

Deal of the Century

BY GUSTAVO ARELLANO

The Los Angeles Dodgers and Anaheim Angels have traded with each other only once: in 1972, when the Halos shipped Andy Messersmith and Ken McMullen up Interstate 5 for Frank Robinson, Bill Singer, Mike Strahler, Billy Grabarkewitz and Bobby Valentine. The trade did little to improve each team: the Angels finished 1973 with a 79-83 record, while the Boys in Blue placed second behind the Cincinnati Reds in the National League West Division.

But in 1973, a deacon at St. Barbara's in Santa Ana tongued a boy, setting into motion one of the best swaps in trading history. The following year, officials with the Los Angeles Archdiocese elevated the deacon, Theodore Ulanos, into the priesthood and placed him in an LA parish. Ulanos went on to become the most notorious pedo-priest in Los Angeles

County history, violating at least 21 children in various county parishes until he was placed on the disabled list (a.k.a. put on inactive leave) while at St. Lucy's in Long Beach in 1991.

But LA archdiocesan officials returned the favor to OC parishioners. Shortly after Ulanos left Santa Ana in 1974, then-LA Cardinal Timothy Manning moved Eleuterio Ramos from Resurrection Church in Los Angeles to St. Joseph's in Placentia. In a 16-year career that ended in the Mexican Winter League (a.k.a. Tijuana) in 1994, Ramos became king of Orange County pedophiles, admitting to more than 25 victims.

The Ulanos-Ramos transaction is reminiscent of the 1999 Marshall Faulk-

Edgerrin James deal between the St. Louis Rams and Indianapolis Colts, in which both teams exchanged young stars and saw each prosper—if by “prosper,” you mean chewing up a lot of yardage as NFL running backs for Faulk and James and chewing up a lot of kiddie trousers as Roman Catholic priests for Ulanos and Ramos.

Indeed, in the annals of the *really* unsporting life, this was the rare trade in which both sides benefited equally, and as the following stats box shows, both priests deserve a hallowed corner of the NAMBLA Hall of Fame.

TALE OF THE RAPE



Ramos



Ulanos

PRIEST	Eleuterio Ramos	Theodore Ulanos
NICKNAME	“Big Al”	“Ted”
NUMBER OF ADMITTED VICTIMS	at least 25	at least 21
PREFERRED METHOD OF MOLESTATION	fellatio	buggery
WERE CHURCH OFFICIALS INFORMED OF THE MOLESTATION AT THE TIME IT OCCURRED?	Yes; in 1979, a teacher at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Santa Ana, where Ramos then served, told Monsignor Michael Driscoll that Ramos acted inappropriately with boys.	Yes; in 1973, a deacon at St. Barbara's in Santa Ana told Cardinal Manning that Ulanos had kissed his 13-year-old son.
DID OFFICIALS TAKE ACTIONS ON THE WARNINGS?	Yes; he was moved to St. Angela Merici in Brea.	Yes; he was moved to St. Bernard's in Los Angeles.
DID THE DIOCESE SEND EACH AWAY FOR THERAPY?	Yes	Yes
DID EACH MOLEST AGAIN AFTER THERAPY?	Yes	Yes
CIVIL SETTLEMENTS AGAINST EACH	13	1
CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST EACH	none	38
NUMBER OF YEARS SPENT IN JAIL FOR CRIMES	none	none
FINAL WORDS TO VICTIMS	“Forgive me for using you for an instrument for my pleasure” (in a 2003 police recording).	“Life is too painful. I'm sorry for all the hurt I caused. I hope a better life awaits me” (in a 1996 suicide note).