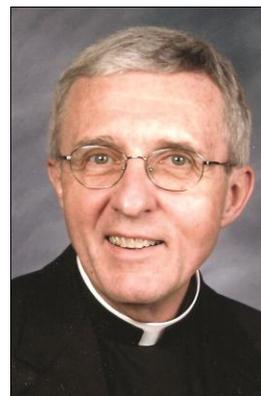


The Reverend James E. Connell, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, advocates on behalf of victims/survivors of Catholic clergy sexual abuse of minors. This courageous priest will be the closing speaker at Voice of the Faithful's 10th Year Conference in Boston Sept. 14-15, 2012. He will address attendees on Saturday, Sept. 15, at about 4 p.m., at the Marriott Boston Copley Place Hotel. [Click here](#) for a conference agenda.



A former member of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee clergy sexual abuse audit review board, Fr. Connell has called for Church leaders to reveal the complete truth about clergy sexual abuse because, he says, only from such a revelation can this poison be removed from the Body of Christ. In an open letter to Catholic priests in early December 2010, he concluded, "Let us always embrace the word of the Lord: fear not; the truth will set you free."

In this effort, Fr. Connell challenges Church policies and practices on local and national levels. Moreover, he sees his advocacy role as primarily being to "journey with" the victims/survivors in their quest for truth, justice, healing and peace. "Knowledge and understanding of the truth (the absence of all forms of falsehood and deception), stand as prerequisites for justice," Fr. Connell says. "In turn, justice based on truth can lead to healing and peace. In short—no truth (facts and explanations), no justice; no justice, no healing; no healing, no peace."

In December 2011, after meeting quietly for about a year, Fr. Connell and several other priests and clergy sexual abuse survivors joined together to call for more transparency from the Church concerning the abuse scandal and for survivors/victims in the Milwaukee archdiocese to come forward before the Feb. 1, 2012, deadline to file for restitution in federal bankruptcy court. The group ran a signed, full-page ad to that effect in the Jan. 27, 2012, edition of the Milwaukee *Journal-Sentinel*.

Fr. Connell is a canon lawyer and currently serves as the pastor of St. Clement and Holy Name of Jesus parishes in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. He was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1942 and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in 1987. Prior to becoming a priest, Fr. Connell worked as a CPA and a management consultant. Also, soon after college he entered a marriage in the Catholic Church that lasted six years, ending in a divorce. Eventually, a Church annulment was granted, or he never could have been ordained to the priesthood.

A member of the Canon Law Society of America, Fr. Connell holds ecclesiastical degrees of Doctor of Canon Law from Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada, Licentiate in Canon Law from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and Bachelor of Sacred Theology from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. He also holds a doctorate in Canon Law from the University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada. His seminary formation was at the Pontifical North American College, Rome.