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METRO **EXCLUSIVE**

Horace Mann alum details horrifying new sexual abuse claims in lawsuit

By [Kathianne Boniello](#)

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Jon Seiger

Stefan Jeremiah

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He wasn't safe at school, and the church offered him even less sanctuary.

A Horace Mann alum who claims he was sexually abused as a student by multiple school staffers decades ago, now says his nightmare extended to two local churches, where a priest and a trio of monks raped and whipped him.

Jon Seiger, 57, was a young teen when his music teacher — identified only as "The Maestro" — brought him to the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in Manhattan, and forced him to join the choir.

He says he was left in the hands of a Jesuit priest, Father Charles Hoefner, who raped and assaulted him at least 30 times over the course of two years, according to newly filed Manhattan Supreme Court papers.

The twisted cleric would "compel" the 14-year-old to confess his "masturbatory habits," then regularly abused him "under the pretext of providing 'guidance and treatment' for my 'problem,'" Seiger says in court

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The Jesuits are "currently researching their records, but at the current time are not aware of any allegations against the late Father Charles Hoefner," a Jesuit spokesman told The Post. Hoefner died in 1992.

The priest's name was not included on a list of accused abusers published by the Jesuits in January but could be added later if Seiger's allegations are deemed credible, the spokesman added.

"Soon after I joined the church's choir, it became apparent that the real purpose for my participation was to provide sexual gratification to Father Hoefner," said Seiger in the court documents.

The alleged weekly abuse was sometimes "enhanced" by Hoefner "violently spanking me and/or whipping my bare buttocks with a belt," or watching as other men took turns violating Seiger, he charges.

The assaults always took place behind locked doors, and "on a number of occasions, other church officials and/or employees were aware that Father Hoefner was alone in a locked room with me, a minor child, after all other choir members had left the church," Seiger said in court papers.

The "Maestro" also brought the boy to the Church of the Sacred Heart in Yonkers, where he was made to join the brass quartet, and introduced to three monks.

The monks, whom the music teacher said were known as the monks “with the pink underwear,” also abused Seiger, he charges.

“I recall the faces of [the monks] with a considerable amount of detail — as the looks on their faces as each of them obtained sexual gratification at my suffering and expense is seared into my memory,” said Seiger, who is seeking a court order to get church records to help identify his abusers.

A spokesman for the Capuchin Franciscans, which oversees Sacred Heart, said the order had just received the court papers and had not yet been able to investigate.

The Franciscans “do not tolerate any sexual misconduct or inappropriate relationships by our members,” the spokesman said.

“No child should have what happened to Jon happen to him,” said Seiger’s lawyer, Kevin Mulhearn.

Seiger plans to file a lawsuit under the state’s recently passed Child Victims Act, which gives alleged victims previously blocked by the statute of limitations a one-year window to take legal action.

“This is a case that cries out for justice,” said Mulhearn, who added Seiger believes at least some of his accused abusers may still be alive.

Horace Mann reached confidential settlements with dozens of former students who said they were abused by staffers, and apologized for the scandal, in 2013.

Seiger and others had hired high profile attorney Gloria Allred as they fought for recognition and an investigation by the school; victims’ advocates believe up to 50 students were molested by at least 20 teachers, including late music teacher Johannes Somary.



Jon Seiger pictured as a child
Stefan Jeremiah

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