

Group: Church harassed some victims of pedophilia

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — A group of victims of child sexual abuse by priests has asked the U.S. Catholic bishops to stop the harassment of victims that it says has occurred in at least five dioceses.

The Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests (SNAP) held a press conference in St. Louis during the Feb. 22-23 meeting of a subcommittee of the U.S. bishops' Priestly Life and Ministry Committee. The subcommittee is drawing up recommendations on child sex abuse by priests.

Auxiliary Bishop Edward J. O'Donnell of St. Louis told the *St. Louis Review*, archdiocesan newspaper, that the church and victims of child sex abuse by priests are not antagonists but are committed to the same goal of dealing with such abuse.

"As a bishop, I have no quarrel with SNAP," Bishop O'Donnell said. "I think we are both trying to achieve the same end. We might sometimes have to look at each other's techniques."

The survivors' network is asking bishops nationwide to sign a pledge not to harass anyone who accuses a priest of abuse. Bishop O'Donnell said he knew of no one in his archdiocese

who had ever taken any action against an accuser, but said he "can't speak for other archdioceses."

The pledge that the group hopes many U.S. bishops will sign states: "I hereby pledge to not publicly attack victims and alleged victims of sexual abuse by priests. Specifically, I promise I will not:

- "Countersue victims.
- "Release victims' names without their consent.
- "Release personal information about victims.
- "Take legal action against parents of victims."

At the St. Louis press conference, representatives of the survivors' network released details on cases in five U.S. dioceses in which they said bishops had taken action against victims or alleged victims of child sexual abuse by priests.

The group said the Chicago archdiocese countersued two families for slander, defamation and invasion of privacy after they accused Father Robert Lutz, pastor of St. Norbert Parish in Northbrook, Ill., of molesting a child in each of the families.

Shock lingers after fatal blast rocks the World Trade Center

Chaplain ministers to reeling survivors

By Tracy Early
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — The pastor of the Catholic church nearest the World Trade Center felt the Feb. 26 blast in his rectory and saw his lights flicker. He spent the rest of the day ministering to survivors.

"I grabbed the holy oils and my coat and said, 'I'm going over,'" said Monsignor Robert M. O'Connell, pastor of St. Peter's Church. "We're just a block away, so I got there about eight minutes after it happened."

"I put the police shield on my coat, and went inside, down to the level of the PATH trains where the blast occurred. The whole ceiling had collapsed. There were two or three cops there, and we found one guy nearly buried, and pulled some of the debris off of him."

Monsignor O'Connell, speaking in a telephone interview March 1, said he gave the man the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, formerly called extreme unction or last rites. "He was still alive when they took him out, but I don't know whether he died later or not. I didn't get his name."

"Firemen were yelling that two more were trapped, and we went toward them through a doorway, and then there was smoke all

around," Monsignor O'Connell added. "It was pitch black, but they put a bubble light on a Port Authority car down there, and told me to stay by it so they would know where I was. They came back in about 10 minutes and said, 'Let's get the hell out.'"

then went to an outside location where a command post had been set up, and worked there until about 9:30 p.m.

He gave the anointing of the sick to several more injured people, and sought to give general support to the thousands less seriously hurt, he reported.

"Most of them were just dazed and wanted fresh air," he said. "Some of them needed to use oxygen for five or 10 minutes. I am just amazed that only five died."

Like many others, Monsignor O'Connell was also reflecting that he might have been in the area of the blast himself if it had gone off at some slightly different time.

"The Port Authority lets me keep my car there, and I was going to take our housekeeper to the eye doctor," he said. "When the blast went off at 12:18, I was getting ready to go over there in about a half hour to get my car."

"My car is on level four, and the blast was on level two, and went up to four," he said. "But the directly damaged part was on the south side, and my car is closer to the north. I haven't seen it yet; it may be a pancake."



HEDGES MEMORIAL CHAPEL, Inc.
770 E. Main St. • Rochester, NY 14605
454-7070

- Pre-paid burial plans available
- Pre-need counseling available without obligation
- Chapel facility on premises

One-Location Serving the Needs of Catholic Families throughout the Rochester Diocese for over 125 years

James A. Aiello
President

Christopher M. Lawrence
José L. Luciano

Dignity ... Sympathy ... Human Understanding

Alan E. Giltner Edward H. Dreier
Evelyn Dreier Taillie

Recently remodeled facilities to better meet your needs.

**DREIER-GILTNER
FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

1717 Portland Ave. 342-8500



Douglas C. Meeson

"Our Family Serving Your Family For Over 65 Years"

**Vay-Schleich & Meeson
Funeral Home, Inc.**

2692 Dewey Avenue

663-2100

Robert E. Vay



1075 Long Pond Road

It pays to advertise
in the
Catholic Courier

FUNERAL DIRECTORS OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

The funeral Directors listed herein offer pre-need and at-need services and counseling in accordance with the Catholic faith.

IRONDEQUOIT

Schauman-Sulewski
Funeral Home Inc.

Edwin Sulewski
2100 St. Paul Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14621
(716) 342-3400

Michael R. Yackiw
Funeral Home

1270 Norton Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14621
(716) 544-5000

ROCHESTER

Crawford Funeral
Home, Inc.

"Our Family Serving Your Family"
Located at 495 N. Winton Rd.
(Between Atlantic & Humboldt)
(716) 482-0400

GATES

DiPonzio Funeral
Home, Inc.

(Across from St.
Theodore's Church)
219 Spencerport Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14606
429-6700

Lucey Funeral
Home, Inc.

301 W. Main St. Victor, N.Y.
924-5730
2309 Culver Rd.
342-0470
Michael W. Lucey Lic. Mgr.

MONUMENTS

HART MONUMENT CO.

2301 Dewey Avenue
Opposite Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

Since 1856

865-6746

**ARNDT
FUNERAL HOME**

Family Owned & Operated



**RONALD JOHN ARNDT
ROBERT J. ARNDT
Funeral Directors**

225-6350

1118 Long Pond Road
(South of Maiden Lane)