

I am writing this letter today as victim of abuse from the Catholic Church. What happened to me so many years ago has a lasting effect to this day not only for me but my whole family. IN writing this letter I would like too see the government step in and make the appropiate changes into the dealing with abuse in religious organisation.

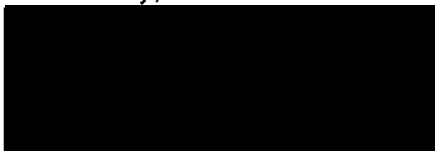
When I was in grade 2 I was taken out my classroom or playground to 'help' the priest complete 'special" task for him. The teacher trusted him as did the children so there was no question asked about the removal of the children from class rooms. I remember being told not to tell anyone what had happened. For years I blocked what had happened during my early childhood. It wasn't until my older sister Emma was going through anorexia and self-harm include cutting of her wrists that it brought back the emotions of what I had been through so many years ago.

The Church made the little people (small children) feel insignificant but not believing our situations. It makes me angry still to this day at the shit job the Catholic Church had done or did.

I turned to drinking excessively to the numb the pain of what had occurred. One day I was at a gathering with friends where I was very drunk and tried to cross a road and was hit by a car and killed at the scene. The paramedics brought me back to life. The life that I live now is stuck at age 15 due to memory problems. I have trouble walking and for long distances need to be transported in a wheelchair. However I still have memory of my earlier years. I wake up every day in my mind as my 15 yr old self but i'm stuck in a disabled body nearing 30 years old.

My older sister Emma had a long battle with drugs, anorexia and prescription medication abuse that one-day lead to her death. If only the Church handled the situation better years ago just maybe we would have been saved from this monster. The church was aware the Fr O'Donnell had abused for many of years. The government needs to step and show the church that they are not above the law. Mandatory reporting not only should but needs to be enforced to give the little people a chance at a normal life. Religious originations' need see that if there leaders abuse people would have to face the legal system instead of going to confession saying a couple of Hail Mary's and all is forgiven. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,



Katie Foster



22nd August 2012

Ex Sacred Heart Primary School student

Thanks

1989 - 1995