

Denton: Vatican was informed about Guam rape in August 2015

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Victim, others visit old rectory where 'rape' took place



(Photo: Rick Cruz/PDN)

Former altar boy Walter Denton, who this week accused Archbishop Anthony Apuron of raping him in 1977, said he brought his allegations to the Vatican last fall.

Denton said he didn't hear anything until about three months later, or about November 2015, when Bishop Thomas Olmsted, of Phoenix, Arizona, got in touch with him and wanted to meet him about his letter. Denton, who currently is on Guam, is a resident of Casa Grande, Arizona.

"I've been in touch with Bishop Olmsted out of Phoenix, Arizona, and we have been keeping in touch with each other regarding what's been going on over here in Agat and he could not give me any other information as far as what they're doing in the Vatican. He is basically just my liaison between myself, the Nuncio in Washington, as well as the Vatican," said Denton, a father of four.

Denton on Thursday visited the former rectory of the Agat church, where he alleges Apuron, who was parish priest at the time, raped him during a sleepover.



He was joined, arm-in-arm, by another Apuron accuser, former Guam resident Doris Concepcion, who last month said Apuron molested her son, Joseph A. Quinata, when he was an Agat altar boy in the 1970s. Apuron was parish priest at the time.

Former Agat altar boy Roy T. Quintanilla also has accused Apuron of molesting him during a sleepover in the 1970s.

"Right there, that's where it happened, right there," Denton said, sobbing and pointing to a part of the former rectory which was once the parish priest's bedroom. "That's the room right there, where everything happened." The room is now an administrative office of Mount Carmel School.

"This is the house Sonny wanted to burn down," Concepcion said, as she stood in front of the old rectory. Concepcion has said her son, whose nickname was Sonny, reacted violently toward Apuron, attacking him and trying to burn down his home.

[Former Agat altar boy accuses Guam's archbishop of rape](http://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2016/06/07/new-accuser-says-apuron-raped-him/85539162/)
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Denton pointed to the former rectory front door. He has said he tried to leave after the alleged rape, but was afraid. "This is the front door that I opened and I couldn't go anywhere. That's the door that I opened up. It was still dark outside, I couldn't leave, I was so afraid. I closed that door and I just stayed in the living room," he said.

Apuron and the Archdiocese of Agana have denied the allegations brought by Quintanilla and Concepcion, but have yet to comment on Denton's allegation. Apuron has not been charged with any crime.

Denton, now 52, said he told a priest, Father Jack Nilan, in 1977, shortly after he was allegedly raped by Apuron, but nothing happened.

(Story continues below photos.)

"To my knowledge, I know that he's mentioned it to a bunch of other seminarians when he was in a seminary but as far as mentioning it and saying something about it, no, and I know that he carried this burden as well, that he didn't do anything and he took it to the grave with him. I know, because I got to meet Father Jack when I was in Hawaii," he said.



(Photo: Rick Cruz/PDN)

Accusers hold prayer vigil near Agat church

Denton said he felt he needed to tell his story again when he learned in January 2015 that one of his cousins was abused in a seminary, but did not want to tell the Guam archdiocese because it was led by Apuron.

It was not until August 2015, when he said he wrote a notarized letter to Archbishop Martin Krebs, the Vatican's permanent ambassador to the Marianas, whom he said sent the letter to the Vatican.

Pope Francis this week temporarily appointed Archbishop Savio Tai Fai Hon to oversee the Catholic Church in Guam, pending an investigation into the abuse allegations.

Apuron, however, remains archbishop of the archdiocese.

Denton said he hopes there will be a change in the church's policy regarding handling of sex abuse cases.

Canon lawyer: Only Vatican can investigate Guam's Archbishop Apuron
(<http://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2016/06/08/canon-lawyer-only-vatican-can-investigate-guams-archbishop-apuron/85587714/>).

Denton and Concepcion were united in their desire to have Apuron removed as archbishop.

They lit three white candles and placed a basket of flowers in front of the old rectory.

"We pray for all altar servers in Agat, those who are victims and those who are not. We pray for all of them and give thanksgiving for the service they gave to the church. For those victims, we pray especially for healing, that they may move beyond the incident that took place so many years ago, that they may find peace and comfort and that our entire Catholic community will find peace and comfort in the prayers that we offer today as together we all pray," said Deacon Stephen Martinez as he led a prayer for the people gathered.

Martinez is the deacon who, as the local church's sexual abuse response coordinator in 2014, notified Apuron that he was violating policy about reporting sexual abuse. The concerns were unrelated to the current allegations.

Deacon: Flawed, weak Church policy on abuses
(<http://www.guampdn.com/story/news/2016/06/01/deacon-flawed-weak-church-policy-abuses/85229612/>).

Abuse allegations mount against Archbishop Anthony Apuron

The Archdiocese of Agana recently threatened to sue Martinez and others whom they said were spreading lies about the archbishop and the archdiocese.

Denton said he has spoken to other alleged victims of priest abuse, but said it's up to them to come forward. He said he encourages them to do so now.

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