Accused cleric sent to Argentina by Chicago-based order

By Manya Brachear Pashman
Tribune reporter
6:45 a.m. CDT, August 2, 2013

A Chicago-based religious order on Thursday acknowledged sending a clergyman accused of inappropriate behavior to Argentina, the same day a victim's advocacy group criticized the order for allowing him to remain in the ministry.

Brother Richard Suttle now works under the supervision of a monitor in Buenos Aires and is "not involved in any work with children," the Rev. Rosendo Urrabazo, who oversees Claretian Missionaries in the United States, said Thursday. Urrabazo also confirmed that the order and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Phoenix investigated an accusation of inappropriate behavior against Suttle in 2008.

"A meeting was held with the victim to make amends to him," Urrabazo said in a statement. "Bro. Richard has been removed from any ministry with children and assigned internal work for the Order."

Urrabazo did not respond to questions about a June newsletter produced by the religious order's United Nations ministry that listed Suttle as part of its team. The ministry at the U.N. is a human rights project that, among its priorities, addresses youth unemployment and development.

The victims advocacy group, Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, also demanded to know the whereabouts of other accused Claretian clergy, including one person accused of abusing minors at a Southeast Side parish a decade ago.

The Rev. Eusebio Pantoja and the Claretian Missionaries religious order, of which he was a member, were sued in 2003 regarding allegations that he committed acts of abuse in 1970 at his home and in Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 3200 E. 91st St.

At the time of the lawsuit, Pantoja was assigned to a parish in Mexico, said Marc Pearlman, an attorney for the plaintiff, who was 14 at the time of the alleged abuse. The order did not respond to questions about where Pantoja now serves.

Pearlman said the order settled the suit along with another against the Rev. Thomas Paramo, who died in 2004. The order did not respond to questions about whether it investigated allegations against Paramo and Pantoja.

Barbara Blaine, president of SNAP, said the Chicago Archdiocese and religious orders should place accused priests in remote, secure facilities away from children and post the names of...
accused clergy so "parents and parishioners will know to keep children at a distance from him."

Unlike some dioceses that publish the names of credibly accused priests, religious orders in the U.S., composed of 17,000 men, have been less forthcoming about substantiated abuse allegations. Yet some orders are considering a more open policy.

After an unprecedented audit in June, the Detroit-based Capuchin Province of St. Joseph released a list of 23 current and former Capuchin friars removed for sexually abusing minors.

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quoted: "Brother Richard Suttle now works under the supervision of a monitor in Buenos Aires and is "not involved in any work with children," the Rev. Rosendo Urrabazo, who oversees Claretian Missionaries in the United States.

--- That does not mean that he can not get access to innocent children... Suttle needs to be put into a secure treatment center immediately.

Something to keep in mind:
Child predators are very cunning and manipulative. They know every trick on how to groom, threaten, lie, and put the fear of god into their victims, yet they can also be charming and generous. While they are grooming the child, they devote lots of time and energy building trust with them by giving them money and gifts. They tend to make the child feel that they are special and loved.

They appear to do a lot of good things, they can be... See More

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Greg Bullough · Top Commenter · Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Yeah. Right.

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Michele Brodsky Kenney · Top Commenter

Disgusting! These stories get more and more sordid. And they call themselves religion? And some turn their noses down at the thought of atheism? It's unbelievable!

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Joseph J. Finn · Top Commenter

I assume Rev. Rosendo Urrabazo was immediately arrested for aiding and abetting a fugitive.

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TheMediaReport.com

Manya Brachear knows very well how dishonest SNAP is, yet she continues to cite this discredited, bigoted group. How disappointing.

SNAP's Barbara Blaine, who "claims" she support child sex abuse victims, actually wrote a passionate letter of support for a doctor arrested with "over 100 images of kiddie porn" on his computer.

She thought the letter would never become public. Yet when it did, she then "tried to cover it up". http://www.themediareport.com/2013/05/30/barbara-blaine-exclusive-snap-founder/

It's disgusting hypocrisy. Yet Brachear has willfully ignored this story.

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