

Capuchin Franciscan Friars

Province of the Sacred Stigmata of St. Francis

Office of the Provincial Minister



To anyone who is reading this web page, it is our hope that it will inspire you to pray for survivors of sexual abuse, those who have abused others, and anyone else who has been harmed by this tragedy. We are sadly aware of how our Church has been affected by this painful scandal. Our own Capuchin Province has not been exempt from this sin. Two of our former members, Paul Daleo and Robert Yurgel are among those who have had credible allegations made against them. Paul Daleo was separated from ministry in 2003. He was also formally removed from the priesthood, through a process known as "laicization" on October 1st, 2009. Robert Yurgel served a prison sentence for his actions and was dismissed from the Capuchin Order on November 10th, 2010.

Our province has made settlement with the sexual abuse survivors of Paul Daleo. The terms of this settlement contain no confidentiality provisions and we pledge never to seek confidentiality from any survivors of sexual abuse. We know that openness and acknowledging what has happened are the first steps towards healing.

In our personal contact with men and women who have been sexually abused we have come to discover a depth of pain which they live with, on a daily basis, which is beyond most people's comprehension. As a result, it takes a great deal of courage for them to come forward and publicly acknowledge that they have been sexually abused. They risk the real possibility that they will not be believed, particularly by those who are closest to them. We applaud every survivor who has displayed such courage.

Recently, our province has received its reaccreditation by Praesidium, which is an organization that assists religious and non-religious institutions in setting up protocols and procedures that will ensure that the possibility of one of its members from sexually abusing a child will be greatly diminished. We are gratefully committed to abiding by these protocols and procedures which will help to create a safer environment for children.

If you are reading this page, please take this as a personal invitation to pray for all who have been affected by the tragedy of sexual abuse. It is our hope that as more and more people accept this invitation to prayer no child will ever have to experience the trauma of being sexually abused especially by one of God's representatives.

Fr. Remo DiSalvatore, OFM Cap.
Provincial Minister