Morning Star Boys Home

In 1967, when I was 15 years old, I was charged and sentenced for 12 months for illegal use of a motor vehicle. I was sent to Turana Boy's Home (aka Turana Youth Training Centre) Parkville, where I stayed for approximately 6 weeks before receiving an offer to move to Morning Star Boy's Home run by the Catholic Franciscan Fathers. At the time, the main appeal in moving was the offer of swimming every day, so I thought why not.

When I arrived at Morning Star Boy's Home, I was given what can only be described as rags as clothing and one set of good clothes to be worn to Sunday mass each week. I remember that first day well. We were given our lunch, and it was nothing flash but it wasn't too bad nonetheless and I remember the priests sitting along the back wall in a line at one table looking down over the kids. Shortly after lunch we were mingling around the yard, when we were told it was time to get to work. I recall the grounds of the Morning Star Boy's Home being huge and we were handed a garden fork and put to work, turning the soil. The reality was that we were human cultivators. I recall Brother explaining to me what I had to do and his strict instructions to not use our feet, not to bend our backs or straighten our legs when digging. So I went about turning the soil and when I completed what was asked of me, faster than the other boys, I said, 'Brother I'm finished, what would you like me to do now?' Well he came up and punched me straight in the mouth. That was my first inkling I had that times were going to be tough at Morning Star Boy's Home.

On that first day, I recall digging for five hours straight. If the priest thought you were going too slow, they would sneak up behind you and punch you in the kidneys. From there is just got worst. The punching, the kicking, the beatings by the priests and other boys. The priests had their favoured boys who would beat up the other boys during sports and games. About two weeks into my stay at Morning Star Boy's Home, two of the boys and I tried to escape, but word must have got around and everyone was onto us. We kicked off our gumboots and took off over a fence, but we were grabbed by the priest favoured boys and were given a beating. They punished us by locking us each in a small room for a week, with just a bed and a small blanket. We received a flogging and bashed daily. This was their way of trying to break you down and trying to manipulate you into becoming one of their pets, who would do anything for them and say nothing.

It was around this time that I recall being sexually abused by Brother and to this day the thought of it makes me sick and makes my skin crawl. My memories of these events are not clear, but I know that I was made to masturbate him and I'm not clear on what else may have happened, because I believe that I have repressed most of these memories. I don't know if the other boys were sexually abused because I never told anyone and I never asked because I was too embarrassed. The physical and sexual abuse was a regular occurrence, along with the cruel and unusual punishment, one of which was called 'running the garden'. They made you put on 2 or 3 extra jumpers, extra pants and extra sets of socks with an oversize pair of gumboots and you were made to run around the perimeter of the yard until the priest felt like you had done enough or you passed out. We would run from 9am til about 1pm, and our feet would be covered in blisters in the end. Once you were told to stop running, you were then ordered by the priests to get straight back to digging.

The digging was relentless. Blisters would develop on your back from the sunburn, and blisters all over your hands and in between your fingers would develop from the digging. I remember on days when it was raining, when we thought we might get a break and be able to rest; we were taken into

the gymnasium and made to run laps all day. The abuse and punishment was relentless, seven days a week, with the only break for Sunday mass when we would be asked to dress in our good clothes. Brother was the main instigator because he was in charge of the gardening crew. There was no one at Morning Star Boy's Home that I felt I could talk to about the abuse and the mere thought of it was enough to get you a beating. So why would you risk even mentioning it to anyone.

I recall being constantly in pain, but at no time was there ever any medical attention, no medication or treatment for the blisters, cuts and bruises. We were made to suffer! I was passing blood when I would go to the toilet due to the constant punches to the kidneys, but I never received treatment or saw a doctor. You can only take so much, so it was always in my mind that I had to get out of there. I knew I wouldn't survive and didn't know how much longer I could take the abuse, so I wanted to escape at any cost.

One day I caught four boys planning their escape from the Boy's Home and I took my opportunity and fled with them. We stole a car and made our way to Melbourne, but unfortunately we were picked up by the police in Collingwood. We were all taken to Collingwood police station, where we were questioned. The police treated us incredibly well and listened to our stories of Morning Star Boy's Home and how we were treated. They couldn't believe the state we were in, the injuries we had sustained, and struggled to comprehend that priests could do such things. I never spoke of the sexual abuse, just the physical abuse. I can remember when the police officer was trying to take my finger prints, and he looked at my blistered hands and how they curled like a claw. He tried to extend my fingers to take the print and got the shock of his life when blood shot from the blisters on the inside of my fingers.

We were charged with escaping Morning Star Boy's Home, but the police wanted to help us in getting our story out, so they put together some questions for us to ask them when we were summons to the Children's Court. Questions such as, 'what state were we in when they found us?', 'could these injuries have been sustained after the escape given that we had only been on the run for a day?', 'what were the condition of our clothes when you found us?', etc. So they gave us a list of these questions to memorise so that we could ask them when they were put on the stand.

The police gave their evidence, Brother from Morning Star Boy's Home was summonsed and gave his evidence and when we were asked if we wanted to say anything, we took the opportunity to ask the questions that the police had us memorise. I was sentenced to an additional six months for escaping, which I served at Turana Boy's Home and an inquiry into the abuse was ordered (see Attachment A). This article was published on the 17th November 1967 and outlines our escape and the ordering of an inquiry into the abuse at Morning Star Boy's Home by the Director General of Social Welfare, Mr Alexander Whatmore.

Inquiry into Morning Star Boys Home

I recall shortly after returning to Turana Boy's Home, over the next 4-6 weeks we were taken to see a team of government employees overseeing the inquiry. There were approximately two meetings a week, where we were offered food and soft drink, and were regularly questioned about what had happened at Morning Star Boy's Home. I told them about the physical abuse, but I was hesitant to

talk about the 'other' abuse because I was told "if there was any sexual abuse, to not bother mentioning it because no one would believe you."

I have no idea of the extent of the investigation or who else they questioned, but I was interviewed on numerous occasions about my experience regularly for about 6 weeks. Then suddenly everything went quiet. There were no longer any meetings, no one spoke to me or followed up with me about the inquiry, and to this day I have no idea of the outcome of this process. I spoke openly and courageously about the physical abuse, the poor treatment, the punishment the boys and I received. But nothing came of it.

Life after Morning Star Boy's Home

I completed my sentence at Turana Boy's Home and was released in 1968, but one thing that I could say with certainty was that I would never be the same again. I was a young man and I couldn't handle or make sense of what was wrong with me. I was a heavy drinker and I was violent, vowing to never let anyone ever stand over me or belt me again. This is how I chose to live my life! I lapsed into a world of crime and violence and found myself in and out of gaol until the age of 21. This was a turning point in my life, where I was never in trouble with the police again, but I was still at ratbag. I was an alcoholic until the age of 40, had difficulties with relationships and struggled to keep a job. I attempted to take my life on a few occasions because of the pain and depression that I had been going through was too much to take.

Upon reflection, I know I was a troubled person when I left Turana Boy's Home. Being sent to Turana was the very first time I had been in trouble with the law, and I was only a young kid, but when I completed my sentence, I was no longer the same kid. I tried to forget what had happened to me at Morning Star Boy's Home, and tried to push the memories so deep, but that was easier said than done. To this day I can recall the physical abuse vividly, but my mind won't allow me to delve too deep into the sexual abuse.

Getting help and compensation

Around four years ago I started having nightmares. My partner has told me how I kick, punch and let out awful screams, when having these nightmares. Sometimes she would find me on the floor of our bedroom curled up in a ball. My partner was convinced that something had happened to me, so I started thinking about it and pieces started falling into place. I had no one to talk to about what I was experiencing, so I spoke to my doctor, who recommended that I see a psychologist. It was after a few sessions that my psychologist recommended I speak to a solicitor about my options regarding the abuse I experienced.

I spoke with a solicitor, who specifically works with victims of the Catholic Church, and she agreed to take on my case. Last year, three and a half years after going down this path with my solicitor, I was asked to attend a tribunal hearing, whereby I was offered compensation from the Franciscan Friars. It was a strange process to say the least, where I was kept in a room on my own and my solicitor would run back and forth negotiating a settlement. A settlement was finally reached, but the reality

is once you took out the solicitors fees, what I got out of this process was barely adequate, given what I had gone through. I was also provided a written apology (see Attachment B), but it did nothing to alleviate my pain and suffering and seemed far from genuine.

I have been seeing my psychologist now for four years and continue to work through the pain and slowly chipping away at my repressed memories. We are still not sure what may be uncovered, but pieces are slowly falling into place. What I am now left with is anger!!

Unanswered questions

I'm now 61 years old; I can't work and have health issues. I believe that this is my opportunity and obligation to speak out, to tell my story, not only for myself, but for the victims that have since tragically taken their life and can't speak out. This is also a chance to get some answers to questions that have plagued me all of my life. Such as, why was I never told of the outcome of the inquiry back in 1967? We were questioned for weeks on end, but at no time was I offered any counselling or support of any kind. At no time was I told of my rights and was left to deal with it myself. If something had been done, if the inquiry had done what it was set out to do, then others wouldn't have been abused by these people. What I don't understand is that after we shared and disclosed our painful experiences to the inquiry, everyone knew what was going on at Morning Star Boy's Home – the Catholics knew, the Government knew, yet nothing was done. For all those years, for people to ignore what had happened and pretend like nothing happened is rubbish.

I personally need people to know that there was an inquiry into these incidents, that something was said, but nothing was ever done. I and other boys did talk about it, it was backed up and supported by the police proving what happened, but we weren't listened to. If people had paid attention back then, then it would have at least given those other kids who went through Morning Star Boy's Home a chance.

To this day I am still angry because people in the know, who were supposed to care, who were supposed to be concerned for our welfare, failed us by sweeping these atrocities under the rug. I can't possibly imagine an inquiry conducted today, in this day and age, just being swept under the rug like in was back then. So why was it in 1967?

And worst of all, how many abuse victims in Victoria have tragically committed suicide since that inquiry? How many of those abused could have been saved had they acted then on the evidence, had they not turned a blind eye?

I take this opportunity to thank you for receiving my submission and I hope that you can assist in resolving some of the questions that have remained unanswered for many decades, not just for me, but for every boy that was abused at Morning Star Boy's Home.

Regard	S,
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Wayne Davis



COLL POLICE CONTROL OF THE COLL PROPERTY OF THE COL

HUISOF HEATS!

yom is incelled

mported to Truth in a week. In our edition we exposed cheating by

from Archbishop Government opens an immediate probe

thingw discloses that a student was trying to SMUGGLE OFFICIAL WERS to questions into an examinacom during the final Diploma of ess Studies examination held by loval Melbourne Institute of Techval the Exhibition Building.

SYSCHOOLS FOR WHAT PERSONS

eanswers were in a book HIDDEN RHIS JUMPER.

said he had shown the answers to R STUDENTS, and he got them source WITHIN THE EDUCA-DEPARTMENT.

and two other students HAVE BEEN NDED from the Institute. One has prohibited from sitting for further As new \$1389 hations.

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examination has been cancelled. students who sat for it will be them to sit for HER EXAMINATION. This has lentatively set for Wednesday, besile 6 and 9 pm.

principal of the RMIT. Brigadier lackson, said: "A new examination en set. There was an irregularity Capetr 1986 | asl examination, but I cannot tell

W CHEATS - PAGE FIVE

* BOYS WHO RAN AWAY from the Morning Star Home at Mt. Eliza have told a magistrate that their treatment there AMOUNTED TO TORTURE. This was published in Truth's

frst edition this week, and the Government now savs it has ORDERED AN INQUIRY which is already under way.

The Director General of Social Welfare, Mr. Alexander Whatmore, said: "Already I have CER-TAIN REPORTS. Beyond that I can say nothing at the moment."

RUN BY CHURCH

The Morning Star Home is a vouth TRAINING CENTRE conducted by the Roman Catholic Church. Boys of this religion who are dealt with by the courts may be sent there for CORRECTIVE TREATMENT.

The boys who ran away made TURN TO PAGE TWO

TOIN 44 Holden HD Special Sedan Porformance and appearance are sequed to new 179 motor, PB radio, heater, lap-sash, safety \$150 bette, sunvision and weather shield fitted \$150. NO Deposit Flemingtone 42 Morris Major Elife, \$978 is \$11"you pay for this trim, fast-moving Elife: Has had all the care in the world—and looks ill. Smeet flue with matching trim. S/belis, weather shield. II mooths reg. NO Dep. PRESTON. Latest Rover 2000 Saloon. Eully imported: As new in all respects. Arctic, White, Tan upholstery: Power dise brakes radio, heater, safety belts, campels, clock, radial \$3958. Green etc.: \$3958. At BALWYN. 68 MGB Roadster immaculate cight throughout Extremely low mileage. Classic Red, with Black upholatery. Disc brakes radio, windscreen washers, 12 months, rek. \$2270 As New tyres. First 2222 RICHMOND. 63 Flat 1800 Mk III. Behutifully kept with a performance like new les Blue styling. Power brakes radio safety belts gauges techo. Garpets Firelli tyres etc., 1968 fee. \$1990 NO Deposit. At FLEMINGTON. Turn to the back page for more savings Kavin Dennis Motors Copyright K.D.M.H.



CHARGES THESE a Melbourne children's court:

THEY WERE MADE to run in circles for two hours while wearing heavy rubcollapsed they were punched and booted to make them get

IF THEY DIDN'T get up, other boys were ordered to drag tions. them around the

THEY WERE FORCED to work in the gardens for five-hour rest. If their hands



blistered they were medical denied Police freatment. said that one boy could not close his hands.

BOYS WERE BEATEN and put into solitary confine m e n t in small rooms.

Truth visited the Moming Star Home to make inquiries about the allega-

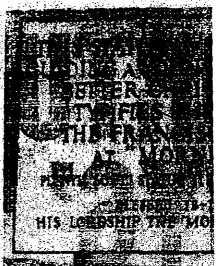
DAY OFF

The home is two miles on the city side of Mornington, and is magnificently situated on a gentle slope to Port Phillip Bay.

It is conducted by the Franciscan Brothers.

A boy was growing a large lawn at the entrance, and from the front of the main building youths could be seen tending a vegetable garden in a valley.

A man asswered a ring at the door, He was tall, strongly lant and dressed in a laded base shirt and decim shorts. His hair was closely cal.



★ TRAVELLERS passing the Morn Home can read this message

to see the Father in Charge, allegations, and

He explained that the Father in Charge was attending a meeting of super-intendents in Melbourne, He father would return as it was his normal day off.

When asked who was first edition store acting for the father, he the Archbishop sald: "We are."

Truth said: We would like ting of the story about the his name or his

contracti.

He said: "In over our heads not make any You will have ! Archbishop."

The home knew

WE'VE DROPPED SO MANY PRICES Be in the bonanza: PRESIDENT PURCHASE PLAN



- NO DEPO
- 12/12 6
- TRADE A
- HO SECIH **EXCURS**
- 7 DAYS PROYE
- COUNTRY WELCOME





Truth asked the Arch-bishop's office in Melbourne

canr the

fruth's echuse sent a

o give

if there was any comment, and was told that there was d for not

Since the publication of our first edition story. Truth has been inundated with calls from parents complaining about the treatment of their sons.

All have been advised to

to work in the garden in socks, without his shoes.

He was made to take off his shirt, and was badly sunburned,

**OVER THE DOOR of the Morning Home are the name and a cross. So made history at the week-writing and send inem to the Chief Secretary's office:

One mother said: "Last slupped I went to be right to work to seepe and was caught just outside the grounds.

"He said that he was name to work in the garden in socks, without his shoes.

WO entrants in Truth's Big Wo entrants in Truth's Big when they ploughed 12 miles when they ploughed 12 miles when they ploughed 12 miles would be right to work to be right to work to the garden in socks, without his shoes.

work in the garden in through agony against swith the 1.5 ocks, without his shoes.

"He was made to take off is. shirt, and was badly unburned.

"He had terrific blisters hardly hold the for main, were badly had been put in solitary confinement after his NOW Contide

the mad terrine busies on his hands.

The complained that he had been put in solitary confinement after his attempted escape. The sutherities forget to give him one meal."

A 17-year-old Cheltenham boy, now home after serving hine months; said he was forced to dig a 50-foot patch until both hands were raw and bleeding.

Slowing down or stopping meant a thump in the sidneys, he added.

There's another people ought to about They call it may duck four hours people ought to about They call it may duck four hours people ought to about They call it may duck four hours people ought to about They call it may duck four hours ping.

We'd be smashed the swim 16 minutes.

"We'd be smashed the swim 16 minutes.

I will be a 50-foot patch until both hands were raw and bleeding.

"When you get a 185, which was an you know about it is that for the Big will be have a 9.30 star didn't help me area."

We used to have a 9.30 star didn't help me area.

There's another people ought to about They call it may duck to the swim 16 minutes.

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"We'd be smashed the swim 16 minutes.

"When you get a 185, which was an you know about it is that for the Big will be have a 9.30 star didn't help me area."

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"We'd be smashed the swim 16 minutes.

"We'd be smashed the swim 16 minutes.

"We'd be smashed the wider to the swimmers with a swim 16 minutes."

"We'd be smashed the swim 16 minutes.

"I was put in for 60 ? 20 nautical minutes.

"Stored to dig a 50 foot patch until be s

RIUMPH

crowd clapped swimmer as he Frankston pier. Coastguard a circled the swim ing the long haul

FERRES

(AR RADIOS

BRAND

NEW

\$2 Dep.

and in 1 Hour.

SSW

RADIE H 61, 17786 Coach Bob Miller with boatman Jack Mead, follow-

ed the two swimmers in a 18ft, fishing boat, Miller and Mead also swam a mue each with Kennedy and Lease during the long, lonely journey.

Miller said the swim was, a triumph for the two young men, who have swum more than 60-1 wiles in preparation for the New Year's Day challenge.

Truth is offering \$1000 to: the first awimmer to make the crossing of the bay. Second will receive \$400.

Second will receive third \$200.

third \$200.

takive, and Lease, an insurance, consultant, are both ance co 6ft, lin

Lease was 14st 7lb and Kennedy 13st 7lb before Sunday's swim

Penny, 7

ginia; 3. Kennedy has two daugh-ters, Susan, 5 and Andrea, 2.

ACCEPTED

The pair have been pais. since boykood.

Truth's first Big Swim last New Year's Day fired their enthusiasm and they were among the first entrants,

Their swim on Sunday provide that they are worthy Pool, had Jim E contempers, and they have of the five hopeful been accepted as starters tempted the bay for the next event.

Truth reservas the right Variation, of

been accepted: nite starters it

Big Swim. The LINDA McG English Channe plon, of Bondi,

MICHAEL K 29, sales repre of Wamba Ro Bentleigh, Vic ROBERT LE

Insurance consu Rene Street, B consu There will be ers, selected b So far, there a 40 candidates

unday's swim.

Lasse has three daughters to choose the 12 cnp. 7. Kate' 5 and Vii. the Big Swim Linda McGill. the Research of the Research of

Only swimming are been in control training will be ered for the Big already described perts as one of gruelling swims world. world.

Coach Miller, w



UR SIGNWRITER'S GONE CRAZY

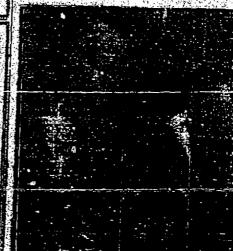
on at both yards

FOR YOUR PROTECTION

E the

Extrai

SPECIAL XMAS COUNCY





Presseciescum Imémr**e** Provincial Office

16 July 2012

Mr Wayne Davis c/- Marshalls and Dent Level 21, 570 Bourke Street Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Wavne

Province of the Holy Spirit incorporating

Custody of St Anthony Region of St Andrew Malaysia Singapore Brunei Aotearoa - New Zealand

www.franciscans.org.au

Association of the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor ABN 63 004 232 633

Franciscan Provincial Office
47 Victoria Street Waverley NSW 2024 Australia

Tel (02) 9369 9300 Fax (02) 9369 9322 + 61 2 9369 9300

Australia

+ 61 2 9369 9322

I am writing to you as a result of unfortunate circumstances in which you have advised us that you were physically abused by Br over a period of two months, September/October 1967, during which time you were a young man in the care of the Franciscan Order at Morning Star Boys Home. I am very sorry to hear of this matter and I am deeply sorry for the way that your life has been affected since these incidents.

It is my sincere wish to apologise to you on behalf of the Franciscan Order for the hurt that you have experienced at that time and the impact the memories have had on your life since then. I truly hope that by your raising the issue with the relevant authorities and the Franciscans, that you can begin to feel some healing in yourself. Insofar as I am able, as the current leader of the Franciscans in Australia, I express my sorrow and deep regret and offer you our apologies.

In such matters, the response of the Church and the Franciscans is intended to be a pastoral response. It is difficult in any process when one of the parties is deceased as is the case with Br We Franciscans acknowledge and accept your complaint against Br It is not necessary now to go into detail again of those incidents and memories as you have already outlined them in your own Statement, in other correspondence and in the mediation session attended by you and your legal advisors with Fathers Cormac Nagle and Peter Cantwell who represent me in these matters. However, it would be fair and accurate to say that such matters as you have raised are not appropriate and such actions as you have recounted cannot and should not be condoned. For this reason, I regret that you have experienced suffering from what you felt at the time and for the way those memories have stayed with you and affected the quality of your life.

I wish to place on record a sincere acknowledgement of your suffering which you say stems from the abuse nearly five decades ago by Brand into whose care you were entrusted. Unfortunately, we cannot easily erase parts of our life, particularly those which seem painful and unfair and those which we wish never happened, but we can try to acknowledge what we felt at the time in order to begin again. You have taken this big step by bringing the matter to our attention.

I hope that you can see that we Franciscans are genuine in acknowledging your complaint against Brand and that we are sincere in attempting to do the right thing by you in order to give you greater quality in your life and a peaceful heart and mind. May you experience peace in your life and be supported by the love of those important people around you.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely

Paul Smith OFM Provincial Minister

Saul Smith our