

February 2, 2009

Statement of John Doe's Mother

It has been almost 10 years since our son suffered from the physical abuse you inflicted. Now he is left with the horrific mental effects. He has suffered from flashbacks, nightmares and a fear of you ever since the Diocese of Charlotte and The Capuchin Franciscan Friars rushed you away to New Jersey.

As parents we are still trying to bring back a sense of peace to our lives. No parent should ever have to hear the words, "I was sexually abused" from their child as my husband and I did on December 19, 2008. To make it worse, he told us the abuse was from a trusted leader of the Catholic Church we once held in such high esteem.

The process of bringing criminal justice has been an extremely hard one for our son and family. We do find a small sense of justice as we know that you will be in prison and away from not only our children and loved ones but all the children of the world. We do not feel that the sentence that will be offered for your guilty plea is enough. You will be incarcerated for less time than what our son has suffered and will continue to suffer, perhaps for the rest of his life.

The despair, shame, embarrassment and fear he has dealt with, stole much of his normal childhood. As a child and now adult, the happiness and peace that these evil crimes have taken from our son can never be restored. We are very proud of his coming forward with the abuse he has suffered and we can only hope that through his actions, other children will be protected. We also hope that by his example, other abuse victims will have the courage to come forward to begin their healing process that is so deserved and overdue.

February 2, 2009

Statement of John Doe

Robert Yurgel:

This is a very difficult process for me and my loved ones. However, today I feel I have won a very important battle.

It has been nearly ten years since you last molested me and to this day I suffer with horrible flashbacks and nightmares. You have stolen my ability to trust. You have stolen my faith. You have stolen my childhood.

Until now, you have controlled my life. I was unable to come forward because of the threats and mind games you played. For the past decade, I have lived in fear of you. I feared what you would do if I ever told anyone what you did to me. You made me believe my family would be mad at me and would hate me. But I stand here today to make a liar out of you. My family did believe me. My family did not get mad at me. And my family still loves me. Today, I take back my life.

Even though you are pleading to a lesser charge, let there be no mistake. I am making it my life-long commitment to let anyone who speaks your name know the true content of your character. You are a liar, a thief of childhoods, and a child molester.

I am taking this legal action because I feel the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, the Capuchin Franciscan Friars and you have violated not only me, but my family and the entire community as well.

It is my hope that through my actions now, I will prevent the unspeakable acts that I was forced to endure, from ever happening to any child again. I feel I must take up this fight to ensure that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, the Capuchin Franciscan Friars, and you finally realize that sexual abuse is wrong and has no place in this world. It is my hope that other victims gain strength in the knowledge that they are not alone and realize that it is imperative they come forward to begin their own healing.

I also hope to send the message to all sexual predators that there are consequences for their actions. For those institutions who continue to turn a blind eye to those predators, know that your inaction has consequences as well.