Mendham memorial to clergy sex victims will be rebuilt

By PHIL GARBER
MANAGING EDITOR

MENDHAM - The aftermath of a second attack on a milestone memorial to young victims of clergy sexual abuse at St. Joseph Church has brought welcomed, renewed support for victims by the church and a return of a popular champion of the rights of young victims.

The memorial was vandalized first in 2011 and was rebuilt and rededicated. It was the target again in early March when someone destroyed two figures of a young boy and girl at the memorial.

A ceremony to rededicate the memorial is planned for 2 p.m., Sunday, April 28, to coincide with national Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Blue Sunday Child Abuse Prevention Initiative, according to Bill Crane, organizer of the event and one of dozens of sexual abuse victims of the former church pastor, the Rev. James Hanley.

The Blue Sunday Child Abuse Prevention Initiative is a non-profit organization which serves abused and neglected children. National Blue Sunday is commemorated on April 28 when churches across the nation take the time in morning services to pray for the victims of child abuse and those that rescue them.

Crane, 47, was one of more than a dozen boys who were sexually assaulted by the defrocked priest, Hanley, when he was a child. St. Joseph Church in Plainfield, Marigliano testified about the sexual assaults at a hearing at the Statehouse in Trenton last year. Officials were meeting to discuss extending the statute of limitations for prosecutions for sexual assault by priests.

Omarini died in 1996 and was never charged with the assaults.
"We need to stop this craziness."

FRED MARIGLIANO
St. Joseph Church Congregant

Abuse Prevention Initiative, according to Bill Crane, organizer of the event and one of dozens of sexual abuse victims of the former church pastor, the Rev. James Hanley.

The Blue Sunday Child Abuse Prevention Initiative is a non-profit organization which serves abused and neglected children. National Blue Sunday is commemorated on April 28 when churches across the nation take the time in morning services to pray for the victims of child abuse and those that rescue them.

Crane, 47, was one of more than a dozen boys who were sexually assaulted by the defrocked priest. Hanley, when he was church's pastor from 1972 to 1989. Hanley admitted to the assaults but was never prosecuted for his crimes because the statute of limitations had lapsed.

Jason Jones, the Oregon sculptor who created the original memorial, is crafting a new image of a boy like the one that was most recently destroyed at the memorial. Crane said a new security system also will be added to that will allow the church and police to monitor the memorial. New security lighting with motion sensors also have been installed.

Pastor Praised

Crane and another church congregant, Fred Marigliano, praised the church pastor, the Rev. Monsignor Joseph Anginoli, for leading the effort for better security and welcoming the Rev. Msgr. Kenneth Lasch back to the church.

Marigliano, 65, of Green Brook is coordinating the effort to collect funds for the new memorial. He said the security cameras will be paid for by an anonymous donor with Road to Recovery, a national, non-profit organization that offers counseling and referral services to survivors of clergy sexual abuse.

Another anonymous donor has offered to pay for a reception at the Black Horse Tavern on West Main Street after the April 28 ceremony.

"We need to stop this craziness," said Marigliano. "That is the only monument in the world to victims of child sexual abuse."

Marigliano said he has written to Rome to invite Pope Francis to attend the April 28 service. He had been unsuccessful in efforts to have Pope Benedict attend earlier ceremonies.

Marigliano said he began attending St. Joseph only recently after Anginoli extended an invitation to Lasch to return to the church for Sunday masses. Lasch, a former pastor at St. Joseph Church, is a longtime champion for young victims of clergy sexual abuse but his relationship at the church was strained and he stepped down as pastor years ago because he criticized the lack of support for victims by the Catholic Diocese of Paterson.

"Father Joe (Anginoli) is really supporting the victims but Father Lasch is the real hero," Marigliano said.

Marigliano is himself a victim. He said he was repeatedly raped as a young teenager by the Rev. Contardo Omarini, a priest from Staten Island, N.Y., who often was a guest pastor at Marigliano's St. Bernard's Church in Plainfield. Marigliano testified about the sexual assaults at a hearing at the Statehouse in Trenton last year. Officials are meeting to discuss extending the statute of limitations for prosecutions for sexual assault by priests.

Omarini died in 1995 and was never charged with the assaults.

"I'm never going to stop fighting for justice for victims," Marigliano said. "I don't care if I have to be wheeled in a wheelchair, I'll never stop."

Marigliano said he was 11, 12 and 13 when he was assaulted by Omarini while visiting his home.

"He would come over after church and rape me in dad's basement," Marigliano said.

Marigliano said he would sometimes try to flee upstairs but that Omarini would wait until the boy's father was asleep before following him and assaulting him again.

Sometimes the priest would lure the boy to his car and drive away for an illicit assault.

"I remember being driven away in his black car and praying to God the door would open and I would fall out," said Marigliano who is marred with two chil-
HOLE: Closed tavern may re-open

FROM PAGE 8

ship Engineer Leon Hall, Health Officer Chris Cooke-Gibbs, the present owner, representatives of the Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA) and Santorelli. The owners of the property are Ridge Funding Properties Corp. and Mountain View Bar and Grill, Inc, who gained title to the inn after a previous bankruptcy.

The question of who would own the sewer easement may be tricky.

Walter Cullen, chairman of the Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA), said ownership of the easement could affect the MUA's ability to solve any future leakage. Cullen said the MUA has a "major problem with infiltration" at the current time.

Short said the police station is surrounded by underground cable designed to absorb and attract any lightning strikes on the communications tower at the rear of the building. He said the easement would have to avoid encroaching on the system. Previous owners looked at the possibility of a connection in 2006.

The proposal could not be approved then because the township did not have a Waste Water Management Plan (WWMP) approved by the state.

On Monday, April 15, the Township Committee introduced an ordinance that would take the municipality a step closer to conformance with the Highlands Regional Master Plan.

Adoption of the ordinance will pave the way for final plan conformance.

The WWMP, approved in 2012, is conditional upon final Highlands conformance in the planning area.

The Mountain View Inn is one of a number of sewerage approvals included in the WWMP.

Bob Thomas

REBUILT: Memorial revitalized

FROM PAGE 1

dren. "For years I had fear and shame. I still have nightmares. It still comes back."

Marigliano said he met Lasch through his work with victims and that Lasch provided him with support he needed. "He saved my life," Marigliano said.

Lasch said he had returned to the church for occasional funerals in past years but only recently was invited back to offer regular, Sunday communions.

"People are very welcoming," Lasch said. "Father Joe is very gracious. I've always been about healing."

The original monument was built in memory of James Kelly, a Mendham man who was a victim of Hanley's and committed suicide at 37. It included a large millstone in reference to Jesus who said in Matthew 18:5,6 "And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little children, it were better for him that a millstone were hung about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

The second monument added figures of a young boy and girl, to symbolize children who have been sexually assaulted by clergy.

A borough resident, Gordon Ellis, was charged with using a sledgehammer to destroy the monument in 2011. A court hearing scheduled for April 3 was postponed as Ellis is claiming a mental health defense.

There have been no arrests in the second vandalism. A $2,000 reward has been offered by Morris County CrimeStoppers for information that leads to the arrest or indictment. Anyone with information can call CrimeStopPpers at 973-COPCall or 1-800-Sheriff.

Crandale has invited Gov. Chris Christie to the ceremony. Christie of Mendham Township is a parishioner of St. Joseph Church. Also invited is Sen. Barbara Buono, D-Middlesex. the only announced challenger to Christie in the June primary and Bishop Arthur Joseph Serratelli of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Paterson.

said the measure was taken to ensure that no other bombs would be detonated by remote control. "If he said he was unable to phone us until he had driven many miles..." from the city.

Button said radio and television stations were reporting non-stop on the situation all Monday afternoon. What initially was believed to be a related explosion at the John F. Kennedy Library turned out to be a non-related fire.

"People were all in a daze," said Button, of the scene, after the bombs went off.

He said local media reported that police have video evidence of a man placing two backpacks in a garbage can in the area of the explosions.

Early reports that other devices had been found before they exploded were denied by Boston officials on Tuesday.

TREES

route were notified prior to the arrival of the trees on Saturday. Some chose not to take advantage of the cost-free trees.

Zaikowski and some helpers

FINDS

"I would like to see money from that budget going toward