

Tony Hersbach

CHRONOLOGY

- 2 January 1953 Tony Hersbach born (twin brother Will also born).
- In the 1960s the Hersbach family lived at Laverton. The family attended the Altona Parish. Priest Victor Rubeo was based at the Altona Parish from 10 August 1963 to 5 May 1973.
- Rubeo purchased a property in the same street (Ulm Street) as the Hersbach family and began to have regular contact with Tony and Will Hersbach but spent much more time with Tony. Tony was an altar boy at the Parish and a regular visitor to Rubeo's home. He spent significant amounts of time at Rubeo's home, often mowing the lawns and studying after school. Tony served at Mass every weekend and also saw Rubeo regularly at the church youth club. Tony became Rubeo's constant companion and was involved in all aspects of his personal and Parish life. Rubeo gradually took over the fathering role in Tony's life, and regularly took Tony to football and many other outings.
- From between 1964 through to approximately 1970, between the ages of 11 and 17, Tony was frequently sexually assaulted by Rubeo. During the assaults Rubeo often gave Tony alcohol and cigarettes which made Tony compliant.
- In late 1968/early 1969, Rubeo was made Parish priest of St Martin de Porres and moved out of Ulm street. The sexual assaults continued at his new address in Pearce Street, Laverton and continued until Tony was aged 17.
- In March 1973 Tony married Lu at age 19. There were no further sexual assaults after the marriage. However, between the period of 1972 and 1994, Rubeo exerted significant dominance and control over Tony, Lu and their family. Rubeo's involvement and dominance of their lives included the following:
 - Conducting the marriage ceremony for Tony and Lu
 - Conducting the Baptisms of their four children
 - Assisting them to finance their first home
 - Allowed the family to live at his Presbytery for a period of 12 months, during which time he frequently barged into Tony and Lu's bedroom and would not allow them to have their own space
 - Encouraged their children to refer to him as "grandpa"
 - Regularly opened their mail and directed them as to which bills to pay
 - Took their two sons on an overseas trip to Africa.
- [REDACTED]
- Gave regular money gifts to all four of their children.
- Became such a regular visitor to the family home that Tony set up a bedroom in the family home, which was specifically used by Rubeo

[REDACTED]

- Encouraged the family to have separate birthday and Christmas celebrations which involved him and not their own extended families.
- In 1986 Tony disclosed the assaults to Lu. He suffered a breakdown and was treated at the Melbourne Clinic.
- In 1994 Tony reported Rubeo to Vicar General Monsignor Gerry Cudmore. It was only from this time that Tony was able to cease any contact with Rubeo.
- At the time of Tony's report to Vicar General Monsignor Cudmore Fr Rubeo was in ministry at the Boronia Parish
- On 12 May 1995 Tony made a police statement after being contacted by police who had interviewed Rubeo on a separate matter, during which Rubeo made admissions of sexually assaulting both Tony and his twin brother Will. Rubeo admitted to abusing Tony and Will and also admitted to other sexual assaults which occurred in East Preston. At that time, Rubeo was being supervised by Fr Klep (a Salesian priest who was himself also charged with sexual assaults of children during this period).
- July 1996 Rubeo placed on leave by the Archdiocese due to further complaints.
- October 1996 Rubeo resigned after the charges relating to Tony and Will Hersbach were heard and he was given a 12 month good behaviour bond.
- During June, July and August 1997, reports were provided by Tony's spiritual director Fred Van Gestel, and counsellors [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to the Archdiocese of Melbourne's Compensation Panel. Tony also made a statement to the Panel.
- In September 1997 Tony settled his claim (not having disclosed the whole history of the assaults) and accepted an ex gratia payment from the Archdiocese of Melbourne.
- In August 2010 Tony's criminal case was reviewed by the Sexual Crimes Squad
- In April 2011 a further 30 charges were laid against Rubeo as a result of the assaults perpetrated against Tony and Will Hersbach
- 16 December 2011 Committal Mention Hearing was scheduled.
- 16 December 2011 Rubeo died on the morning of Committal Hearing

[REDACTED]