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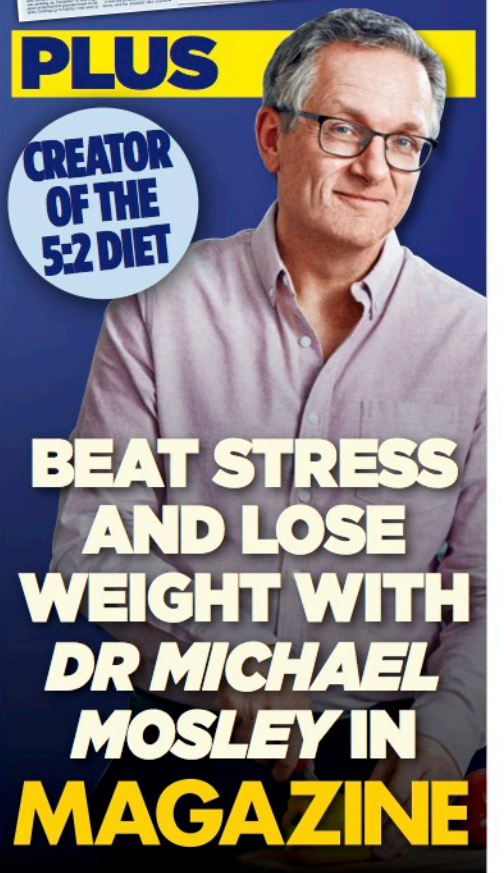
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FIGHTING BACK: Joe Devine

After seeing our John of God story husband reveals to his wife that he was also a victim

The IRISH Mail
ON SUNDAY

INVESTIGATION

By **Michael O'Farrell**

INVESTIGATIONS EDITOR

A HUSBAND, who can't read or write, told his wife for the first time of alleged abuse he suffered, after seeing Brother Aidan Clohessy pictured in the Irish Mail on Sunday last week.

In his heartbreaking revelation to his wife Sally, Joe Devine explained that he

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Whistleblower psychiatrist at St John of God says its code of silence endangers children

Dangerous culture of omerta



DEEP CONCERNS: Dr Paul Moran
By Michael O'Farrell
INVESTIGATIONS EDITOR

A SENIOR St John of God (SJOG) psychiatrist has broken ranks to warn of a dangerous culture of omerta (silence) at the heart of the organisation for which he works.

Dr Paul Moran, a consultant liaison psychiatrist with the St John of God Cluain Mhuire Service, came forward in the wake of last week's Irish Mail on Sunday revelation that the SJOG order had covered up mounting child abuse allegations, allowing Brother Aidan Clohessy to remain working with vulnerable children in Malawi for decades.

In coming forward, Dr Moran said that he was 'speaking for many colleagues who are deeply shocked and saddened by the thoughts of what may have been done to these children'.

He continued: 'There is also a great sense of shame about how our organisation fails to act responsibly and enables more and more children to be put at risk.'

Because his role includes treating and counselling survivors of child abuse, Dr Moran is acutely familiar

'Concerns are dismissed as gossip and negativity'

with the life-long impact that abuse has on those affected.

And he is appalled that an organisation such as St John of God - which ran the Granada treatment centre for clerical paedophiles for years - would risk endangering vulnerable children in its care.

Dr Moran said: 'There is a culture of omerta, which has been promoted and maintained by the senior management of the organisation over many years.'

(A Sicilian term, omerta is the code of silence by which the mafia controlled its underlings through intimidation).

'Any questions or discussion by professionals about their concerns in relation to organisational wrongdoing are dismissed as gossip and negativity,' Dr Moran explained.

'Senior management strongly discourage any communication by professionals with bodies outside the organisation, going as far as to link compliance with omerta and enhanced promotion prospects.'



MARKING 50 YEARS IN THE ORDER: Br Donatus and Br Aidan

ORDER HEAD WHO OFTEN VISITED HIM IN MALAWI

THE LEADER

IT WAS a simple ceremony but one of immense consequence.

Gathered in the hospital chapel at their HQ in Stillorgan, a small group of Brothers watched as Provincial Donatus Forkan presented a small bronze statue of St John of God to Brother Aidan Clohessy. The date was October 22, 1993, the official start of his new mission to Malawi.

It was fitting perhaps that Br Donatus would be the one to oversee Br Aidan's departure to Africa. The pair had been professed as Brothers together in 1960.

There was one problem though.

Brother Aidan had been accused of child abuse years earlier in 1985. In years to come those allegations would mount substantially. Yet, it appears, that for decades no one acted to see if children in Malawi needed

to be protected. Since Brother Aidan's departure to Africa, Brother Donatus's career rose steadily. In 1994, he was elected a general councillor, making him one of the five most senior members of the St John of God order globally.

In 2000 he was re-elected - this time as First General Councillor - making him the second most powerful member of the order, and in 2006 he became Prior General, making the farmer's son from Swinford, Co. Mayo the worldwide leader.

Moving into his new Rome office, he placed some ageing sweets, given to him by an impoverished street girl in Mexico, on his desk beside his computer. He said they reminded him that because of poverty and exclusion she had been 'deprived of the dignity that every human being is entitled to'.

In 2006, the allegations against Br Aidan had exceeded a dozen, yet he remained living and working with children in Malawi. As Prior General, Br Donatus was responsible for the response to child abuse claims. Whatever he knew about developments in Ireland, he was aware of concerns in Australia. We know that because from 2007 bishops and SJOG experts there were warning him of abuse on a massive scale.

In the end - with the backing of Rome - the order in Australia paid millions in compensation and legal fees to protect accused brothers who would later be jailed.

Why then was Br Aidan left in Malawi, living and working with children? We've asked Br Donatus

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CHARLIE LANDSBOROUGH Brother Donatus likes to listen to music and his favourite song, from British country singer Charlie Landsborough, is called *A Million Ways To Fall*. 'There are no angels after all,' the lyric goes. 'Only people, only people - and a million ways to fall.'

this in person and in writing - to no avail so far. In 2010 he and Br Aidan celebrated their Golden Jubilee together, and Brother Donatus went on one of his frequent trips to Malawi, staying in Br Aidan's home. Children who stayed there at the time remember the visits.

In 2011, Br Donatus was back in Malawi again to watch Br Aidan surrender the statue Br Donatus had given him in 1993, to newly professed African brothers.

In 2012, as Br Donatus left Rome to become Provincial in Ireland again, Br Aidan was quietly withdrawn from Malawi. It appears no effort has been made to establish what impact he may have had there. Today, Br Aidan and Br Donatus live in the St John of God community house in Stillorgan, just beside the order's hospital. When the weather suits Br Aidan strolls the grounds and nearby neighbourhood alone.

'Please ensure that nobody within your service responds to any such legal representations, but refer all correspondence of this nature to myself as Chairman of the Safeguarding Advisory Group for the Order and Ministries.'

After checking the law with the Medical Council, Dr Moran wrote

back to Mr Pepper to point out that the instruction appeared at odds with both ethical guidelines and the law.

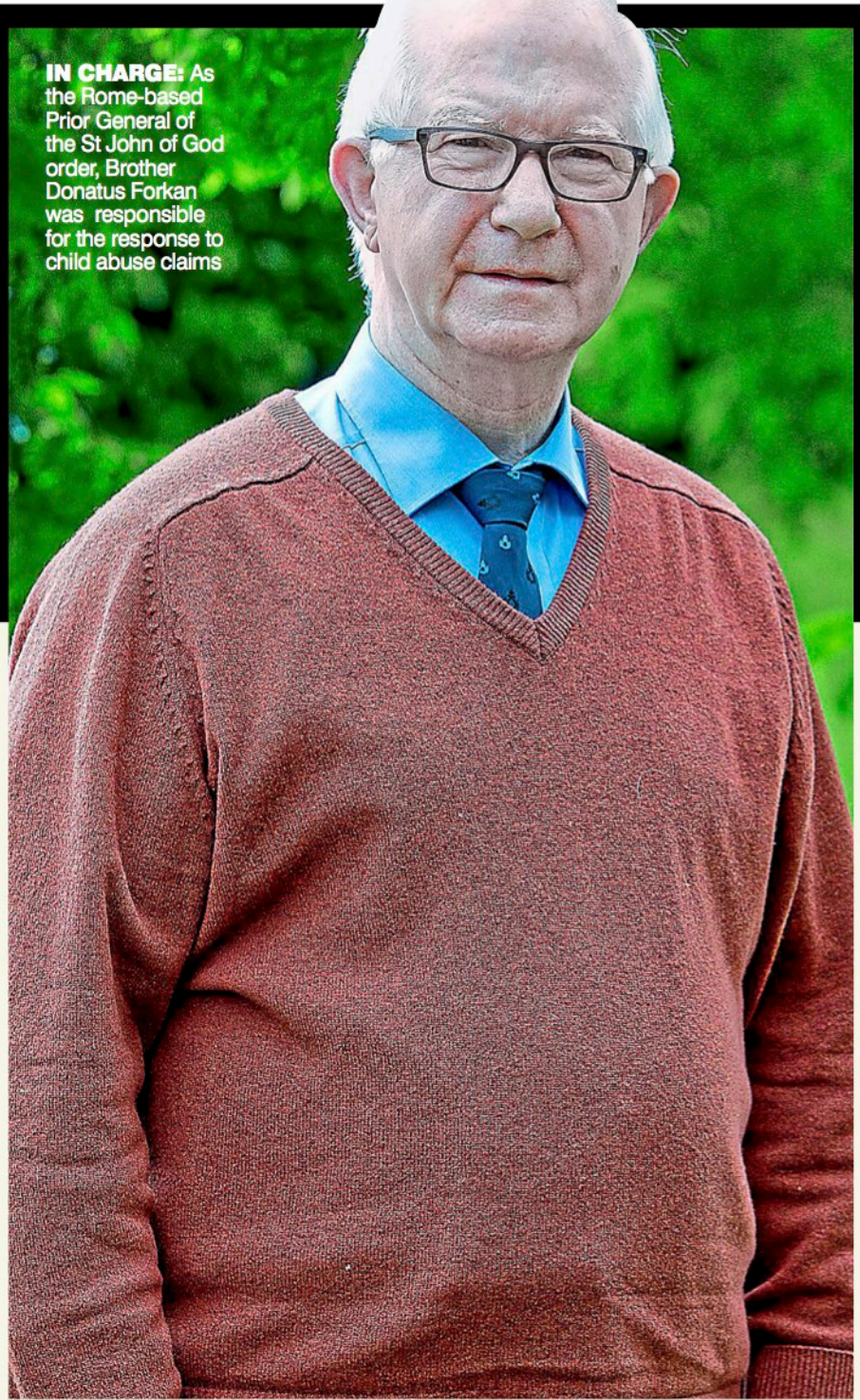
He wrote: 'It appears that your suggested refusal to provide medical reports at the request of patients is not compatible with current legal requirements.'

Mr Pepper then wrote back to Dr Moran to say his instruction had not been intended to prevent consultants providing patient records or reporting abuse concerns to the authorities.

However, this clarification was issued to Dr Moran only and appears not to have been circulated to all those who received the original instruction. Because of this, Dr Moran fears that colleagues may still be acting on the original instruction.

St John of God, through a spokesman, said: 'The Saint John of God Order places tremendous value on the work and acknowledges the invaluable contribution made by its staff members, which is very much appreciated.'

'There are a number of stated policies and procedures through which employees can air grievances or concerns should they have any. In accordance with HR best practice, it is not appropriate to respond to a staff member through the media. However, the order urges any personnel with concerns to come forward to it and/or alternatively to contact the authorities.'



IN CHARGE: As the Rome-based Prior General of the St John of God order, Brother Donatus Forkan was responsible for the response to child abuse claims

3. My impression is that there is a culture of collusion inside the Province which is deeply engrained, and which makes it almost impossible for the truth about these matters to be dealt with.

Whistleblower raised collusion fear 10 years ago

AUSTRALIA

By Micael O'Farrell
INVESTIGATIONS EDITOR

CLAIMS of omerta at the heart of the St John of God order are not new.

Ten years ago in Australia Dr Michelle Mulvihill - a psychologist and former Sister of Mercy nun - voiced the same concerns Dr Paul Moran is expressing about the order in Ireland today.

Though a decade apart, these whistleblowers have one thing in common - they both answer to Brother Donatus Forkan.

Originally hired to help St John of God in Australia and New Zealand as a flood of abuse cases were unearthed, Dr Mulvihill ended up resigning in disgust. As she did so, she wrote to Brother Donatus, then head of the St John of God order in Rome.

The Irish Mail on Sunday has obtained her letter and Brother Donatus's response.

In spite of the best efforts of the Professional Standards Committee it was not possible to bring the province to an awareness of the gravity of the situation in relation to the long history of misconduct and in particular the culture of sexual abuse in the province,' her letter reads.

'My impression is that there is a culture of collusion inside the province which is deeply engrained and which makes it almost impossible for the truth about these matters to be dealt with,' the letter continued. She said when she tried to raise these matters she was met with 'rejection and personal vilification'.

In response, Brother Donatus wrote: 'It pains me to hear that there continues to be a belief that "there is a culture of collusion inside the province which is deeply engrained and which makes it almost impossible for the truth about these matters to be dealt with".'

He was concerned that the Australian province of St John of God had elected a new leader and council, some of whom had been the subject of abuse complaints.

'I understand that you were present for the chapter and election. If the matters reported to me... are true, as I believe they are, then the entire order in Australia needs to be seriously assessed.'



RESIGNED: Dr Michelle Mulvihill also raised her concerns with Brother Donatus

ince which is deeply engrained and which makes it almost impossible for the truth about these matters to be dealt with'. Were anything like that proven to be the case I would be the first to insist on the most radical action.'

He said the order would establish an 'independent and external audit to examine all aspects of the abuse issue in the province'.

Despite his assurances that those conducting the audit would speak to Dr Mulvihill, she was not contacted.

But her concerns have since been vindicated. Last year it was found that 40% of the SJOG brothers in the province had allegations of child sexual abuse against them - a far higher percentage than any other Church body. It is now known that hundreds of children were abused by St John of God brothers at schools for the intellectually disabled in Australia and New Zealand.

And as Brother Donatus headed up and sat on the ruling body of the order in Rome, it paid millions in compensation to victims - and spent millions more defending accused brothers before they were jailed for abuse.

Testifying at the Australian commission last year Dr Mulvihill said: 'It's all about power, isn't it? All roads lead to Rome. It's all about who's in charge.'

Dr Mulvihill was not alone in raising concerns. The MoS has obtained a 2007 letter to Brother Donatus from Australian Bishop Michael Malone where he writes of 'a widespread culture of sexual abuse amongst the members of the Australian province'.

He said: 'As this was an independent external audit, Brother Donatus had no involvement in how the audit was conducted. The recommendations of this audit were implemented by the province.'

'At all times the actions and responses of Brother Donatus were conducted appropriately and in accordance with safeguarding policies, best practice and with the input of external consultation and guidance. Any statement, inference or assertion to the contrary is not correct.'

ABUSE SURVIVORS CALL FOR INVESTIGATION OF REDRESS BOARD

CLERICAL abuse survivor campaigners last night called for an inquiry into how alleged abusers, whose victims were compensated by the Redress Board, could have continued access to children.

'It is unconscionable to think a named alleged child abuser was allowed to continue to have contact with children,' said Annmarie

REACTION

Kennedy of the Christine Buckley Centre for Education and Support (formerly Aislinn Centre). 'How many other Brother D's are out there?' she said. Ms Kennedy said it was 'hard to believe' the Redress Board 'had heard personal stories

and allegations of abuse and were not legally obliged to report these to the gardai.'

'Now, in light of revelations by the MoS, surely the State has a moral obligation to ensure a legal process is put in place to allow all such disclosures be investigated.' Reclaiming Self (RS) - a new survivors' group founded last year - said

an 'examination of the work of the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse and the Redress Board is very overdue'. Last year RS reported the State's failure to put in place mechanisms for investigating abuses disclosed to the Commission and the Redress Board, to the UN Committee Against Torture. The group is seeking legal

advice on whether or not the St John of God order could be held to account for allowing Brother Aidan have continued access to children as allegations mounted against him. In a statement, RS said it believed State policies 'offered protection to alleged abusers and their affiliated orders rather than the protection of children in vulnerable circumstances'.

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