I JUST WANT IT TO GO AWAY. BUT IT CAN NEVER GO AWAY

Two brothers come forward to describe repeated sexual abuse by priest in the 1960s

By JAY TOHANI
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

James A. McCarthy has seen the Rev. Norbert F. Orsollis in years. But the face of the priest still creeps into his mind anytime he enters a Catholic church, he said.

McCarthy, 63, says a short prayer to make the image go away: "Lord, help me to do the right thing and let this pass."

It’s been the awful memory of the sexual abuse that McCarthy said he endured from Orsollis in his childhood bedroom for some 10 years ago.

Orsollis, now 79, made the startling admission on Tuesday that he had molested "probably dozens" of boys prior to being assigned to St. John the Baptist Church in West Seneca, according to the accounts of the McCarthy brothers and a third victim, Michael F. Whalen.

McCarthy said he was about 10 years old when he was sexually abused by Orsollis in the early 1960s, while Orsollis was assigned to St. John’s.

Orsollis abused him more than a decade and a half before he was assigned to St. John’s, McCarthy said. He was about 20 years old when he said he was sexually molested by Orsollis in 1966 or 1967, while Orsollis was assigned to St. John’s.

Advocate for victims says she believes actual number of perpetrators is perhaps triple of what’s been reported

"Every victim I’ve talked to has their own story, but for every one, the experience of being molested by a priest had a profound impact on their life," said Burns-Quinn.

Burns-Quinn said she has spoken to about 40 such victims since 2002, when she became Buffalo coordinator for a national organization called Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, or SNAP.

"Every one I’ve talked to has had trouble with either drugs, alcohol, anger, parental issues, divorces, or all of those things," she said.

"They have problems with trusting people, engaging people in authority. Their lives have been devastated because a priest was someone they thought they could be trusted," she said.

Burns-Quinn calls sexual abuse by priests "an enormous problem in this community." She has been closely following the latest developments this week, including Thursday’s announcement from the diocese that it will create a fund to compensate people who were abused by clergy.

In the view of Burns-Quinn, the diocese is taking steps because its leaders are worried about the poten-

Jim Kelly said of his appearance at Saturday’s Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation ball, “If I can still go, I’m going.”

Municipalities are turning the corner on zombie homes

By BARBARA O'BRIEN
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

Various Kenrajs may not have thought she was seeing a neighborhood when she bought her foreclosed home for $45,555 at auction in August 2013.

But the 26-year-old transformed a West Seneca house that had become vacant for five years, taking it from the rolls of the "endangered" and restoring it to vibrant and bustling residence.

She spent months fixing up the Rose Avenue house. Now, a window, a new roof, foundation work, new paint, sunny landscaping.

Before Kenraja got her hands on it, the house was a zombie home, caught in foreclosure limbo. In the Buffalo area, there are hundreds, perhaps thousands of them. Now towns, cities and villages are using new tools, including grants from new programs, to get the upper hand on vacant homes caught in an incomplete foreclosure process.

The effort is needed because the abandoned properties are causing costs and can encourage crime, but it doesn’t have to get to that point.

The first thing local leaders will tell anyone who gets the dreaded foreclosure notice is to stay in the house. "A lot of times people just leave," said Hamburg Community Development Director Christopher Tall.

Robert Kirkham/Buffalo News

Rev. Norbert F. Orsollis was assigned to St. John the Baptist Church in West Seneca in the 1960s. Two brothers were told at the time told Friday that Orsollis sexually abused them several times.

See Victims on Page A10

MILWAUKEE — The obvious question came up Thursday with the people in charge of the Vince Lombardi Cancer Foundation when they, along with the rest of the world, learned Jim Kelly’s oral cancer had come back for a third time.

Kelly was supposed to receive the organization’s award of excellence at its 28th annual dinner and ball Saturday night.

Would he cancel? How could he even think about something that, in the grand scheme of things, could now be easily regarded as trivial? The organization would have understood, too.

"It gets him past the awful memory of the priest," she said.

Burns-Quinn called the image "shocking and heartbreaking stories of people who were sexually abused by priests."

Most of them, she said, are adult men who were molested as young boys and teenagers.

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