

## **DZ's reactions to the GOAA Cover-up**

“When I submitted my official complaint of clergy sexual abuse in October, 2005, I was told by the GOAA Chancellor’s office that this was the first official complaint about Nicholas Katinas’ (NK) pedophilia. After the abuse ended in 1972, I always had a feeling, based on some of NK’s statements, that there were other victims. However, I was so paralyzed in my shame that I didn’t take any action; I just tried to ignore those memories. Decades later when I started therapy to delve into my wounds, I realized that I also felt guilt for not exposing NK earlier in my life to possibly prevent other innocent children from being molested by NK.

Now I learn that members of the parish council of the Assumption Church and the GOAA were aware of NK’s pedophilia in 1974 and the only actions they took were hiding the truth and transferring him to the Dallas church. In 1987, the Vicar General and Chancellor of the GOAA were also aware of NK’s pedophilia and again did nothing except to shame the victim and his parents into silence.

I feel so angry that these church members, who had the power, authority and legal obligation to report Katinas’ sexual abuse to the parish and police, took no action. It’s unconscionable and goes against the teachings of Jesus Christ. The GOAA is not being forthright or transparent in their handling of clergy abuse cases. The church teaches all its “children” to act in an honest manner, but the church elders are not walking their talk.

Recently, the Holy Trinity Church in Dallas sent out a letter to all of its parishioners asking them to donate money to help pay legal fees for the lawsuit against NK, Holy Trinity, Denver Metropolis and the GOAA. Now that the church’s involvement and cover-up has been exposed, how will Holy Trinity, the Metropolis and the GOAA respond? Will they admit that there was past guilt and settle the lawsuit with the victims? Will they continue denying any involvement and dig in their heels? The present leaders of the church need to acknowledge the wrongdoing of those leaders who came before them.

The church wants to put this embarrassing and hurtful situation behind them and move on; however this is the opportune time to analyze and try to improve processes around preventing and identifying clergy abuse. My fear is that the GOAA will not make changes and business will continue, “as usual” and the chances of clergy molestation reoccurring is greater.”