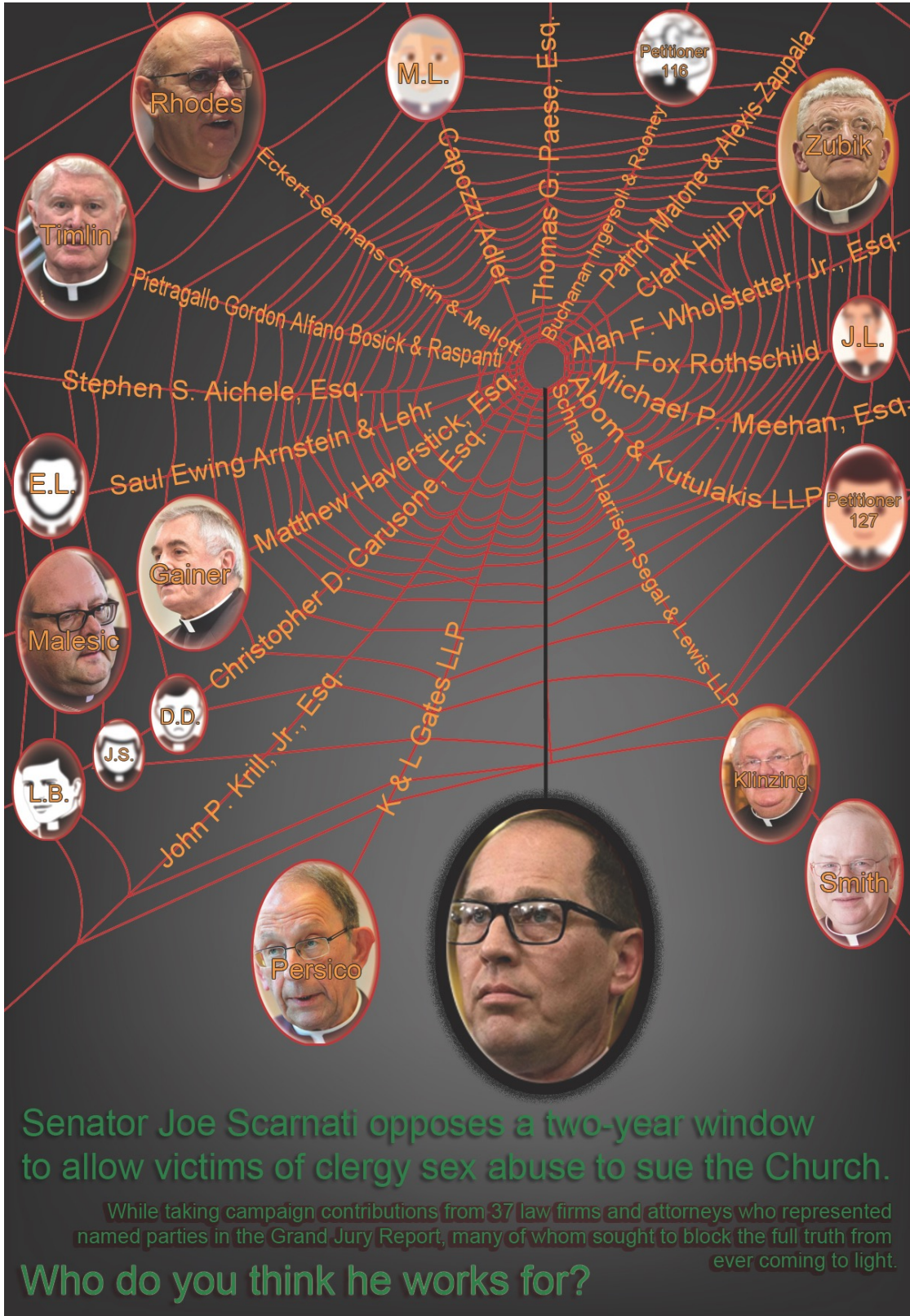
James Faluszczak, himself a victim of abuse by a priest, and still feeling called to the priesthood, left active ministry because the Church ignored his claims.

HARRISBURG, PA, Wednesday, September 26, 2018 – Using publicly-available campaign filings, James Faluszczak has uncovered thirty-seven (37) attorneys and law firms who have both donated to Senate President Pro-Tempore Joe Scarnati and represented interested Catholic Church parties in Pennsylvania who have sought to either redact portions of the recently released Grand Jury Report or block it all together. Scarnati, therefore, has positioned himself as an adversary of survivors of clerical sex abuse and as an instrument of the Catholic Church. The severe existing limits on both civil and criminal statutes of limitation have historically been used by the Church to “time out” the investigation of priest perpetrators and limit victims’ access to restitution. By his public statements in favor of diocese-run compensation funds for victims, Scarnati has forfeited his representation of citizens of Pennsylvania in favor of representing the corporate person of the Catholic Church.

Faluszczak, from 1997-2001 and again from 2010-2014, was a priest of the Diocese of Erie serving in the district which Senator Scarnati represents. Within that district alone there is an demographically high concentration of Catholic voters. There has also been a high concentration of priest perpetrators named by the Grand Jury Report. Therefore, there is a correspondingly high concentration of clergy abuse victims among the population Scarnati represents. Three diocesan high schools within the Senator’s district include Bradford Central Christian (now closed), Elk County Catholic High School, and DuBois Central Catholic High School. At least six (6) priest perpetrators served at Elk County Catholic alone, as well as five (5) priest perpetrators named in The Report who served the wider community of Elk County. Clergy sex abuse is an epidemic historical reality in his district.

1.) Data Sheets, Gleaned from FollowTheMoney.org: See Attached.

2.) Infographic Produced by James Faluszczak



3.) The “Window to Justice”/Senate Bill 261 Represents a Practical Remedy to the Phenomenon of Clergy Sex Abuse

“Soul Murder” is the appropriate description of the net result of sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests. The term was first used by Leonard Shengold in 1989 to describe the fallout a victim has to contend with after being sexually abused. Priests today are still regarded as standing in the place of God within the communities in which they minister.

Citation: <http://www.samaritaninstitute.org/documents/2011/September/CharlottePresAPAPaper2011a.pdf>

Statement of James Faluszczyk: “There is no statute of limitations on the crime of murder. Every citizen instinctively understands the magnitude of what happens when the life of an innocent victim is senselessly taken. But I say it emphatically today: When an abuser-priest molests a child the damage is actually far greater. Their soul is destroyed, and their ability to relate to God is hobbled. Society needs to call this what it is: Soul Murder. PA State Senators today have the opportunity to redress this profound injustice by passing Senate Bill 261 and opening a two year retroactive window in the statute of limitations.”

The fact that the Catholic Church spends as much as it does on lawyers lobbying against the civil statute of limitations represents an obstacle to people of faith who presume the Catholic Church stands on the side of the vulnerable and voiceless. Instead, the Church has allied itself with the worldly concerns of monetary and legal standing. The Catholic Church and Senator Joe Scarnati are allied with each other instead.

Citation: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/dolan-urges-pols-reject-lookback-window-child-abuse-cases-article-1.3886210>

Citation: <http://www.mcall.com/opinion/white/blog/mc-statute-of-limitations-lobbying-20160608-column.html>

Statement of James Faluszczyk: “This is a battle between David and Goliath. The Church is effectively using resources from its collections on an order of magnitude victims can never hope to match. If those who represent us in the PA State Senate cannot be a voice for the voiceless victims of clergy sex abuse, then they should be regarded as morally bankrupt. In state after state, legislators are working in tandem with the bishops who have historically engaged in coverup.”

4.) My Experience as a Victim

“Msgr. Daniel J. Martin, founding Headmaster of Elk County Catholic, molested me in Erie, Pennsylvania from 1985-1989, from the time I was sixteen until nineteen years of age. During this time I visited him wherever he was living, first on a weekly basis and then every other week, and then gradually less and less until I had the strength to break out of the dynamic he

established. While he was Pastor of St. George Church, which was two blocks from my family home, I would visit by myself in St. George rectory on a weekly basis. Although I worked in the rectory as a student secretary and was involved as an altar boy or church musician, the instances of molestation always happened outside these contexts. I was experiencing emotional neglect at home, which he knew from hearing my and my parents confessions, and he capitalized on this. To my mind, Fr. Martin groomed me for abuse from the time I was five years old, and waited to move on me until the moment he realized I was most vulnerable and isolated. Although ostensibly because of gout, and although I never recall noticing or hearing about symptoms, he was forced by Bishop Murphy to retire early in 1986 while I was 17 and a Junior in high school. He went to live with Rev. Donald Cooper at Mt. Calvary rectory until Fr. Cooper was charged with indecent exposure and forced to resign his pastorate of Mt. Calvary. Subsequently, Fr. Martin moved to live by himself in the chaplain's quarters above the chapel of Mercyhurst College where he continued to molest me until I was 19. Mercyhurst President, William Garvey, recently identified as a child abuser himself, provided Martin with his residence at Mercyhurst. After being charged with indecent exposure, Donald Cooper went on to serve in Elk County as Pastor of St. Joseph Church in Force."

5.) Allegations I Brought to the Church

"In March 2010 I informed Erie Bishop Donald Trautman that Fr. Martin molested me on 15 occasions. Trautman's response was "O thank God, you're lucky it wasn't many more times." On October 31, 2013 I informed Erie Bishop Lawrence Persico of child sex abuse committed by a lay faculty member at Elk County Catholic High School in St. Marys, PA, which he and three other diocesan officials urged me not to share with law enforcement. At the time of my requested leave of absence from priestly ministry in August 2014, I repeatedly inquired of Persico in four face-to-face meetings and over the phone in the several months subsequent to November 2014 what he was doing to respond to my criminal allegations. During this time period, I also made an allegation of misconduct against a priest in seminary work who had a sexual relationship with at least one seminarian of the Erie Diocese. While not civilly criminal, this misconduct is regarded as criminal by Canon Law."

"At no time subsequent to reporting my allegations to Bishops Trautman and Persico did they enact the investigatory protocols of the Dallas Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, established by the American Bishops in 2002. Trautman and Persico, by their inaction, failure to investigate, and admonition that I not contact law enforcement they contravened their own procedural protocols."

Citation: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/2011-Charter-booklet.pdf>

6.) Contact

James Faluszczyk
jim@faluszczyk.com
716/424-5417