

Ramon Afaisen De Plata
Statement – September 11, 2016

When I was 10 years old, in March 1964, I witnessed Pale Antonio Cruz and Anthony Apuron molest an altar boy.

I was also an altar boy at the time. During the Lenten week, about 8 of us were rehearsing for the High Latin Mass services, which were very difficult services. These were the Masses for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter services. The Mass at that time was spoken in Latin. We finished late one night and Pale Cruz asked us to spend the night. So we did.

We all slept in the rectory on the second floor where Pale Cruz lives. We slept on the living room floor which is right outside his bedroom. Pale Cruz told us the door would be open if we needed to use the restroom. The restroom was located inside Pale's bedroom. I woke up late in the night to use the restroom. When I entered Pale Cruz's bedroom, I saw Pale Cruz lying on the bed naked. One of the altar boys was on the bed naked. He was lying on his side and sucking Pale Cruz's penis. I also saw Apuron kneeling on the floor, facing the altar boy, sucking the altar boy's penis. The altar boy was my age, 10 years old at the time.

I looked away and continued toward the restroom. Apuron got up and followed me and placed his arm around my shoulder. At that time, Tomas, my older brother, suddenly appeared directly behind Apuron and asked me: "Are you OK?" I said to Tomas in Chamorro: "Yes. I need to get out of here," and pushed my way out of the room. Tomas was right behind me the whole way home. When we got home, I said to Tomas, "Did you see what I saw?" Tomas said, "Yes. Let's sleep. We'll talk about it tomorrow." The following morning he asked if I was OK. He and I never spoke about what I saw again because he did not want to talk about it.

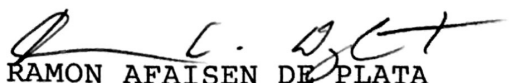
Apuron was a seminarian at the time. I remember seeing Apuron coming to the church many times, walking past the classes and walking upstairs to Pale Cruz's room when I was attending escuela pale. I also remember that he was always driving a blue Corvair.

About two or three months later I was walking to the old bus stop by the edge of the church parking lot. As I approached the church, Pale Cruz stuck his head out of the second floor bathroom window and said he needed my help. I climbed the stairs and opened the door to the room. As I looked inside, I saw Pale sitting on what appeared to be a love seat, masturbating as he asked me to come into the room. I said no, I'm late for school and I have to catch the bus. Pale Cruz asked for me to grab some money that was on the table from the Limosna. I said "no," and immediately left.

Eventually after school, I told my Mom. She said, "I'll take care of this." Years later, after talking to my sister, I was told that this is the reason why my mother started constantly following us when we were closing the church at 7pm.

About two weeks after that incident, I was passing the Church Social Hall. Pale Cruz asked me if I could help him catch the two chickens that got loose. While I was trying to catch the chickens, I noticed Pale Cruz masturbating inside the chicken coop. I immediately left without saying a word to him. I stopped being an altar boy not too long after that.

I am coming forward today because not only were altar boys in Agat, Barrigada and Mangilao abused. Altar boys in Chalan Pago were also abused by Pale Antonio Cruz and Anthony Apuron. I am also doing this because my grandmother was the machachan pale for Pale Cruz and the two pastors before him. She suddenly quit during Pale Cruz's time because I now believe she knew or saw something that made her quit. I know of others and I pray that they come forward and tell their stories so we all can heal and lift this heavy burden from our souls.


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