



VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL™

IN THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

October 25, 2010

PRESS RELEASE

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Come and Listen to

“BLESS ME, FATHER, FOR I HAVE SINNED!”
PRIESTLY SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT
A DRAMATIC PRESENTATION OF COURT DOCUMENTS

Written by Joseph F. O'Callaghan

Directed by Jack Rushen

Followed by a Panel Discussion with Barbara Blaine, President of SNAP (Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests) and Terry McKiernan, Bishop Accountability

Saturday, November 13, 2010, 1-4 p.m. Doors open at 12:30
Norwalk Concert Hall, Norwalk City Hall, East Avenue, Norwalk

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at www.votfbpt.org or at the door.

“Most Catholics think, in a vague way, that the Bishop is accountable for the transgressions of his priests and that he should protect the faithful. . . . If you admit a claim of this kind, you cannot know where it will end. Moreover, if acceptance of responsibility in such a case becomes publicly known, you might be vulnerable in any number of other situations.” **Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, Apostolic Delegate, to Bishop Walter W. Curtis, Dec. 21, 1965.**

Since the first lawsuits were brought in 1993, Bishops Edward M. Egan and William E. Lori waged an expensive legal battle to keep under seal court documents relating to priestly sexual abuse. The Connecticut Superior Court and the Connecticut Supreme Court upheld the public's right of access and the United States Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal from the Diocese. Thus the court documents, known as the Rosado Files, were published at last in December 2009.

Drawing on approximately 12,000 pages of the Rosado Files, “Bless, Me, Father” focuses on four priests who served in many parishes and schools in the Diocese of

Bridgeport (Charles Carr, Martin Federici, Laurence Brett, and Raymond Pcolka,). Their conduct, and that of their hierarchical superiors, is presented in a dramatic way by quoting directly from the depositions, affidavits, and letters of bishops, monsignors, the apostolic delegate, priest predators, survivors, and their parents.

“Bless Me, Father” attempts to accomplish several goals: (1) To give voice to the voiceless, namely, the children who were molested, but were threatened not to tell their parents and often disbelieved when they spoke to church authorities. (2) To give all the faithful the opportunity to bear communal witness to the terrible tragedy that affects all of us as members of Christ’s Body, the Church. “If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it”(1 Cor.12:26). (3) To offer our children the compassion that the Church has long denied them. (4) To hold accountable not only priestly predators, but also Bishops Curtis and Egan and their subordinates who, in their zeal to avert public scandal failed to understand that their primary responsibility was and continues to be the protection of the little ones among us. (5) To reflect on the need to reform our Church so that it will be a vibrant witness to the teachings of Jesus Christ.