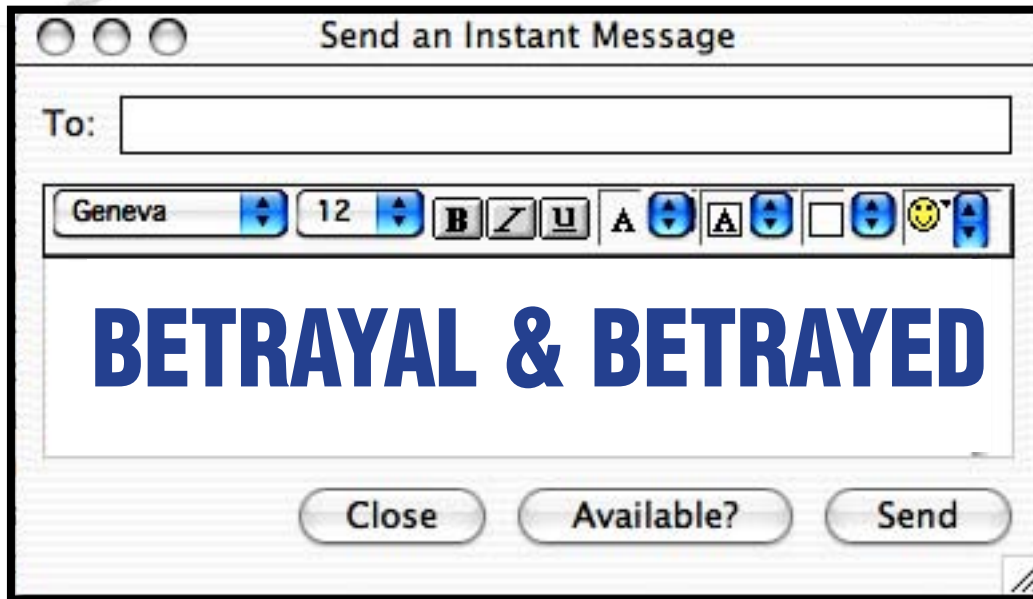


MenSpeakOut



Still reeling from the betrayals revealed by the Catholic Church scandals, we now have another major national betrayal by male sexual victimization: the case of Mark Foley, Republican congressional representative from Florida whose perp-y IM's to former congressional under-age pages was disclosed just weeks ago. This from one of the foremost opponents of child pornography in the House of Representatives. Foley had served as chairman of the House Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children. He introduced a bill in 2002 to outlaw web sites featuring sexually suggestive images of preteen children, saying that "these websites are nothing more than a fix for pedophiles." As it was written, the bill would have prohibited commercial photography of children, and it failed due to the "unmanageable burden" it would have allegedly presented to the legitimate entertainment industry. In June 2003 Foley wrote letters

to the governor and attorney general of Florida, asking them to review the legality of a program for teenagers of a Lake Como nudist resort in Land o' Lakes, Florida.

Foley's legislation to change federal sex offender laws was supported by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, America's Most Wanted host John Walsh, and a number of victims' rights groups. President George W. Bush signed it into law as part of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

Foley also succeeded in getting a law passed that allows volunteer youth-serving organizations like the Boy Scouts of America and Boys and Girls Clubs to have access to FBI fingerprint background checks to help protect children.

Meanwhile, Foley was chatting away online. Here is an excerpt from an IM chat with a sixteen-year-old in 2003:

Maf54 (8:04:17 PM): um so a big bulge

Men Speak Out

Xxxxxxxxxx (8:04:35 PM): ya
Maf54 (8:04:45 PM): um
Maf54 (8:04:58 PM): love to slip them off of you
Xxxxxxxxxx (8:05:08 PM): haha
Maf54 (8:05:53 PM): and gram the one eyed snake
Maf54 (8:06:13 PM): grab
Xxxxxxxxxx (8:06:53 PM): not tonight...dont get to excited
Maf54 (8:07:12 PM): well your hard
Xxxxxxxxxx (8:07:45 PM): that is true
Maf54 (8:08:03 PM): and a little horny

This double-dealing is, of course, much in the spirit of the pedophile priests who have used the privileges and protection of the Church to access victims while publicly displaying sanctity and purity and also proclaiming themselves protectors of children. But Foley's case is more extreme, more in line with the case of Father Bruce Ritter who built Covenant House in New York City as a refuge for run-away children, gaining considerable support and acclaim, while all along he was secretly abusing some of his favorite boy residents.

This level of outrageous hypocrisy reveals both the pathological compulsivity that drives pedophilia as well as the self-deluding, self-aggrandizing core of that pathology. If pedophiles have histories of childhood sexual abuse, as Foley claims for himself, then the switch from victim to perpetrator must entail some aggressive psychological process that turns off empathy for the victim while isolating the perpetrator from civil, moral and even legal bonds. . The result is a peculiar form of narcissism that induces the perpetrator to seize the role of savior, champion of victims and then augment his sense of greatness. Both Foley and Ritter promoted

and also basked in the limelight of their public service, grandly displaying themselves as leaders in the fight against their own, albeit secret, kind. Perhaps, in their off-hours — and how *off* that must have been — both men were titillated and aroused by the content of their work's agenda. Then, feeling so overprized in their day-time roles, they exercised the narcissist's sense of high entitlement and low empathy to do as they willed.

In their respective falls from grace and power, Ritter and Foley each destroyed or denigrated not just public trust but public belief in their proclaimed causes. Ritter ruined Covenant House and cast a jaundiced light on efforts to provide services to youth. Foley may have brought the congressional page program to an end. Certainly he revived the false belief that every homosexual is a sexual predator especially keen on minors.

Meanwhile, what has been done for their victims? Ritter retired to a country house in upstate New York, where he had a quiet death in 1999. We learned nothing of what was done for the boys he abused. Foley is only known for his prurient IM's, but can actual cases of molestation be far behind? And what was the impact on the pages he did contact? Note in the excerpt above how Foley positioned the boy into seeming to consent to seduction, combining his authority and considerable status with aggressive familiarizing and direct sexual talk.

Whom, we must be asking again and again, can we ever trust?

— Murray Schane, *President of MaleSurvivor*

Sign up now!! MaleSurvivor Weekend of Recovery at Mysthaven

November 3-5, 2006 at Mysthaven Country Retreat and Spa, Stouffville, Ontario

Conveniently located just half an hour northeast of downtown Toronto, in Ontario, Canada, Mysthaven is a beautiful 55-acre property, with several private lakes, ponds, and streams, miles of private forest trails, and breathtaking vistas.

From the moment you first enter the long tree-lined drive you will be embraced with the peace and quiet of nature. You'll glimpse the shimmering water of two lakes on either side of the drive.

Up the limestone steps of the rock garden surrounding the lodge, and into the sculpted glass double doors, you'll enter the wide marble lobby. The main floor features high ceilings, hardwood floors, wood and gas fireplaces and bright airy rooms for large or more

intimate functions. We'll have the facility completely to ourselves. A variety of accommodations will be available, and we'll have space for 24 men for this weekend.

As always the cost is minimal. We make no profit on these weekends. We have some funds available for scholarships.

Check out our website, www.MaleSurvivor.org or contact us:

Howard Fradkin, Weekends of Recovery Director, at 614-445-8277, ext. 11, email: hfradkin@malesurvivor.org

or Trisha Massa, MaleSurvivor Administrative Assistant, at 800-738-4181, email: admin@malesurvivor.org.

Deliver Us from Evil

Over the past decade, the Catholic Church has been rocked by a series of shocking scandals involving priests accused of molesting young children of both sexes. The fallout has been significant: apart from the fact that hundreds of millions of dollars have flowed from church coffers to settle the legal cases, the judgment of the institution and its senior bishops has been seriously called into question.

Director Amy Berg has been a producer for CBS News and CNN. Her first feature documentary delivers a shattering and revealing account of the human cost of this issue. She tells the story of Father Oliver O’Grady, a notorious pedophile who used his position – as well as his Irish charm – to rape and abuse members of dozens of Catholic families across northern California over a twenty-year period. His victims ranged from a nine-month-old infant to the middle-aged mother of another adolescent victim. Astonishingly, despite ample signs and warnings as to his proclivities, the Church moved him from one parish to another, covering up the reality of what was going on from both the unsuspecting members of each new com-



munity and from the police. Church documents prove that, beginning in 1973, his evil deeds were done with their full knowledge.

The most astonishing thing about “Deliver Us from Evil” is O’Grady’s participation in the film. Now living in Ireland, he agreed to cooperate fully and this casts an entirely novel light on the subject. Berg meticulously leads us through the past of these heinous incidents and into the present. O’Grady has his story to tell, and our shifting feelings about him over the course of the film make for a fascinating journey. We also hear the other side of the story, as his victims relate how his actions shattered their lives and their families. These scenes contain extremely powerful and emotional footage; the true cost of one man’s sickness is laid bare for us all to see. Berg certainly does not pull her punches when it comes to the Catholic Church, which betrays itself as an institution still unprepared or unwilling to confront the issue fully. There is no denying the justifiable outrage one feels when confronted with this story.

Sex Crimes and the Vatican

On October 1, 2006 the BBC-One program Panorama released a documentary, “Sex Crimes and the Vatican,” detailing the recently uncovered secret document, *Crimen Solicitationis*, which established a procedure for dealing with child sex abuse scandals within the Catholic Church. *Crimen Solicitationis* was enforced for 20 years by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. Written in 1962 in Latin, the document is given to Catholic bishops worldwide who are ordered to keep it locked away in the church safe. It instructs them how to deal with “any obscene external act ... with youths of either sex.” *Crimen Solicitationis* imposes an oath of secrecy on the child victim, the priest dealing with the

allegation and any witnesses. Breaking that oath means excommunication from the Catholic Church.

Panorama found seven priests with child abuse allegations made against them living in and around the Vatican City. One of the priests, Father Joseph Henn, has been indicted on 13 molestation charges brought by a grand jury in the United States. During filming for “Sex Crimes and the Vatican” Father Henn was fighting extradition orders from inside the headquarters of this religious order in the Vatican, which had not compelled him to return to America to face the charges against him. After filming, Father Henn lost his fight against extradition but fled the

headquarters and is believed to be hiding in Italy while there is an international warrant for his arrest.

Colm O’Gorman, reporting for Panorama, was raped by a Father Fortune in the diocese of Ferns in County Wexford in Ireland when he was 14 years old. Father Fortune was charged with 66 counts of sexual, indecent assault and another serious sexual offence relating to eight boys but he committed suicide on the eve of his trial.

Colm started an investigation with the BBC in March 2002 which led to the resignation of Dr Brendan Comiskey, the bishop leading the Ferns Diocese. Colm then pushed for a government inquiry which led to the Ferns Report. Published in October 2005, the Report found: “A culture of secrecy and fear of scandal that led bishops to place the interests of the Catholic Church ahead of the safety of children.”

Father Tom Hogan, a well known canon lawyer, had a diplomatic career with the Vatican but was fired after he criticized the church’s handling of child abuse. Here is his interpretation of this film:

“Crimen sollicitationis is indicative of a worldwide policy of absolute secrecy and control of all cases of sexual abuse by the clergy. But what you really have here is an explicit written policy to cover up cases of child sexual abuse by the clergy to punish those who would call attention to these crimes by the churchmen.

“You’ve got a written policy that says that the Vatican will control these situations and you also have I think clear

written evidence of the fact that all they are concerned about is containing and controlling the problem.

“Nowhere in any of these documents does it say anything about helping the victims. The only thing it does is say that they can impose fear on the victims and punish the victims for discussing or disclosing what happened to them.

“It’s all controlled by the Vatican and at the top of the Vatican is the Pope. So Joseph Ratzinger was in the middle of this for most of the years that Crimens was enforced. He created the successor to Crimen and now [that] he is the Pope, this all says that the policy and systematic approach has not changed.

“Cardinal Ratzinger, now as Pope, could tomorrow get up and say: ‘Here’s the policy: full disclosure to the civil authorities, absolute isolation and dismissal of any accused and proven and convicted clerics, complete openness and transparency, complete openness of all financial situations, stop all barriers to the legal process and completely co-operate with the civil authorities everywhere.’

“He could do that.”

This documentary film, “Sex Crimes and the Vatican,” can be viewed on the BBC-One/Panorama website along with access to an English translation of Crimen Sollicitationis, a transcript of the film:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/panorama/5392338.stmv>

Save the Date

MaleSurvivor is planning our next international conference: October 25-29, 2007

To be hosted and co-sponsored by John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

The Program Committee under the chairmanship of Tony Rodriguez is putting together a program that, as usual, does the unusual for a conference of this type: it concerns the interests and needs of both clinicians (those who treat male survivors) as well survivors. We invite members to offer suggestions for topics you would like to see covered or even to offer to present a workshop. Contact Tony at adrodriguez@themenscenter.net.

John Jay College is located in Manhattan, close to mid-town, in walking distance of the theater district. We will have an arrangement with a nearby hotel for conference rates. Announcements of details of the conference will be on the web and sent to you as they unfold.

The theme of this conference is: Relief, Recovery, Restoration: bringing together survivors, professionals, law enforcement and researchers to overcome male sexual victimization

We look forward to seeing you in 2007!