



Idaho Statesman

Church knew of his abuse for years; police never did



Mark Holden was the victim of sexual abuse by a priest at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Boise in the 1970s, when he was 12 and 13. He approached the church a couple of times over the years; now, in 2018, he's telling his story publicly.

Records show priest had victims in Idaho, Oregon, Washington

BY RUTH BROWN
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For two decades, Mark Holden kept the secret of the man who abused him: a man he believed was next to God, a man he thought was untouchable.

Holden met the Rev. James McSorley in 1971 at Boise's Sacred Heart parish. In public, Holden served McSorley as an altar boy. In private, Holden said, the 50-year-old priest soon became exploitative, using secluded time with the children to fondle Holden — and possibly others — on multiple



The Rev. James McSorley in 1972.

occasions over the course of a year.

McSorley bought Holden's silence with beer, cigars and money. Holden knew the priest's behavior was wrong — he just wasn't sure how to end it.

The 12-year-old couldn't tell his parents, he thought at the time, in part because he'd been drinking beer. Calling police didn't even occur to him. Only some of the other altar boys, including his older brother, knew of the priest's actions.

"They robbed my faith — and everyone's faith," said Holden, now 58. "That person was supposed to be the person I could turn to when I feel in trouble. Yet, he was causing my trouble."

McSorley had abused at least one child before. Records show the priest harmed

VIDEO

View a timeline of Mark Holden's case.
[IdahoStatesman.com](#)

multiple victims across 20 years in Oregon, Idaho and Washington.

In 1964, he allegedly molested an altar boy in Springfield, Oregon. Between the 1950s and '80s, he served in several Washington churches, where records indicate that he abused at least one more child.

Holden is convinced that the Catholic Church knew — and quietly moved the problem priest to new parishes, where McSorley again abused young victims.

"What's infuriating is that that Boise bishop knew what (McSorley) did and brought him here anyway," Holden said. "That's infuriating. That's wrong."

In Idaho, at least two bishops, eight priests

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NFL owners adopt new policy to address anthem protests

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA

NFL owners approved a new policy Wednesday aimed at quelling the firestorm over national anthem protests sparked by Colin Kaepernick and polarized by President Donald Trump, permitting

players to stay in the locker room during "The Star-Spangled Banner" but requiring them to stand if they come to the field.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said the change was approved unanimously by the owners at their spring meeting in Atlanta, but even that was up for debate.

The head of the San Francisco 49ers — Kaepernick's former

team — said his franchise abstained from the vote. CEO Jed York said he wasn't comfortable with a process that didn't directly involve the players.

"I want to work with my team to make sure everything we do is about promoting the right types of social justice reform and getting to a better America," York said.

The NFL Players Association

said it wasn't consulted about the new policy and would challenge any changes that violate the collective bargaining agreement.

Clearly, Goodell and most owners just want to put the issue behind them.

"We want people to be respectful of the national anthem. We want people to stand," the commissioner said. "We've been very sensitive on making sure that we give players choices, but we do believe that moment is an important moment and one that we are going to focus on."

In the surest sign that players

were not part of the discussions, any violations of the policy would result in fines against the team — not the players. That could be a way to avoid legal challenges from the players' union, since fines against a team would not be subject to collective bargaining.

The league did say teams could impose their own workplace rules for those who fail to show respect for the flag and anthem, but didn't say what those policies might be. Because the new policy is a change in the terms and conditions

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