

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
January 26, 2012

Ms. Carolyn Disco  
Voice of the Faithful  
42 Wilson Hill Rd.  
Merrimack, NH 03054

Dear Ms. Disco,

I have wanted to write this note to you for some time, and finally I am. My name is [REDACTED] and I am a survivor of clergy sexual abuse. The abuser was my father, Curtis Hanners, an Anglican priest who lived in New Hampshire. He died in July of 2010. I know you are involved in the VOTF, which is the reform of Catholic churches, but I have wanted to write because, at least in my case, I feel that your organization was in part responsible for the response of the Anglican church. I believe that the work that you and the VOTF do is affecting in a positive way other religious denominations. I don't know if you are aware of this. It made a huge difference to me.

Both of my parents were involved in the extreme abuse of me when I was growing up. My father originally was in the Methodist church, then the Episcopal, and finally the Anglican church. He was kicked out of the first two and then when I reported him to [REDACTED] in New Hampshire, he was asked to leave there as well.

The reason I am writing is because I will not forget the response I received when I first wrote and called [REDACTED]. He sent out copies of my letter to a number of people, including Chief Investigator Paul Brodeur. Inspector Brodeur called me right away. I was shocked actually. I thought nothing would happen. [REDACTED] also called my father and told him what I had said and that he wanted him to step down.

I am now 58 years old. I started to remember this stuff about 4 years ago. It is horrible and you don't need to know the details. I have been so scared during all of this because of all the "if you remember or tell you will have to be killed" types of things that were told to me. I have also been so incredulous that these things could have been done to me by my own parents. [REDACTED] and Inspector Brodeur believed me more than I believed myself. It was so healing after all those years of denial.

In addition to [REDACTED] and Inspector Brodeur being good people, I felt like there was a system in place for dealing with this clergy sexual abuse, and once I read about the VOTF, I couldn't help but think the work you all have done on a reporting system had been adopted by the Anglicans.

Anyway, I wanted you to know about it. My father quit eating within several days after [REDACTED] called and within two months he died. He denied everything and had no remorse, but he killed himself. It sounds terrible, but it was a huge relief for me when he died. I truly believe that this was the first time

in his life that the light of truth shone on what he was and what he had done. He knew that I finally knew the truth and that I wasn't backing down [REDACTED] and Inspector Brodeur both knew, too – in fact, it was that component of real power, outside the family, which truly scared him, because until I actually reported him he didn't care at all. It is true that when light is shone on evil, it dissipates. I saw it with my own eyes. I believe that the VOTF is shining light on clergy sexual abuse and making a difference, not only for the Catholics, but for other religious groups as well.

Thank you for listening, and thank you for the work you and the VOTF do. I can't imagine how hard it is to do this work and how many people would like to discredit you. But for me, there are not words to say what it means to me to have you and people like you fighting for the truth and for survivors.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]