

#### Editorial Note:

"Bless Me, Father" draws on approximately 12,000 pages of court documents, known as the Rosado files, relating to priestly sexual abuse in the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Since the first lawsuits were brought in 1993, the Diocese, under the leadership of Bishops Edward M. Egan and William E. Lori, waged an expensive legal battle to keep the documents under seal.

Although both the Connecticut Superior Court and the CT Supreme Court upheld the public's right of access, the Diocese petitioned the United States Supreme Court to hear its appeal. After the Court's refusal, the documents were published in November 2009.

Today a portion is presented in this form. Aside from introductory and narrative elements, the words are taken verbatim from the depositions and affidavits of bishops, monsignors, predators, survivors, and their parents. Some repetitive or non-essential passages have been omitted, but without distorting the speaker's meaning. Without the work of Terry McKiernan and Anne Barrett Doyle of Bishop Accountability and Anne Pollack of Voice of the Faithful, who facilitated access to the documents, this presentation would have been impossible. The playwright, Jack Rushen, provided valuable assistance in helping to organize the material.

"BLESS ME,  
FATHER,  
FOR I HAVE  
SINNED!"



Bless Me, Father" attempts to accomplish several goals: (1) To give voice to the voiceless, namely, the children who were molested, but were threatened not to tell their

parents and often disbelieved when they spoke to church authorities. (2) To give all the faithful the opportunity to bear communal witness to the terrible tragedy that affects all of us as members of Christ's Body, the Church. "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it" (1 Cor. 12:26). (3) To offer our children the compassion that the Church has long denied them. (4) To hold accountable not only priestly predators, but also Bishops Curtis and Egan and their subordinates who, in their zeal to avert public scandal, failed to understand that their primary responsibility was and continues to be the protection of the little ones among us. (5) To reflect on the need to reform our Church so that it will be a vibrant witness to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Everyone interested in justice will acknowledge the special role of Paul Tremont, Cindy Robinson, and Douglas Mahoney of the law firm of Tremont & Sheldon in giving voice to the survivors in the courts of law. For further reading see "A History of Clergy Sexual Misconduct within the Diocese of Bridgeport" at [www.bishopaccountability.org](http://www.bishopaccountability.org)

Also see our website:  
[www.votfbpt.org](http://www.votfbpt.org).

# "BLESS ME, FATHER, FOR I HAVE SINNED!"

## PRIESTLY SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

*(A dramatic presentation of court documents)*

Written By Joseph F. O'Callaghan

Directed by Jack Rushen

Produced by John Lee

**Norwalk Concert Hall  
Norwalk, Connecticut**

**November 13, 2010**

### Dedicated to:

*The boys and girls, now grown  
to adulthood, whose innocence  
was torn away by men they  
were taught to trust.*





## T H E C A S T

### "Let the Children Come to Me"

Andrea.....	KATIE SPARER
Mark.....	TOM RUSHEN
Frank.....	GARY BETSWORTH
Bobby.....	JASON CARUBIA

### "Never Touched Him" Charles Carr

Bobby.....	JASON CARUBIA
Christopher.....	DAVID VICTOR
Carole.....	KITTY ROBERTSON
Charles Carr.....	TOM COSTAGINI
Camille.....	JUDITH KEALEY
Msgr. Bronkiewicz.....	LARRY GREELEY

### "What Do You Mean by Exposure?" Martin Federici

Frank.....	GARY BETSWORTH
Msgr. Cusack.....	NIGEL REES
Mother.....	JESSIE GILBERT
Martin Federici.....	TOM COSTAGINI

### "A Recurrence of Hepatitis" Laurence Brett

Mark.....	TOM RUSHEN
Msgr. Genuario.....	JIM GORDON
Bishop Egan.....	MANNY LIEBERMAN
Bishop Curtis.....	JOHN PYRON
Archbishop Vagnozzi.....	LARRY GREELEY

### "Birthday Spankings" Raymond Pcolka

Andrea.....	KATIE SPARER
Mother.....	JUDITH KEALEY
Jane.....	MAUREEN CUMMINGS
Msgr. Cusack.....	NIGEL REES
Bishop Egan.....	MANNY LIEBERMAN
Ronald Slossar, Sr. ....	DAVID VICTOR
Ruthann Slossar.....	KITTY ROBERTSON

### "The Question is Credibility" The Clerical Club

Sally.....	RANDYE KAYE
Bishop Curtis.....	JOHN PYRON
Msgr. Cusack.....	NIGEL REES
Msgr. Genuario.....	JIM GORDON
Bishop Egan.....	MANNY LIEBERMAN
Msgr. Bronkiewicz.....	LARRY GREELEY
Msgr. Ryan.....	SAM MINK

### "Voices of the Faithful"

Nancy.....	MAUREEN CUMMINGS
Mark.....	TOM RUSHEN
Andrea.....	KATIE SPARER
Frank.....	GARY BETSWORTH
Bobby.....	JASON CARUBIA

## PANEL DISCUSSION

**David Clohessy, SNAP (Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests),  
Terry McKiernan, Bishop Accountability,  
Joseph F. O'Callaghan, Writer  
Jack Rushen, Director**

## Remembrance of Survivors

### The Bishops and Monsignors

**Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi**, Apostolic Delegate to the United States (1958-68)

**Bishop Walter W. Curtis** (1961-88; d. 1997)

**Bishop Edward M. Egan** (1988-2000); Archbishop of New York (2000-2009)

**Bishop William E. Lori** (2001-present)

**Msgr. William Genuario**, Vice-Chancellor; member of diocesan tribunal; former pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Riverside. Accused of sexually molesting a young boy. Although the Diocese declared that the charges were not credible, it paid compensation in 2004.

**Msgr. Andrew Cusack**, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy & Religious (1971-87; d. 2004)

**Msgr. Laurence Bronkiewicz**, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Religious (1987-99); chancellor (1999-2002); currently pastor of St. Mary Parish, Ridgefield.

**Msgr. Martin Ryan**, former head of Catholic Charities, currently pastor of St. Edward the Confessor Parish, New Fairfield. Accused of sexually molesting teenage girls. Diocesan Review Board concluded that he does not pose a threat to anyone. In 2003 the Diocese compensated one of his accusers.

**Msgr. Gregory M. Smith**, former chancellor and former director of the REAPS (Religious Education and Pastoral Studies) program at Sacred Heart University. Accused of sexually molesting two teenage girls at St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull. Removed from ministry in 2002 and forbidden to act as a priest

### The Predators

**Laurence Brett**. Ordained 1962. St. Cecilia, Stamford, 1963-64; leave of absence, 1965-72; outside the diocese, 1973-95; Share the Word. Calvert Hall High School, Baltimore. Suspended 1993; sighted on St Maarten, 2002. Whereabouts unknown.

**Charles T. Carr**. Ordained 1980. Our Lady of Fatima, Wilton, 1981-84; St Thomas, Norwalk, 1985-86; St. Catherine of Siena, Trumbull, 1987-88; Central Catholic High School, Norwalk, 1990; St Philip, Norwalk, 1990-91; St. Andrew, Bridgeport, 1992-95; leave of absence, 1996; hospital chaplain, 2000. Removed from ministry, 2002.

**Martin J. Federici**. St. Theresa, Trumbull, 1967; Assumption, Westport, 1968-70; St Ambrose, Bridgeport, 1971; Assumption, Fairfield 1972-77; St. Thomas, Norwalk, 1978-81; St. Joseph, Shelton, 1982-83; St. Edward, New Fairfield, 1984; St. Matthew, Norwalk, 1985-95; St. Augustine Cathedral, 1996. Laicized.

**Raymond S. Pcolka**. St. Benedict, Stamford, 1966-67; St. John Nepomucene, Bridgeport, 1968-73; St. Mary, Greenwich, 1974; St. James, Stratford, 1975; Holy Name, Stratford, 1976-86; St. Mary, Bethel, 1987-88; Sacred Heart, Greenwich, 1990-93; leave of absence, 1993-95; not listed, 1996. Died 2009.