
MEDIA RELEASE

Whistleblower priest responds to the death of Pope Francis

James Faluszczyk, himself a victim of abuse by a priest, and still feeling called to the priesthood, left active ministry because the Church ignored his claims. He testified before the 40th Pennsylvania Grand Jury as it investigated six dioceses in Pennsylvania and now investigates clergy and institutional child sexual abuse.

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WHAT: Responding to the death of Pope Francis, self-styled and perceived reformer of clergy sexual abuse of children.

WHEN: Available anytime by arrangement.

WHERE: Anywhere by arrangement.

WHO: Victim advocate James Faluszczyk, a participant in the Pennsylvania 40th Statewide Investigating Grand Jury, and outside attendant to the 2019 Papal Summit at the Vatican.

ST. MARYS, PA. Monday, April 21, 2025 – People have been edified by Pope Francis' words of support for poor people and migrants fleeing persecution, and his drawing of the world's attention to the forgotten should not be a novelty for future popes. I hope he did not suffer more than was publicly apparent in these past months; his infirmities seem to have been opaquely presented to the public.

It is a mistake to think Pope Francis was in any way transparent or a trailblazer on the continuing preventable tragedy of sexual abuse of children by clergy and by the institutional Roman Catholic Church itself. On the protection of children and vulnerable adults, Pope Francis was a demonstrated fraud, and it is likely that his successor will be the same in a matter of degrees.

Pope Francis allowed friends like Bishop Gustavo Zancetta and Jesuit Fr. Marco Rupnik to remain in office, and hidden from justice. He allowed cronies like Cardinal Donald Wuerl to continue to have influence in the appointment of bishops, and to steer their own friends like Camerlengo Kevin Farrell into an office meant to follow that of the Twelve Apostles appointed by Jesus. In response to my calls and others to have zero tolerance of abuse, Pope Francis enacted Vos Estis Lux Mundi, but then shielded the public from knowing how and when it was applied. Public reporting at that time suggested that Pope Francis did away with the Pontifical Secret around these matters, but public statements by his key Vatican foot soldiers proved he did not.

Pope Francis governed child sex abuse with gestures and flourishes that cowed Catholics worldwide. He gave us more of the same, instead of a shepherd's care in these matters.

