

Statement completed  
by BD 2 August 01.

ADDRESS  
REDACTED

No one can imagine what our life has been like. Its easy for the church to say they are sorry, but they dont fully understand the problems we suffer as a family.

AE has been suffering for 40 years, Not knowing why, AE was always cranky & irate. She went to a counsellor to find out and after several sessions she finally let it all out. The family suffered for this because of what this animal had done. I cannot understand why something was not done when this was first found out. Its amazing after talking to people about this incident, how many people knew about him & what he did, yet all that ever happened to him was he just got shifted to another parish to start all over again. It makes me so angry to see what has happened over the years, and the church allowed it to happen knowing what was going on. If this sort of thing happened today, he would go to gaol, but in those days the church did nothing. I find it difficult to understand why he remained in the priesthood. He is retired now without a care in the world, not the least bit guilty about all the lives he ruined. They would probably be in the hundreds. Most clergy in those days knew what was going on. Even the Bishop was told

but nothing was done.

I was not a catholic when AE + I first met, but became a catholic because I thought that was the right thing to do and we could enjoy our lives together, bringing up children into the church. We sent our children to catholic schools, believing it would benefit them. I had been a REDACTED minister for REDACTED which I enjoyed and felt really privileged to have been asked to do such an important role in the church. All that has stopped now, as AE + I find it very hard to go back. AE has since told me that she has not been happy going to church for some time, only going because I was a minister + a convert.

Our Children, <sup>CHILD X OF AE + BD</sup> & <sup>CHILD Y OF AE + BD</sup> have also had to put up with AE's outbursts, not knowing why she was yelling, screaming & crying. <sup>CHILD X OF AE + BD</sup> & <sup>CHILD Y OF AE + BD</sup> often said, "How come Mums always angry? What do you tell them when you don't know why yourself?" AE couldn't talk to our kids about sex education when they were growing up, and she didn't know why. Now she knows why, because of what that animal did to her years ago. When <sup>CHILD X OF AE + BD</sup> was told about the sexual assault he took it very badly. He wanted to know why we sent him to a catholic school, why we still went to church, why didn't someone help you.

Because of the way <sup>CHILD X</sup> <sub>OF AE + BD</sub> reacted, AE still  
hasn't told <sup>CHILD X</sup> <sub>OF AE + BD</sub> it was a  
Priest. She knows of the assault but not  
who did it. The reason we told <sup>CHILD X + CHILD</sup> <sub>OF AE + BD</sub>  
was to try and let them know & to try to  
understand why their mother was like she  
but it only seemed to make things worse.  
We wish we hadn't told them at all &  
they don't seem to understand why AE is  
much worse now the lid has been lifted off.  
It is so hard for us to lead a normal life  
with all this on your mind. I am fortunate  
that I go to work and can try to forget  
about it. but it is still on your mind and  
you are constantly thinking about it.  
As I said it is hard for me but it is  
extremely hard for AE because she has no  
outside interests besides her family to talk  
to and try to take her mind off this ordeal.  
We are just 2 people that love together  
in the same house now rather than a happily  
married couple. We try to do things that will  
take our minds off this, but as I said it is  
very hard to forget completely, so we don't  
really enjoy things as much as we should.  
It sometimes get a bit too much for both of us  
and wonder if there is ever going to be a  
solution to this problem. I have considered  
moving out to see if this could solve the  
problem, but then I know that would  
achieve nothing as I want to try and help  
AE - survive this, and I could do more at  
home.

There is no intimacy in our lives any more. AE was always cool towards our sex life. She hated sex, and even for me to cuddle in bed, she would pull away.

Of a morning there was no lying in bed for a cuddle, she had to get up straight away, as soon as I tried to cuddle her, she didn't know why, but just had to get up.

AE always thought she had a problem with sex and she didn't know why. She hated me being in bathroom when she was in the shower and would wait till I went out before she would get out of the shower. She couldn't even walk from the bathroom to the bedroom with a towel around her, she had to be fully dressed before coming out.

AE also has to cope with a hearing loss, which started to affect her in her late twenties. It is extremely hard for her to communicate with people, especially those who don't understand the problem and find it hard to talk to her. Some people seem to think if you are deaf you are also dumb. So even without the extra burden of the rape, she has a big enough problem living a life of loneliness without having to cope with all the anger and hatred caused by this "Mongrel" of a Priest. AE has also been suicidal and left home more than once. When she didn't return home until the next day causing the family a great deal of concern.



After all this was out in open, we were beside ourselves to know how to handle

AE was, at times, uncontrollable with screaming & yelling & throwing herself on the floor. During these times she would yell & scream at me, calling me all the names she could think of. I know it wasn't really me she was yelling at, <sup>it was</sup> that other mongrel. It is very upsetting when it happens and it takes a while for AE to settle down. When AE first told me about this, I thought I could cope with it at first, I believed I could, & try to help AE get over it, but as time goes on I find it more & more on my mind, especially when AE gets angry & upset.

CHILD 4  
OF AE + BD took AE to see her own doctor, to see if she could prescribe better depression tablets for her. This tablet helped a little but caused her to blackout whilst driving the car and smashing the car causing thousands of dollars damage. This was just another drama that took its toll on us. I also had to take AE to hospital in the middle of night suffering from stomach pain. She was admitted and spent the next 10 days on pain-killing injections every 4 hours. Eventually her gall bladder was removed. The doctor suggested it was caused by too many depression & headache tablets. The counsellor that AE is now seeing says the gall problem was linked to the rape.

I also have to see AE suffer the discomfort  
& embarrassment of Irritable Bowel Syndrome  
which she has suffered for a number of years  
caused by her nervous conditions & depression.  
The pain & discomfort sometimes causes  
to loose control of her bowels.

AE also suffers from a condition called  
restless legs which cause her legs to twitch  
of a night. This is a problem when <sup>you</sup> can  
get any sleep and have to get up and  
go to work the next day.

These things we can probably live  
with and hopefully, one day these  
problems will be fixed but the  
problem of the rape is always on  
your mind, whatever you are doing  
you are constantly thinking about it.  
It is something we will never get  
over. As I said earlier in this letter  
our lives will not change, How can  
they, What will be different, It will  
always be with us. I just hope the  
church will try to change a few things  
to prevent these sort of events happening  
again. but apparently from the newspaper  
radio/TV reports very little seems to  
have changed as this sort of thing is  
still occurring in the church. The only thing  
the compensation will do is to have the  
catholic church admit to this crime and  
hopefully do something that will prevent  
these sorts of crime happening again.