

June 30, 2019

My name is Chris O'Leary and I'm a survivor of the Catholic Church's sex abuse crisis.

When I was a child, I was sexually exploited, abused, and assaulted -- raped -- by a priest named Fr. LeRoy Valentine at the Church of the Immacolata in Richmond Heights, MO, a suburb of St. Louis, from 1977-1981.

Then, when I went to the Archdiocese of St. Louis for help in early March 2002, and now Cardinal Timothy Dolan returned my call, that's when things got REALLY bad.

While some would have you believe the Catholic sex abuse crisis is a problem of the past, my literally up to the moment, experience says this instead is a very present crisis.

One I've endured from 2002 to the present.

In order to ensure that what happened to me doesn't happen to anyone else, I have spent the past year telling my story in written, podcast, and video form.

- ChrisOLEary.com/sins/

Hoping his heart had been softened by the Pope's focus on helping survivors, on March 26, 2019 I — finally — met with my (arch)bishop Robert Carlson of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and asked him to help me. Finally. Both financially and by telling the people of St. Louis the truth.

Just in case this was all a sham, I recorded our conversation...

- ChrisOLEary.com/Sins/MP3s/CarlsonMeeting.mp3

I released that recording and this transcript only because NOTHING has changed in terms of how the Archdiocese of St. Louis treats survivors.

Despite the Pope's new mandate VOS ESTIS LUX MUNDI.

- ChrisOLEary.com/Sins/Violations-of-VOS-ESTIS-LUX-MUNDI.html

Chris O'Leary

St. Louis, MO

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The following is a transcript of a conversation that took place on March 26, 2019 at the Cardinal Rigali Center of the Archdiocese of St. Louis (ArchStL). Present during the meeting were...

- **CO** = Chris O'Leary, survivor of abuse by a priest.
- **SP** = Sandra Price, head of the office of child and youth protection of ArchStL.
- **AbpC** = Archbishop Robert Carlson, head of ArchStL.

Sandra Price and I sit and exchange small talk in the waiting room.

CHRIS O'LEARY: *I was in Florida, so I ended up driving up. Were you on Spring Break, too?*

SANDRA PRICE: *Yeah, we were in the mountains out in Colorado.*

CO: *Oh. OK.*

SP: *Were you down there for Spring Break watching the Cardinals?*

CO: *Yeah. I make my living doing baseball stuff, so...*

SP: *Oh. Yeah. Cool.*

CO: *I don't really speak to my kids, so I just went...*

I was going to say I just went on my own, as I have for most of the past 10 years.

SP: *How old are they?*

CO: *My youngest is a junior in high school and the oldest are in college.*

Archbishop Carlson enters the waiting room.

ARCHBISHOP CARLSON: *Mr. O'Leary, welcome...*

CO: *Hi. Nice to meet you.*

AbpC: *Thanks for coming.*

CO: *We met once before at my older son's confirmation at Mary, Queen of Peace.*

AbpC: *Would you like a water or coffee?*

CO: *No, I'm good.*

AbpC: *OK.*

SP: *You're sure?*

CO: *Yeah. I grabbed something at McDonald's.*

AbpC: *OK.*

CO: *Where (should I sit?)...*

AC: *Wherever you'd like to sit.*

CO: *So I got your (Sandra Price) e-mail about kind of the constraints of the meeting and I just wanted to give you a sense of...these are some of the things that I'd like to talk about. Uh... This is no fun, already... But I appreciate, you know, your (Archbishop Carlson) offer (to meet).*

AC: *Should we begin with a prayer?*

CO: *Sure.*

We say the Hail Mary.

AbpC: *Well, first of all, thank you for coming.*

CO: *Yeah.*

AbpC: *And, uh, I know that...because I've met with many other victims, that can be a challenging time.*

CO: *Right.*

AbpC: *But my hope with everybody I've met is that... **Even if we can't have healing with the church because of what has happened...***

I was stunned by the statement, "Even if we can't have healing with the church because of what has happened." WHAT DOES THE MEAN?!? That you're NEVER going to help me? HE JUST CAME OUT AND SAID IT. SHOT ME DOWN. As a result, I literally didn't hear the next line and stopped being able to think for a moment, which is why I didn't respond. But I wasn't (that) surprised because Sandra Price had sent me an e-mail a few days prior that gave me the sense that this was coming. But I didn't expect Carlson to just come out and say it. That they wouldn't help me. At all. Fortunately, I had anticipated this and decided all I could do was make sure they knew what happened when I tried to get help. So I just bit my tongue.

AbpC: *...there can be healing in your own life with...With the God who created you and who loves you.*

CO: *Right.*

AbpC: *And I've found over the years that...when we focus...all kinds of people focus on some other things, but I'd like to focus on your relationship with the church, your relationship with our Lord, anything I can do to help that.*

CO: *One of the things that's helped me is... And it's funny that this is happening at this time of the year... Uh... The thing that's emboldened me and empowered me is the image of Jesus Christ entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to a certain and known fate. And doing it anyway. And if he can do that, then I can do this.*

AbpC: *Well actually, that ties into today's readings rather powerfully. The first is... Because I preach every day to the sisters...*

CO: *Right.*

AbpC: *The first is from the book of Daniel. Where they started out thinking well they're just fine. But they reached that point in the old testament where they say, "We've made some mistakes. We've sinned." And then, you go to the Gospel where it talks about the Unjust Steward. He's forgiven. But he won't forgive anybody else. And I said, as you just highlighted, I said, "All of us have to remember, we didn't deserve it, but God made it possible for us to have a relationship." And, as I told the sisters, that's true in a religious community, that's true in marriage, that's true in the priesthood, that's true in the archdiocese. So I agree with you. It's a very special time. And I believe a special day.*

CO: *Right, right... So what I wanted to do... I'm not sure if we've got a half an hour or an hour, what the timeframe is like...*

SP: *I think we have a half an hour.*

CO: *No, that's understandable. I wanted to make sure that you understand kind of my situation and the situation of the other survivors and what's going on for us.*

AbpC: *And I think that's especially important because **I didn't come here til 2009.***

CO: *Right, right.*

AbpC: ***So lots of things...That have happened in the past...I don't know about.***

I figured they were going to play the “Oh, we didn't know,” card. So, first and foremost, I wanted to make sure they couldn't say that any more. But I also wanted to let them know that I was receptive to a, “Mistakes were made — but I didn't know about them — and now we're going to do the right thing,” narrative. If that was what they needed to say to be able to act, I was willing to go along with that. As long as they were willing to act.

CO: *Right. And that's... Well... And my story kind of extends before that (2009), so...That's one of the things I wanted to make sure of, because I wanted to make sure that you (CARLSON) understand what's going on... And I want to make sure that you (PRICE) understand what's going on...Because I'm not sure that everybody understands what's going on, exactly. And what's been done by certain people, uh...*

AbpC: *And really, most importantly, what's going on in your own heart. In your life.*

CO: *Right, well... Fundamentally, I need help. I don't know where I'm going to get it. You know, financial help, which means paying for therapy, medications, food, that kind of stuff. Uh... I checked my bank balance and I've got about \$25 to my name. Uh... Bankrupt, divorced, you know, my kids will barely speak to me. Uh... Well, I'll go through some of that... Let me just kinda go through this outline.*

AbpC: *(EXPRESSIONLESS)*

CO: *First, what I wanted to do was make sure that you guys understood about (Timothy) Cardinal Dolan. Who I knew as Fr. Dolan.*

So I first came forward in the Aisha Sultan piece in April of 2018 and had my own story. (I DISTRIBUTE A HAND-OUT) This is a direct message I received from a guy via Twitter later on that evening that's consistent with my story.

Hello Chris my name is R____, I graduated from Immacolata in 19____, was a alter boy and had to get “hair cuts” from Fr. Valentine in his bedroom, so I unfortunately know too. What angers me as much is several times leaving Valentines bedroom, fr. Timothy Dolan, now Cardinal Dolan lived in the room next door & would be standing right there & never did anything

CO: *I know who he is. He's not doing very well. He won't get back in touch with me. But... Talking about... Dolan knew. Fr. Dolan knew what was going on. He saw stuff. I don't know whether he told Monsignor Flavin or what, I just want to make sure that you guys understand*

that Dolan knew what was going on. Uh... He saw it with his own eyes. Flavin saw what was going on.

CO: Uh, that...

AbpC: Is this the Flavin that became the bishop?

CO: No. This is the brother. That's... This is... Uh... This is Conny Flavin, not Gavin (ACTUALLY GLENNON) Flavin. Not Bishop Flavin. This is Monsignor Flavin not Bishop Flavin. And this is Immacolata. 70... Well for Dolan, it would be 1976. And that's actually where I met Fr. Dolan. He was... My first memory is of him preaching on Mark 8:22-26. Where Jesus heals the blind man in two steps. We kind of got that as... We interpreted that as, you know... Everybody makes mistakes. Even Jesus Christ, in human form, didn't get everything right the first time. That was kind of the message that I remember from that.

AbpC: You were how old, then?

CO: I was in third grade. I would have been probably nine or so. At Immacolata.

AbpC: You have a very good memory. I don't know if I'd remember...

CO: Well... The reason I remember it is because Fr. Dolan chose me to play the role of Jesus. So we just did a little skit. And we reenacted...

AbpC: ...during the homily or something...

CO: This was during Religion class. Fr. Dolan came to our class that day or something.

AbpC: I had the same experience. I had to watch the television show... Uh, I forget the bishop... Used to have a television show like every Tuesday night. And we had to watch it and the priest would come in the next day and say, "Well, what did Monsignor say," and we had to tell him.

CO: But... So I wanted to... You know... This is... I have concerns about Cardinal Dolan. In terms of what he knew and then it was... I ended up talking to him. He was the person who called me back in 2002 when the archdiocese put out the appeal saying, you know, "If you know anything about Fr. Valentine, please come forward." So I called in and then — by then he was Bishop Dolan — called me back and we talked. And it was a little unusual that he was allowed to investigate stuff that he was involved in. But... You know. Whatever... And this is actually...

Just in case you weren't aware of the fact that he was handling calls, this is another person that called in at the same timeframe about Fr. Valentine. And I actually know... I know them... So at least three of us called in to the archdiocese with information about Fr. Valentine.

AbpC: Obviously, **I wasn't there then, so I didn't know about any of this**, but did the diocese ask people... Invite people to come forward?

CO: Yeah, they put up an appeal and... So a piece ran in the New York Times exposing Fr. Valentine and the three Scorfina brothers. And then the archdiocese, to their credit, put out an appeal and said, "If you have any information, please call us and call Jennifer Joyce, the circuit attorney. So I called Jennifer Joyce. Never heard back from them.

And I called in (to ArchStL). And then the next day Bishop Dolan called me back. Uh... "Hey Chris, Tim Dolan. Bishop Dolan. How are you doing?" So I told him some of my memories. He ended up telling me that (my memories) didn't mean anything. That Fr. Valentine COULDN'T have done anything. Uh... And I then ended up meeting with a woman who I suspect was Nancy Brown, who was the Assistance Coordinator at the time. Uh...

AbpC: (To Sandra Price) ...was she hired...

SP: I don't know if she was or not. She was probably somebody we referred people to.

CO: Well, and that was... It was... She was kind of external and that's how Dolan said... "You know, we've got someone who knows... Who's knowledgeable about this subject that we refer people to. I actually know the address and it was 141 N. Meramec in Suite 23 or 25. Uh... So... And there's a third... So I reported at the same time as this person and then there was a third person who reported at the end of March 2002. I actually know him. I've been talking to him. Uh... It... Well... And... Just... Another thing that you should know of that's out there is Bishop Finn. Father Finn was from St. Louis and I was actually talking about my story... I went to St. Louis U. High and we have kind of these informal reunions around Christmas and a guy told me a story about Bishop Finn that happened... That was the same kind of thing. You know taking kids up to a room under some guise or another when he was Fr. Finn. I'm trying to get this guy to come forward and talk about it, but he's reluctant to, right now. But just so you know there are... A guy told me a scary story or a troubling story about then Fr. Finn.

And the other thing is my abuse started in Face to Face Confession and I just wanted to make sure that you understood that and that's not going on any more. The way it was set up at Immacolata, it was just two chairs in the cry room with the door closed and the shades pulled. And I want to make sure, just for the sake of kids, that's not happening any more. That there's some... They do Face to Face at Mary Queen of Peace but what they did is they took the old Dark Scary Room and just lowered the wall. So it's just you and the priest, but there's a barrier in between you.

AbpC: What we did at Sioux Falls when I was there, we took the old confessional and we cut out a big...space, put a door in it, so if the person wants to open the door...

CO: Right. But there's still a physical barrier there.

AbpC: For everybody's protection.

CO: Let's keep everybody safe that way.

AbpC: That's right. Exactly.

CO: But I've seen pictures on the Internet of stuff... It may be that they're parishes that are still doing the two chairs in a room... And that's scary because that's... That's how it first started with me and how it started with another guy that I know. The third guy who came forward in March 2002. Uh...

AbpC: Actually, when I was a young priest, they used to put two chairs in the sanctuary. And the kid would go up and sit in one chair and the priest was in the other chair. And the other priest was over on the other side of the sanctuary.

CO: But that's out in the open. That's the right way.

SP: I think that's how a lot of schools operate now. That's what happens now.

CO: I know at Immacolata, I don't know whether they still do confession in those rooms, but they've at least removed the curtains from the Cry Room. At a minimum there isn't the closed door and the drawn curtains, which caused problems.

The USCCB has made the promise of Assistance Coordinators. I just want you to know that I was never offered the services or told of the existence of an Assistance Coordinator. And this kinds into kind of our (Price and my) stuff. I don't know what Hengen has told people, but...

SP: What is your understanding of what an Assistance Coordinator does?

CO: Well, that they are supposed to, you know, help set up, arrange for treatment and help pay for treatment.

SP: OK. So, typically, what Carol (Brescia) does... And you've talked to Carol... What Carol does is... Anybody in the diocese is free to call her. And what she does is link people to

therapists if they do not have one. So that's kind of her role for us. She's not necessarily somebody who's going to make the determination if the therapy would be paid for. That all happens through the review board. So I can't again comment on what happened up to this point but certainly you have...you can call Carol.

CO: Like I said, I'm bankrupt and I'm paying this... Well my parents are paying for this stuff, plus the person is giving me a discount. So my personal situation... I haven't declared bankruptcy but, you know, I had Cancer... I was fighting Cancer at the same time I was trying to get help from the archdiocese. Uh, and I got thousands of dollars I owe SLU hospital.

AbpC: What kind of Cancer?

CO: Malignant Melanoma. I've got a scar on my arm to prove it.

Ostracized by my kids and my ex-wife's family. My kids barely speak to me. Shunned at Mary Queen of Peace. And that was...

If you want to help me, there are two things that you could do. Well, basically you could admit that it happened. In some form admit that it happened. This meeting is an **IMPLICIT** acknowledgement that It Happened, but an **EXPLICIT** acknowledgement would help me. Would allow people at Mary Queen of Peace to talk to me. And I'll get into why that's an issue. Uh... So...

You (Price) e-mailed me about a year ago in this e-mail... And there are a couple of things that you say in there... (I **DISTRIBUTE A HAND-OUT**) Here's kind of an annotated version.

February 5, 2018

Hi Chris,

I wanted to respond to you on behalf of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis.

You chose to litigate (**LIE**) your claims of sexual abuse by Rev. Leroy Valentine. **YOUR CLAIMS WERE ACKNOWLEDGED** by Deacon Phil Hengen (**LIE**), the Archdiocese of Saint Louis (**LIE**) and the court system. This matter has been fully settled through litigation and is final. Because your claim has been fully settled and is final the Archdiocese of Saint Louis will not be responding to any further inquiries regarding these claims. Please know that **YOU AND ALL VICTIMS OF ABUSE** are in my prayers and I do hope that you are able to find peace in the future. I wish you the best.

Sandra Price

Archdiocese of St. Louis

And I'm VERY frustrated. So I'm just gonna kind of go through this.

"You chose to litigate."

I didn't choose to litigate. I was forced to litigate because (Deacon Phil) Hengen wouldn't do anything.

"Your claims were acknowledged by Deacon Phil Hengen."

He never acknowledged anything to me. In any form. At any time. The last thing I heard

from him was it was all my dad's fault and he told me to read a book named... called "Good Enough..." Uh, or "Man Enough."

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has never acknowledged anything. I've got the settlement agreement if you haven't seen it. This basically denies everything. I don't know if you've seen this, but all the language is — I actually know the guy who wrote this, Kevin Cushing, he's a neighbor, I coached his daughter — this basically denies everything.

So nobody's told me that It Happened.

Nobody's admitted that It Happened.

This meeting is the closest I've come to an admission that It Happened.

And the fact that nobody will admit that (It Happened) is a problem...as I said with my family and with Mary Queen of Peace. Here's a statement in the Aisha Sultan piece in which I came forward. (I DISTRIBUTE A HAND-OUT) Here's what Gabe Jones said with respect to my story.

"The archdiocese's record of Mr. O'Leary's allegations are significantly different; however, due to a court order as well as our own ethical obligation, we are not at liberty to discuss Mr. O'Leary's case." Jones also said the information O'Leary shared initially changed multiple times by the time he broke off communication with the Office of Child and Youth Protection.

The big point being, "The information O'Leary shared changed multiple times."

Well that's not accurate. And I say that in part because when I met with the review team May 9, 2011, headed up by Hengen, there were two lawyers there against the stated policy. The stated policy in effect at the time said "no lawyers." There were two lawyers there. The Hegers — Bernie Huger, Christine Huger — were both at the meeting. Weren't supposed to be at that meeting. Ex-cop named Malacek. And then another psychologist and Hengen was there. They told me that they had no record of my 2002 conversations with Dolan or with the woman who I suspect was Nancy Brown.

So, if the first time I talked to the archdiocese about this was, according to... And to the best of your (Price) knowledge May 2011, how can anyone say that my story changed if you only talked to me once? That doesn't make logical sense.

if you only talked to me once, how can you say my story changed?

Whatever...

I would like to believe that Hengen lied to you. If he told you, you know, "I told O'Leary that It Happened." He never told me anything. He... Hengen never admitted It Happened. He never said anything. The last communication I had with Hengen was, "Read the book 'Man Enough' by Frank Pittman and then give me the name of your psychologist. I want to talk to your psychologist." I set that up, he never called my psychologist.

Hengen is a TERRIBLE person. I don't know whether he's incompetent or what but, actually in 2013 I happen to know Monsignor Hanneke, who was Vicar for Priests at the time, and I didn't know that, but I tried to go over Hengen's head to Monsignor Hanneke who I knew and I know a Monsignor outranks a Deacon. Hanneke turned out to be Hengen's boss. I went to



Hanneke for help and told him, “Hengen’s just stonewalling me. Can you do something about it?” Hanneke came back to me and said, “No, you have to work through Hengen.” But Hengen wasn’t doing anything, so...

Thus my frustration.

I just wanted to show you these (I DISTRIBUTE TWO HAND-OUTS) so that you could have these.

I haven’t been in touch with these guys but I suspect that he was abused because he fits the profile.



SP: *Who are these people?*

CO: *T_____ and P_____.*

CO: *And then he (Flannel Shirt Guy) called me a couple of weeks ago and told me a story of Valentine — didn't get him as bad as Valentine got me — but Valentine used the excuse that there was going to be a Passion Play. I don't have any recollection of a Passion Play at Immacolata. But he (Valentine) was doing try-outs for a Passion Play and he got a bunch of guys together. He had them take off their shirt and then he took them into a bathroom so that he could examine them for defects because, if you were going to play the role of Christ, you can't have any defects.*

So that's one way that Valentine got access to guys.

SP: *Do you know the names of these guys?*

CO: *P_____ and A_____. And then I ended up calling A_____ the next day and A_____ told me a story of being groped during wrestling. Because... I had a bunch of memories... basically, every day... Every day on the weekend Valentine would have groups of guys together. I thought I was special because I thought it was a big deal because he had me, I think it was T_____, A_____, and uh R_____. He had us over one night. This would be Fall of 1977. 4th grade. To play Risk in the rectory and, uh... He ended up... He would teach us wrestling. Wrestling was his whole thing. And I've got this story that I told the Review Team in 2011 where we would try to flip each other and we would grab each other up here (by the knee) and then Valentine would say, "No, no, no. That's not how you do it." And he would have (one) boy leave and Valentine would do it and he would end up grabbing us down here (by the crotch) and his hand would "accidentally" slip and he would grope us. And... You know...*

And A_____ had a... A_____ recently told me a couple weeks ago about a time Valentine was wrestling with him and Valentine's hand slipped and A_____ was like, "Fuck that. I'm gonna..." You know. He... I don't think he punched him, but he was gonna punch him.

But, just so you know, what kinda stuff is going on, and I'm going fast because we've only got half an hour.

So this is a mud cave and another thing Valentine would do is he would take us on trips. Camping or caving. You know. Those kinds of things. This is me, A_____, P_____. But that was how he got access to the guys. And he would also have these parties on the weekend.

And Dolan knew those parties were going on.

And I've talked to Sr. Helen, who was our principal and she... She and the other mothers knew what was going on and Monsignor Flavin didn't respond... He was aware of the problems and didn't respond appropriately. He basically said, "If it's happening in the gym, it's none of your business. If it's happening in the rectory, it's none of your business." That was Monsignor Flavin's message to Sr. Helen. Helen Petropoulos at Immacolata.

Uh... And... I'm sure you (Carlson) don't know about some of this stuff so I just wanted to... I have a hard time believing people could do what's been done, and knowing it, and I'm like, "Alright. Maybe he doesn't know. Maybe she doesn't know." So I'm just gonna kind of lay it out there and let you know.

I'm in the process of talking to multiple members of the press. National press. International press. About this stuff. They're on the story. Uh... Just so you know this is the kind of stuff that's out there and that's being investigated.

I had whole problems in high school. Ended up with a 1.8 in the first quarter. I've actually... I know Carol Brescia more through... She's the Assistance Coordinator for the Jesuits UCS. I'm going through their process. Because I had some primary abuse at SLUH but I also had a lot of kind of flashbacks and stuff. Because 8th grade at Immacolata for me was actually really good because Valentine was gone and Dolan was gone. And I thought I was FREE. And then I get back to SLUH and then there are problems with... Different priests and brothers and that kind of stuff at SLUH... In the locker room... You know, they had access to the locker room.

Uh... So...

One question I had is, "Is my allegation in Valentine's file?" I actually talked to Bishop Stika who said it wasn't. He wasn't aware of it. You know, if it possible for me to see Valentine's file in redacted form? I'd love to know that. Like I said, in the 2011 meeting they told me they had no knowledge of me which implies or suggests that my allegation isn't in Valentine's file. Uh... I have some suspicion that Dolan removed it in order to try to hide his own culpability.

In which case you guys can say, "We didn't know. Dolan hid you from us. And that's Dolan's problem."

And gonna make sure people know about Dolan.

AbpC: *Yeah I... Let me just say... **The things that you just mentioned and the situation happened many years ago. I know nothing about it.***

CO: *Right.*

And I'm thinking, "But now you know." Which was my main goal for the meeting.

But I'm also thinking, if this happened so long ago, and Carlson knows nothing about it, then why did he know who Nancy Brown was when I mentioned that Dolan referred me to her? Also, Archbishop Carlson was installed in June 2009, so everything that happened in 2011 and after happened on his watch.

AbpC: *I think what my role can be though is if you want to deal with the internal...*

CO: *I can... Let me... Just... Let me... I'm dealing with the internal on my own.*

Why would I accept the head of the Archdiocese that's running a Smear Campaign against me and has made false allegations to the police against me? So, no thanks.

CO: *I just want to make sure that you guys understand what life is like for a survivor. Uh... So, 2002 I first talked to Dolan and I talked to Brown and they told me nothing happened. And I was like fine with it. But then in 2003 my older son Bryan made his first confession. I had a panic attack. 2005 my older daughter made her first confession. I had a panic attack. And I'm like, "Does this mean anything?" But Dolan told me nothing happened. Nancy Brown told me nothing happened. 2007 I was... People described me as... I had become "catatonic" and I was laid off from my job. That was the last kind of regular job I've had. In 2008 I had a PTSD*

episode when my ex wife took the kids to Colorado and I... It was was PTSD and I felt, for the first time, the urge to kill people. Which, obviously, terrified me. Because I would never kill or harm or hurt anyone. I would sooner... If I felt any impulse towards one of you, I would throw myself out the window. So... You know... And that's why...

I know allegations have been made against me that I've made "Terroristic Threats" against the Archdiocese... Shrewsbury has a file with that heading...

SP: *Can I comment on that? So we never, to my knowledge, called it a "Terroristic Threat."*

CO: *That's fine. That's the the name of the file of the investigation.*

SP: *All I can do is say, "I'm sorry." What happened... We had employees in our building who were aware of your Twitter account and saw some of the posts related to the Rock Salt and the Shotgun thing, which to me was very vague, but people were concerned and, you know, we have 300 people in this building and we have security protocols obviously and we did ask them to just check in with you...*

CO: *And here's something you could do to help me. One of the reason I'm be shunned by Mary Queen of Peace is that information has gotten out there. So people at Mary Queen of Peace are afraid that I made Terroristic Threats against you (Carlson) or the archdiocese or someone. There's a rumor... There are rumors at Mary Queen of Peace about that...*

SP: *So part of our struggle though Chris is that we don't... we have confidentiality and ethics in things that we can't necessarily just go out and talk about you... What would you like us to say?*

CO: *It would be nice, and this is one of the things I talk about later... It would be nice... It would help me if you would admit that It Happened. I'm willing to do a joint press conference, to kind of clear the air. That would actually have some significant P.R. value to you. I had that letter (I sent before the meeting to Archbishop Carlson), I don't know whether you've seen that...*

SP: *I've seen that, yes.*

CO: *I'd be willing to do a joint press conference, to some degree, where we sit at the same table and say, you know, "Bad stuff happened in the past. We're trying to work it out." Uh, I would have to get things in return for that, but that would be of value to both of us. A press conference even a press release. A letter or something. That would help me. Because, like I said, nobody at Mary Queen of Peace will talk to me because they're all scared of me. A. They think I'm lying. (I DISTRIBUTE A HAND-OUT) Because Gabe Jones said I was lying.*

"The archdiocese's record of Mr. O'Leary's allegations are significantly different; however, due to a court order as well as our own ethical obligation, we are not at liberty to discuss Mr. O'Leary's case." Jones also said the information O'Leary shared initially changed multiple times by the time he broke off communication with the Office of Child and Youth Protection.

SP: *Who are these people?*

CO: *Everybody I know at Mary Queen of Peace. Literally everybody. Nobody at Mary Queen of Peace will talk to me. They're all scared of me. They think I'm lying. And they think I'm crazy.*

So, I'm just saying, this is the situation. You can help me out. You know. I talk about this on the third page of this (handout/agenda for the meeting).

Let me just be sure I get through this stuff.

2009... So, your whole "Terroristic Threats" thing caused me problems because in 2008 I started having problems with PTSD that I've since found were PTSD, Complex-PTSD. And that just kind of set me off because I'd had had these episodes that I controlled. And I controlled them by basically not leaving the house. But, obviously, that constrains me in terms of working. You know. And I've got unmanaged, untreated PTSD. And it's been this way since 2002, basically. 2011 at a minimum.

So 2013...

Well, OK, another thing about 2002.

Valentine resigned.

And this was all before your time.

This may be the first you've heard of it.

I had suspected Archbishop Carlson would play the "I didn't know about any of this. This was all before my time," card. And I thought it was plausible that that was true. But, from this point on, he would know.

In late March 2002, as a result of a third guy who came forward. At least. And I know who that is. Because we've talked a number of times and he's told me, "Valentine resigned. Or was asked to resigned. Forced to resign." I was never contacted by anyone with the Archdiocese of St. Louis — this is all before your (Carlson) time — to say, "Hey Chris, you know that stuff you told Bishop Dolan and Nancy Brown? Uh... Maybe that was true." I wasn't informed that Valentine had resigned. I didn't actually learn about that until a couple months ago. So, at a minimum, Dolan didn't call me back to let me know that Valentine had resigned. There was no press release. A piece ran in the New York Times and the Southeast Missourian. But, you know, I don't understand why, in 2002, nobody circled back to me to say, "OK. The stuff you told us, and we told you, it didn't mean anything...well, maybe it meant something."

That happened AGAIN in 2013.

When Valentine was permanently removed.

Nobody called me to let me know that that was going to happen. My psychologist at the time had to call me and warn me and say, "OK. Do you know what's in the paper? What's in the Post? And what's in the RiverFront Times? They just permanently removed Valentine." Nobody called me to warn me. Nobody called me to prepare me. To offer me help or anything. Uh... My psychologist had to do that. And that, obviously I hope, just destroyed me. And here's the other thing about that that destroyed me. Is this statement that Hengen made (I DISTRIBUTE A HAND-OUT) This is in the RiverFront Times. Valentine was permanently removed, blah, blah, blah...

The allegation involved inappropriate touching of a minor and was first made to archdiocesan officials in the Summer of 2012.

CO: *I met with the archdiocese on 2011. So, A. Why am I not mentioned in this piece and B. Who came forward in 2012? Was it T____? Was it P____ who came forward in 2012? This... I hope you can understand how this would absolutely destroy me. And this is the kind of stuff that I'm gonna talk about with people. I WILL talk about this because this mess HAS to be cleaned up, first and foremost for the protection of kids. Second, to ensure that it doesn't happen again. Cause... I believe in the church. The reason I'm Catholic is because it's not just faith. I know a lot of Protestants and they're all about faith and I can just do whatever the hell I want as long as I've got faith. And the Catholics are, "Yeah, but you've got to back that up with deeds." So, I don't go to mass any more. I can't because of the flashbacks. But I still consider myself a Catholic because of the combination of faith and deeds. And I don't don't like the Protestants and... Too many of them are just about, "As long as I believe I can do whatever the hell I want to do." And the Catholics are... And the point of difference with the Catholics is the Catholics are like, "No, not really. Because your actions bring to life your faith."*

And so, you can't have this massive contradiction.

Which is why the whole abuse thing kind of frustrates me.

I do not want to destroy the church. I do not want to destroy the archdiocese. The church is beautiful. She's our mother. Always has been. Always will be beautiful. But she's got cancer. Cancer doesn't change beauty. But cancer has to be removed.

And this is the opportunity for the church, for you, for your brother bishops to just say, "OK. It sucks. It was bad. But we need to fix the problem."

And I'm just here to say, "I'm a survivor. I know the problem has to be fixed. A lot of terrible things were done to me. I need help." Whether you help me or not is... You know. It's up to you. One of the reasons I signed the settlement agreement was to take this out of the realm of the legal and into the realm of the moral.

I'm just telling you.

I need help.

And, just to close up aside from the way you can help me...

This (picture) was the mass of reparations. I was the person who was standing outside. Everybody ignored me. I understand how that happened. It was a terrible thing to do. But it happens.

One other thing that affected me a lot was the matrix (I DISTRIBUTE A HAND-OUT) which was released on January 2014. I don't know how much of this you (Carlson) know about but...

AbpC: I've never seen this.

CO: *OK. And that's why I'm here. Because I assumed you may not know.*

Again, I have NO problem believing Archbishop Carlson didn't know about a lot, most, or even any of this stuff prior to this meeting. That he had been shielded from it. But now he does.

CO: *Number 107... Accused individual 107 is Valentine. I know that because of the three settlements that were made based on allegations in 1985. Those are the Scorfinas.*

My allegation isn't in the matrix.

Which is a problem...

Because... If you haven't seen it... This is... I'm not a lawyer, but this sounds to me like Perjury and Obstruction of Justice. And you could be on the hook or that. So this may be something that you want to look into.

Just some details about Valentine's line entry.

I don't have a problem believing that you don't know about all of this stuff. That some of this stuff was hidden from you. I don't have a problem believing that. I find that completely plausible. And I'd be willing to say so publicly. But the reason I'm here is to let you know this is the stuff that's been done. I'm gonna talk about it because it HAS to be talked about because this is just a cancer that's inside the church. The cancer HAS to be removed. But in order to remove the cancer you have to identify it and expose it.

This is the kind of stuff that's going to be talked about, and I'm just here to present you...

I'm a survivor.

I'm pissed.

But I'm trying to move beyond that.

And it's Easter.

So let's embrace Easter.

It would be helpful to me if you publicly admitted It Happened and that I didn't make Terroristic Threats in some form.

Letter. Press release. Press conference.

Financial assistance would be very helpful.

For the kids in terms of college. Laura doesn't have any savings. I don't have any savings.

I'm completely bankrupt.

Like I said, I've got like \$25 to my name.

So that's just my situation.

These are the facts.

This is what's going to happen.

I'm going to talk about this because I HAVE to in order to ensure that A. Kids are safe and B. That the cancer is exposed and removed.

So I'm just here, but I'm trying to be... I'm trying... I'm TRYING to follow the message of Christ and do what I believe Christ would do.

AbpC: *First of all, I appreciate the fact that you're here.*

CO: *And I appreciate your being with me.*

AbpC: *And I'd be happy to meet with you again. **None of this I've ever seen**, so, obviously, I'll take a look at it.*

CO: *And that was the main thing I wanted to do was to make sure that you were aware of all the stuff that had been done by the archdiocese. Not necessarily by you. Or in your name or anything. But this is what's out there. So... I find it completely plausible that you're a man of God, you're mostly focused on the God stuff. You delegate a lot of this stuff to other people. I just wanted to make sure that you were aware of the stuff that had been done.*

AbpC: *Just so you know, I'm happy to see you again. My focus — obviously I'll look at all of this — but my focus is the individual. The human being. What you've been talking about for the last half hour or so is painful. Hurtful. And uh, so...*

CO: *I appreciate that but, just so understand, and I'm trying to make sure the church understands, there are practical implications to abuse. PTSD, Anxiety, Depression. This is all stuff I've been diagnosed with. PTSD. Complex-PTSD. Anxiety. Depression. Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. That all takes money to fix. Takes money to medicate. Takes money to treat. It affects your ability to, you know, for employment. All those kinds of things. There are very practical consequences of abuse, and I just want to make sure that you understand that. And if that's all the time we've got, I've accomplished what I hoped to. I appreciate the time.*

AbpC: *Hopefully we'll meet again.*

CO: *Yeah, I'd like to.*

POSTSCRIPT

After waiting a couple of weeks, I e-mailed Sandra Price and asked for a follow-up meeting. I wanted to see when — or if — Archbishop Carlson was going to address my two main requests...

1. Explicitly admitting It Happened. Ideally, publicly.
2. Ending the Smear Campaign.

And that's when the Stonewalling began.

Again.

Stonewalling

After ignoring my first e-mail, and then replying to my second e-mail, Sandra Price stopped responding to my requests for a follow-up meeting with Archbishop Carlson, just as Deacon Phil Hengen did when I was trying to get help through him.

1. Mon, Apr 8, 5:21 PM

Another Meeting with Abp Carlson

FROM: me
TO: sandraprice@archstl.org

I'd like to take Abp Carlson up on his offer and meet with him again.

Let me know when.

Chris O'Leary

2. Fri, Apr 12, 4:16 PM

RE: Another Meeting with Abp Carlson

FROM: me
TO: sandraprice@archstl.org

Any word on when I can meet with Archbishop Carlson again?

If at all?

Chris O'Leary

Mon, Apr 15, 8:27 AM

RE: Another Meeting with Abp Carlson

FROM: sandraprice@archstl.org
TO: me

Hi Chris,

I have not had the opportunity to talk with Archbishop Carlson yet.

I will pass your request along although I do think it will be difficult to schedule another meeting so soon after you just talked with him.

Please let me know what you would like to talk with him about and I will make sure he is informed.

Sandra

3. Mon, Apr 22, 12:59 PM

RE: Another Meeting with Abp Carlson

FROM: me
TO: sandraprice@archstl.org

I'm just taking Archbishop Carlson up on his offer.

Let me know when he has time.

Thanks,

Chris O'Leary

Mon, Apr 22, 1:09 PM

RE: Another Meeting with Abp Carlson

FROM: sandraprice@archstl.org

TO: me

Hi Chris,

I will reach out when I know something. I hope you had a nice Easter.

Sandra

4. Wed, May 1, 8:59 AM

Meeting with Archbishop Carlson

FROM: me

TO: sandraprice@archstl.org

Let me know.

Chris O'Leary

5. Thu, May 2, 10:46 AM

Meeting with Archbishop Carlson

FROM: me

TO: sandraprice@archstl.org

Let me know what openings the archbishop has in his schedule.

AMDG

Chris O'Leary

At this point, while I was getting VERY frustrated — it had been over a month since I'd talked to Archbishop Carlson, and the Archdiocese of St. Louis had yet to do anything I'd asked — I started to suspect I was being Stonewalled. Again. So I decided to start spacing out my e-mails so I didn't look crazy. I didn't want to give them an excuse to ignore me. I figured weekly e-mails, sent every Monday or so, would be seen as reasonable by most people. Persistent. Even, relentless. But not crazy.

6. Mon, May 6, 1:57 PM

Meeting with Archbishop Carlson

FROM: me
TO: sandraprice@archstl.org

Let me know what Archbishop Carlson's schedule looks like.

Thanks!

Chris O'Leary

7. Mon, May 13, 11:39 AM

Meeting with Archbishop Carlson

FROM: me
TO: sandraprice@archstl.org

I'd like to meet again with Archbishop Carlson.

As he offered in my first meeting with him.

Please let me know what his schedule looks like.

Chris O'Leary

8. Wed, May 22, 10:11 AM

Follow-Up Meeting with Archbishop Carlson

FROM: me
TO: sandraprice@archstl.org

Let me know when I can have the follow-up meeting with Archbishop Carlson that he offered during my first meeting.

Thanks!

Chris O'Leary

9. Mon, Jun 3, 8:30 AM

Meeting with Archbishop Carlson

FROM: me
TO: sandraprice@archstl.org

Let me know when I can meet again with Archbishop Carlson.

Thanks!

Chris O'Leary

10. Mon, Jun 10, 11:01 AM

Appointment to Talk to Archbishop Carlson

FROM: me
TO: sandraprice@archstl.org

Let me know when I could talk again to Archbishop Carlson. In part, I wanted to know when he's planning on letting the people of St. Louis that I didn't lie to ArchStL. As I said, NOBODY from MQP will talk to me, and my kids think I'm lying and treat me with suspicion.

Thanks!

Chris O'Leary

11. Tue, Jun 18, 3:15 PM

Follow-Up Meeting with Abp Carlson

FROM: me
TO: sandraprice@archstl.org

Please let me know when I could talk again to Archbishop Carlson. In part, I want to know when he/you are planning on letting the people of St. Louis know my story didn't actually change and I didn't lie. As I said, NOBODY from MQP will talk to me, and my kids think I'm lying and treat me with suspicion.

Thanks!

Chris O'Leary

The Final Insult

After responding to my second e-mail, and denying my request to meet with Archbishop Carlson, Sandra Price stopped acknowledging, much less responding to, my e-mails.

She just Stonewalled me.

Acted like I didn't exist.

For TWO MONTHS.

That REALLY bothered me, because ArchStL wanted people to believe they had turned over a new leaf, but it didn't surprise me because Deacon Phil Hengen had done it to me before.

I kept sending e-mails, for a total of three months, asking for a follow-up meeting, and never received an acknowledgement, much less a reply, to my last EIGHT e-mails.

And then, after giving the Archdiocese of St. Louis THREE MONTHS to do the right thing — or, really, anything — I decided to take the next step.

First, I went on a local radio show...

- [Dave Glover Show June 19, 2019 O'Leary on Catholic Abuse](#)

...and talked about my experiences with Fr. Valentine, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, and the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Second, I sent an e-mail to the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops letting them know of the problems I was having getting help — hell, getting a RESPONSE — from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. I explained that I was getting Stonewalled. I also explained that I had asked ArchStL to end the Smear Campaign and that, three months later, they still hadn't. I asked that my e-mail to the USCCB be forwarded to Rome so the Pope would know that the promises he made weren't being kept.

And, remember, the Stonewalling and Smear Campaign continued, and my e-mail to USCCB and the Pope were sent, AFTER June 1, 2019, meaning they represented a violation of the Pope's *motu proprio Vos Estis Lux Mundi*.

Then, on June 30, 2019, which was Archbishop Carlson's 75th birthday, and the day he was required by Canon Law to submit his resignation to the Pope, and as a result of a tweet sent by ArchStL extolling Archbishop Carlson, I went public with an earlier version of an MP3 recording of my meeting with Archbishop Carlson and this transcript.

The next day, I received the following e-mail from Sandra Price of ArchStL.

Mon, Jul 1, 4:45 PM

Hi Chris,

I wanted to follow up with you as I received a call from Melanie at the USCCB. At this time we will no longer be engaging with you in any capacity due to the unauthorized recording you posted to your twitter account on June 30, 2019.

Because you were unable to adhere to the conditions of the meeting that I arranged for you with Archbishop Carlson I will not request or arrange any further meetings. Going forward please do not expect a response from the Archdiocese regarding meeting requests with the Archbishop of St. Louis.

This decision in part is due to the lack of consideration given for the other potential victims that you named during our meeting. It is very important for victims to have control over their stories and when they share them and who they share them with.

It is one thing to provide us with information in a confidential setting, however, exposing a potential victim on social media is an ethical violation that we cannot condone.

In addition if you choose to post this email please share the entire email as written. Should you choose to misquote or take this email out of context you waive your right to confidentiality with this single email response. Thank you for your understanding.

Sandra

That e-mail REALLY messed me up.

So much so that it still makes me physically ill — woozy, hot, and nauseous — to open it, much less read it.

First, there was no acknowledgement that she had just spent TWO MONTHS ignoring the e-mails I had been sending her asking for a follow-up meeting with Archbishop Carlson.

Second, there was her her allegation that I had outed another victim, something I most certainly did NOT do. At least now knowingly. As the transcript makes clear, the exhibits I gave Carlson and Price during my meeting were redacted; they did not name the survivors I knew of. You can also see that I danced around naming them.

To protect their privacy.

So what is she talking about?

As I mentioned during the meeting, Fr. LeRoy Valentine was permanently removed in May 2013 — and I was never contacted, much less offered help, in 2013 — due to someone who came forward in the Summer of 2012. I can only assume that one of the guys I named, and whose name I didn't redact in earlier versions of the MP3 recording and this transcript, because I haven't kept in touch with or talked to them, and don't know their status, is another survivor. And, perhaps, the person who came forward in 2012 and who I mentioned in this exchange.

CO: Valentine was permanently removed, blah, blah, blah...

The allegation involved inappropriate touching of a minor and was first made to archdiocesan officials in the Summer of 2012.

CO: I met with the archdiocese on 2011. So, A. Why am I not mentioned in this piece and B. Who came forward in 2012? Was it T___? Was it P___ who came forward in 2012? This... I hope you can understand how this would absolutely destroy me.

However, since I don't know who she's talking about, I've decided to redact all the names of classmates from the MP3 recording and this transcript.

As for her closing paragraph...

In addition if you choose to post this email please share the entire email as written. Should you choose to misquote or take this email out of context you waive your right to confidentiality with this single email response. Thank you for your understanding.

...I have NO idea what she means by, "...please share the entire email as written. Should you choose to misquote or take this email out of context..."

That's NEVER happened.

Finally, I have no idea what "you waive your right to confidentiality with this single email response," means, but threatening survivors would seem to violate the spirit, if not the law, of the Papal motu proprio *Vos Estis Lux Mundi*.

- ChrisOLEary.com/Sins/Violations-of-VOS-ESTIS-LUX-MUNDI.html