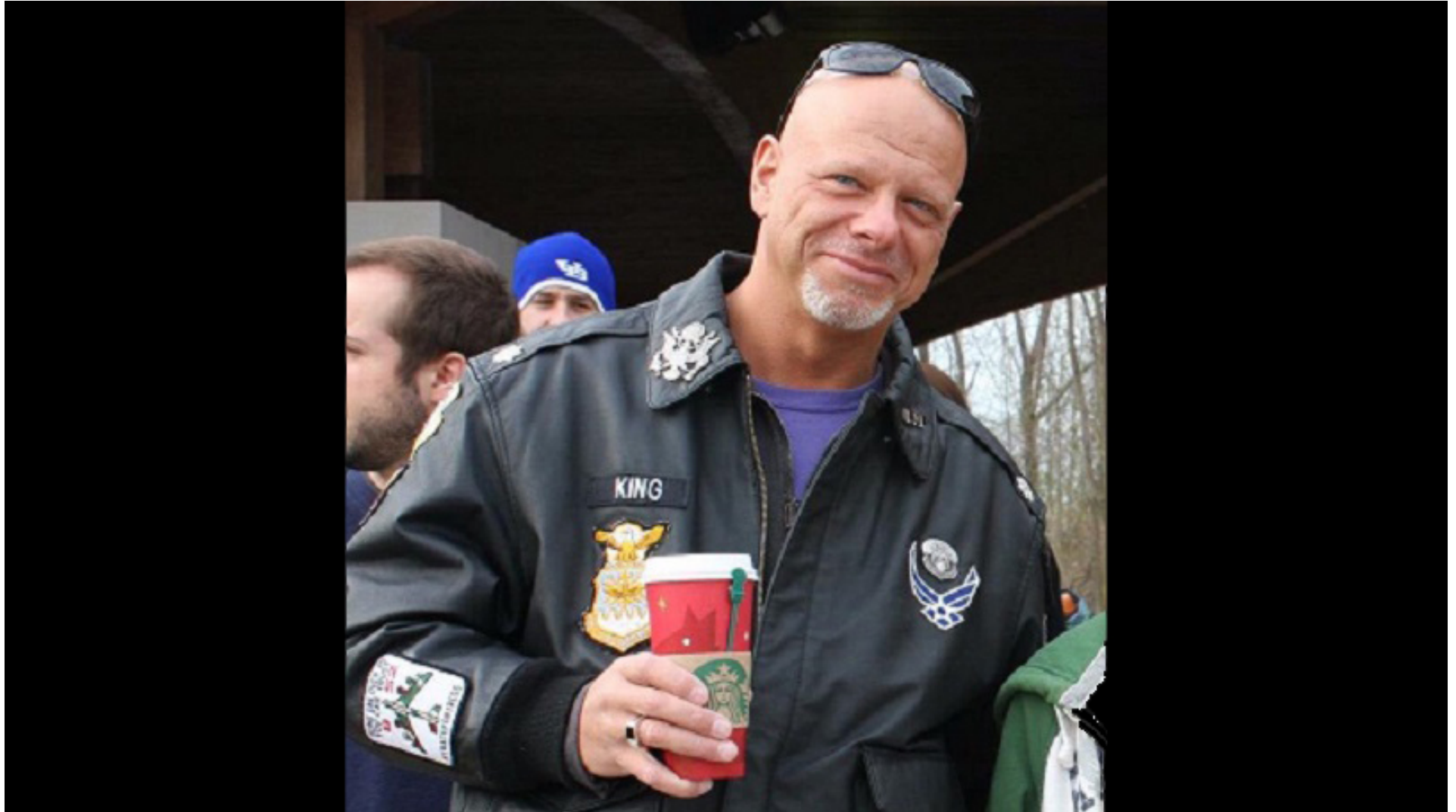


THE BUFFALO NEWS



Harry King, who said he was repeatedly raped by the Rev. Donald Becker when he was 13 years old, was offered \$140,000 in compensation through a Buffalo Diocese program for clergy sex abuse victims. (Provided photo)

Hamburg clergy rape victim's powerful Facebook post: 'The Church didn't really care'



By Jay Tokasz (https://buffalonews.com/author/jay_tokasz/) | Published January 17, 2019 | Updated January 28, 2019

f ([HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARER.PHP](http://www.facebook.com/sharer.php))

t ([HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/INTENT/TWEET](https://twitter.com/intent/tweet))



Harry King, 55, first told a Buffalo Diocese administrator in 2002 that the Rev. Donald Becker sexually abused him when King was a teenager in the late 1970s. He spoke to The Buffalo News this past spring, on the condition that his name be kept out of the story.

Now, King is telling the world, with his name attached.



King posted on Facebook

(<https://www.facebook.com/HarryKingSpeaks/posts/10217466589273200>) this week a raw and powerful 3,800-word essay about the alleged abuse and its effect on his life. In the essay, King reveals his battles with depression and his multiple attempts to kill himself. He discusses what it was like to meet with two retired judges who are determining how much clergy sex abuse victims receive under a diocesan program to compensate victims.

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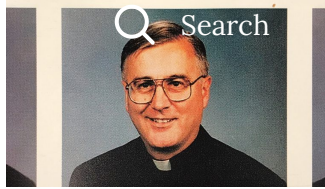
In March, Becker told The News he had not molested any children, although Buffalo Diocese officials said Becker had been removed from ministry in 2003 because of abuse allegations. Days later the diocese said the allegations against Becker were credible. [\(https://buffalonews.com/\)](https://buffalonews.com/)  

Please be warned: King's story is disturbing and includes graphic accounts of the rape of a teenager. We publish King's story because it gives a rare look at how sexual abuse – and the church's response – wounded one person, as a teen and for decades.

Here are excerpts of King's story, in his own words:

I was raped by my parish priest at St. Peter and Paul Church in Hamburg when I was 13. The first time I ever told anyone was a few weeks before I married my (now ex) wife. I didn't elaborate then, and in fact I didn't even tell my parents until a few years later. When I did, I lied to my parents about the seriousness (of) the abuse and told them a very vanilla story.

When my sons were born, we lived in the city of Buffalo. My wife and I chose to send them to a Catholic school. Once again, my mind sorta flipped out. This happened in 2002 when there was a huge scandal in Boston about pedophile priests. The increased public acknowledgement of the issue led me to contact an attorney. Although there was nothing I could do legally, due to NYS's legal system, the attorney contacted the Diocese of Buffalo. Turns out that Father Donald Becker had been credibly accused by 3 other people prior to my complaint. The diocese attorney admitted to us that they were well aware that the guy was a pedophile.



Priest denies sexually abusing children; Diocese says allegations prompted removal

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By Dan Herbeck: Three men have told The Buffalo News they were sexually abused as boys by the Rev. Donald W. Becker, a Catholic priest removed from the ministry in 2003. On Friday, a spokesman for the Catho...

The bishop at the time didn't actually have the common courtesy to meet with me. Instead he had his associate bishop, Monsignor Robert Cunningham meet us. The monsignor told me that the church was aware of Father Becker's past history, and he assured me that Becker was very, very ill and in a nursing home in Batavia. The monsignor said that the priest didn't have any contact with the public. He said all the right things, seemed very sincere and I came away from the meeting feeling much more at peace with my past.

Fast forward to last year. Suddenly it broke in the paper that the church was well aware of several priests that had been accused and did nothing about it, except shuffle them around to different parishes. Not only that, it turns out that past and present bishops and church leadership actively tried to cover up the abusive priests. It seemed that every time I opened up the paper, there was another story.

I contacted Jay Tokasz from The Buffalo News who had been covering the issue. He was able to contact Father Becker who, it turns out is not very, very ill in Batavia, but attached to a parish in Fort Meyers, Florida, which really upset me because I felt lied (to) again. The paper published the pedophile's picture and quoted him saying he knew nothing of the allegations (<https://buffalonews.com/2018/03/16/buffalo-diocese-priest-barred-from-duties-because-of-sex-abuse-complaints/>).