

# JOEY THOMPSON



*I rest  
my case*

## Abused child's taken enough

So the Catholic Church doesn't want to pay \$220,000 in damages to a Nelson choirboy sexually abused by one of its priests.

Catholic officials have decided to appeal the court award on the grounds that convicted priest Paul Pornbacher wasn't a church employee and wasn't really working when he took the kid to the pool and played with him.

Give me a break.

In the East Coast fishing village where I grew up, the church expected priests to be part of family and community life; it came with the territory.

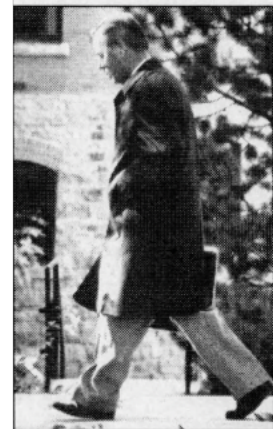
The church is trying to wimp out instead of doing the Christian thing; taking responsibility for the boy's emotional woes.

As if the child hadn't been through enough; first the horrific abuse, then the trauma of testifying at a preliminary hearing, a criminal trial, pre-civil trial hearings, a civil trial and now a costly appeal.

Catholic officials are always telling followers to confess their sins and beg God's forgiveness. It's time to practise what they preach.

Melt down a few gold goblets from the cache at the Vatican and beg forgiveness from the scores of children whose lives were wrecked by Catholic priests.

It's the Christian thing to do.



Province file photo  
The Roman Catholic Church will appeal the conviction of Nelson priest Paul Pornbacher.