

SURVIVORS NETWORK OF THOSE ABUSED BY PRIESTS (SNAP)

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Statement by David Clohessy of St. Louis, national director of SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests (314 566 9790 cell, 314 645 5915 home)

Martin Luther King said it best: "No lie lives forever." That's even true when it's being told by a fleet of expensive lawyers and an ancient, rigid, secretive, all male monarchy like the Catholic hierarchy.

We are grateful to the media outlets and the victims who have fought long and hard against a recalcitrant, self-serving church bureaucracy.

We hope this ruling will inspire others who saw, suspected or suffered clergy sex crimes and cover ups to come forward, get help, call police, expose wrongdoers, protect others and start healing.

Finally, we hope this outcome will provide some measure of consolation to the brave victims and their families who deserve to have the corruption of the Catholic hierarchy publicly exposed.

(SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, is the nation's oldest and largest support group for clergy abuse victims. We've been around for 20 years and have more than 9,000 members across the country. Despite the word "priest" in our title, we have members who were molested by religious figures of all denominations, including nuns, rabbis, bishops, and Protestant ministers. Our website is SNAPnetwork.org)

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