

**Buenas Dias
Ná'án-hu si Leo Tudela
Mafangon Saipan ho
Taotao Hawaii yo patgo;
Sesenta tres annos yo;
Si Yuus Maase put este na
oppotunidad para bai
testigo gi maenan mijo**

I know being a member of the legislature is not an easy job as you are often called upon to pass laws that affect many individuals during their lifetime. This is most pronounced when it comes to serious issues that involve institutions that have a profound effect on individual lives, especially when they involve religious institutions. A person's religion becomes the foundation of one's faith, and is imbedded in our daily lives. It could be any denomination.

I was born on July 17, 1943. I came from a very strict Catholic family. Almost daily, my grandparents installed in me that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Supreme Almighty and can't be questioned. I grew up in that environment and for this reason, my grandparents asked me to join the Altar Boys in Chalan Kanoa, Mt. Carmel Church, Saipan. Beginning in 1954, I joined the Altar Boys for Mt. Carmel Church under Father Arnold Bendowski, O.F.M. Cap.

My grandmother was very proud of me and would tell all the neighbors about me being an Altar Boy. She would make sure I get up in the early morning, often when it was still dark outside, and go to assist for Mass at the altar for Father Arnold. On every Saturday I would go to the rectory and help make Communion wafers and to clean the rectory. Those Saturdays spent at the rectory were one of my happy days because, by helping out at the rectory, I enjoyed the wonderful food and grapes that the rectory had. I was very poor and that was my pride and joy to help out as an Altar Boy and be able to enjoy their food.

You may ask, "Why am I telling you this? I am doing so to make you aware that since I was a very small boy growing up, I was indoctrinated with the Catholic Church teaching and that I am very proud of it. I loved my grandmother and would do anything for her and she wanted me to do this for the church.

In summer of 1956, Father Arnold asked me if I wanted to go to Guam to attend Catholic school. Father Arnold also selected two other Altar Boys to go to Guam. Their names were Ramon (Ray) Demapan and Jesus Dela Cruz from Tinian. I was very happy that I was selected and to be under the protection and guidance of a Catholic Church priest.

While I was staying at the Capuchin Fathers Monastery in Agana Heights, one night in the early morning hours, I was awakened by someone touching my private area (penis) and massaging it. I was shocked, very frightened, scared and shaking to have a big shadow of a man sitting next to me. I started to cry as I could not believe what was going on. This was in the monastery of God and how could this be happening to me. He told me "it is okay, I am Brother Mariano." I told him to please leave me alone but he continued to do what was doing. Finally, he got up and left the room. I took my blanket and covered my face and my whole body. I was crying and shaking. It was a night I would never forget. The next day, I told Brother Ferdinand Pangelinan what happened to me and soon after that, we were moved to Sinajana Catholic Church Rectory, to stay there.

While I was at the Sinajana Rectory, I met Father Louis Brouillard. I believe he was teaching at St. Jude Catholic School and assisting Father Kieran. Father Louis invited me to come to Santa Teresita Church in Mangilao and help him as an Altar Boy and to clean the rectory. While I was staying there, I was told to join the Boy Scouts as part of my duty, along with the other three Altar Boys staying at the rectory.

I joined the Boy Scouts because the Scouts were sponsored by Santa Teresita Church. All of the boys staying at the rectory were required to join the Scouts. The Scoutmaster was a high member of the church. His first name as "Ignacio". I don't remember his last name. On one occasion, which I remember to this day, we went to Yona Beach area to camp as a requirement for all new Scouts. One night, we were told to stand in a straight line and the scoutmaster drew a line for us to stand and then he drew another line about 3 or so feet in front of us. He told us to take our pants down and start playing with our penis (to masturbate) and if our semen did not reach the line drawn in front of us, we would be given all the work that has to be done at the camp. If we reached the line, then we would not have to do anything.

In addition, while I was staying at the rectory, late one night I was sleeping on my army bed and suddenly I felt someone touching my penis and massaging it. I looked up and saw Father Louis sitting to my left and told me "it is okay, you will feel good and don't worry about anything." I was shocked and felt very uncomfortable. I was shaking, scared and started to cry. I was totally embarrassed and ashamed of what Father Louis was doing to me. He was supposed to be a man of God, as this is what my grandparents taught me when I was growing up in Saipan. This was wrong and not right. The next day, I called my uncle Rufino to come and pick me up. He did so and I ran away from the rectory and never wanted to go back.

All these evil incidents have stuck in my mind for some 60 years and to this day, I still have nightmares and continue to relive those events as if they happened only yesterday. Terrible things come to my mind and I really hate Father Louis and Brother Mariano for what they did to me. I have cried on many occasions since then and continue to have memory flashbacks of the horrible things that happened to me. I feel cheated and molested by people who were suppose to be my protector, comforter and God's guardian angels. They were supposed to be the representatives of God, as told me by my grandparents.

I have some major medical issues and I believe these incidents have contributed to my poor health.

All I want is justice, due process of the law and people who did this and condoned these actions, to accept responsibility for their evil acts and to have closure and to start my healing process after over a half century of pain and suffering.

Please give us your support. For all the young boys that were molested by those who had a relationship with the Archdiocese of Agana or with other institutions, I very strongly urge you to pass this legislative bill, so we can have closure and begin to heal from these evil things that have happened to us and to protect our future Altar Boys/Girls.

For so many years, the Archdiocese appears to have failed to not only stop these incidents, but also tolerated and perpetuated these evil acts upon young innocent boys.

Be the voice of God by passing this legislation, and make your legacy be that you took bold actions to protect ALL citizens and a step to correct the wrongs of the past done to innocent children. I believe it is time to move forward and do the right thing.

God bless all of you.

SI YUUS MAASE