

356 H Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118
24 July 2019

Most Rev. Timothy P. Broglio
Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA
P.O. Box 4469
Washington, DC 20017

Dear Archbishop Broglio,

The son of a senior enlisted Marine was the victim of clerical sexual abuse when he was a teenager. He waited until his father retired from the military to inform him of the abuse for fear his father might have harmed or even killed the priest. As you know, while many abuse cases go unreported by victims for years, it has been shown that many bishops have covered up and underreported abuse within their dioceses.

You are aware that your predecessor, Edwin O'Brien, in a statement dated February 18, 2004, reported to the National Review Board for the John Jay Study that only "two such cases have come forward where active duty priest chaplains have been found guilty of engaging in immoral acts with minors." Insofar as I personally handled five sexual abuse cases within just three years (one involving a pedophile Navy chaplain who abused two children from two different families in Sicily and South Carolina; two who abused dependent teenage boys in Twenty-nine Palms, California and Virginia; and two who preyed on young enlisted Marines in Okinawa and North Carolina), I am not surprised that bishopaccountability.org has recently increased its list of abusive military/VA chaplains to 148. If 301 Pennsylvania priests were documented to have abused over 1,000 Catholics (the vast majority of whom were young men and boys), then one could posit that the 148 chaplains identified by bishopaccountability.org and endorsed by the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA sexually abused at least some 500 Catholics (and not just two).

How do you think active duty and retired military parents might feel were they to discover the abuse their children endured was covered up and underreported by the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA? How might active duty and retired military personnel like those who were sexually abused by Chaplain John "Matt" Lee and other Catholic military or VA chaplains feel were they to learn that the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA is named for your predecessor who covered up and underreported their sexual abuse?

As your archival files will reveal, I wrote Archbishop O'Brien on May 6, 2002 (with a copy to my late disgraced Altoona-Johnstown Bishop Joseph Adamec) about a chaplain on Oahu who had a live-in boyfriend. I also addressed how a Chief Petty Officer I recommended to become a priest left the seminary after the administration did nothing about his gay classmates who were constantly making sexual advances toward him. When Archbishop O'Brien neither acknowledged nor responded to my communications, he only later invited me to meet with him after I wrote that I shared with others how his failure to address serious issues I brought to his attention was beginning to affect my "faith." When we did meet in November of 2002 in Washington, DC, not only did he refuse to discuss the allegations contained in my reports, but he suggested I undergo a psychological evaluation because I was "losing my priest friends." The "priest friends" he was referring to were Father John "Matt" Lee (who had the live-in boyfriend) and Monsignor/Fleet Chaplain Joseph Estabrook who was both a "friend" and supervisor of Father Lee and who had no problem with Lee's living arrangements. When Lee whom Estabrook recommended for orders to the U.S. Naval Academy was later arrested in 2007 on charges of aggravated assault, conduct unbecoming an officer, sodomy, and failure to inform sex partners that he was HIV positive, Archbishop O'Brien

led the media to believe he had no knowledge of Lee's sexual proclivities despite my letter in his files. While our 2002 meeting in his office was not recorded, I did recount at that time exactly what happened during the encounter with a fellow whistleblower and Canon Lawyer, Dominican Father/Air Force Chaplain Thomas Doyle, who documented my meeting with O'Brien in an article entitled, "Cardinals Behaving Badly."

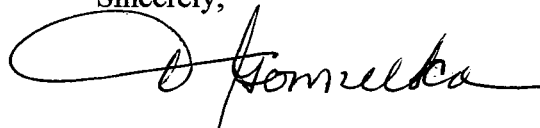
After Lee served a two year sentence in a military prison, he was arrested again on similar charges in 2014 and is currently serving a 30 year sentence in a Delaware State Prison. Had Archbishop O'Brien acted on the report I submitted to him in May of 2002, several Naval Academy Midshipmen and young Marines might have avoided being abused, and Father Lee might have received help instead of having to spend the rest of his life in prison.

Aware of precedents for removing names from church buildings of bishops who covered up and underreported sex abuse, and in keeping with recently adopted USCCB protocols, one would hope that you would not only remove Archbishop O'Brien's name from the Pastoral Center, but that you would also investigate allegations that he covered-up and underreported sex abuse while he was the Archbishop for the Military Services. A starting point might be to compare your records with the most recent list of abusive active duty and VA chaplains identified by bishopaccountability.org.

Lest Pope Francis, Cardinal Luis Ladaria Ferrer, or Cardinal Sean O'Malley deny having any knowledge of allegations of sexual abuse cover-ups and underreporting on the part of Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, I am sending a copy of this letter to the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, whom I trust will share the contents of this letter with the Holy Father along with Cardinals Ladaria and O'Malley.

The way bishops address the sexual abuse crisis reveals that you are either part of the solution or part of the problem. I pray the former in your case is true.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Thomas Gomulka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gene Thomas Gomulka

cc: Archbishop Christophe Pierre
BishopAccountability.org
Michael Rezendes, Associated Press



ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA
OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

17 September 2019

Mr. Gene Thomas Gomulka
356 H. Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118

Dear Mr. Gomulka,

Your letter of 24 July last has been received and its contents duly noted.

Your anger at Cardinal O'Brien's decision to remove your endorsement as a Navy Chaplain is comprehensible, and a review of the reserved files in the possession of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, supports your reported suspicions about Matt Lee's probable homosexual orientation.

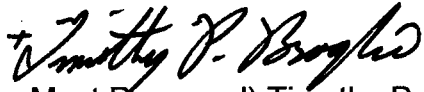
However, to jump from an orientation to the conclusion that he would molest young men is less tenable. Hindsight is always 20-20. Even today, despite the statistics, that connection is seldom given credence by the "experts".

Your insinuations about the late Bishop Estabrook who obviously cannot defend himself are definitely not acceptable.

I regret that commitments outside the country and within prevented an earlier response to one who was three years ahead of me in the seminary.

With every good wish for you and your family, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,


(The Most Reverend) Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA

From: Gene Thomas Gomulka <genegomulka@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 8, 2022 12:31 AM
To: archbishop@milarch.org <archbishop@milarch.org>
Subject: JOURNALISTIC DUE DILIGENCE

Dear Archbishop Broglio,

After reading an article in *The Pillar* today that mentioned you as a candidate for a leadership position in the USCCB, I decided that I would write an article about you, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Navy Chaplain John Thomas "Matt" Lee, and the late Air Force Chaplain Brian Highfill.

My article will not only highlight how Cardinal O'Brien grossly underreported sex abuse and covered up for abusers like Lee, but it will also show how you lied in your attached September 17, 2019 letter (in response to my attached 24 July 2019 letter) claiming that I merely reported to O'Brien "suspicions about Matt Lee's probable homosexual orientation." You and I know that there is no signed document "from the reserved files in the possession of the Archdiocese for the Military Services" supporting your false claim that my May 6, 2002 letter to Archbishop O'Brien concerned Lee's "probable homosexual orientation." The letter in your possession and my possession, as well as a copy I sent to the late Bishop Joseph Adamec in the archival files of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, addresses the allegation I received that Matt Lee had "a live-in boyfriend" whom he did not want me to meet. If I were still on active duty and you received a report that I was cohabitating with a woman, I doubt you would dismiss the report and later claim that it was simply my "heterosexual orientation" that was brought to your attention.

After having been schooled at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy, I'm surprised that you were not taught how to lie without being caught as happened when former President Clinton offered his impeachable comment, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman." You should have learned from O'Brien how to lie without telling the "whole truth" when, following Lee's arrest, he said, "When the Archdiocese for the Military Services became aware through Chaplain Lee that there was an accusation against him of immoral behavior with military personnel, we, along with the Archdiocese of Washington, removed his faculties immediately." While that is true, the "whole truth" is that when O'Brien received a report five years earlier that Lee had a "live-in boyfriend," he failed to investigate the allegation and take the necessary steps to prevent Lee from harming others and himself.

The chaplain "source" of the information I relayed to O'Brien about Lee is willing to testify that the reason he reported Lee's living arrangement to me as the Marine Forces Pacific Chaplain outside of Lee's chain of command was because he believed Monsignor Joe Estabrook, the U.S. Pacific Fleet Chaplain who was Lee's senior chaplain on Oahu, was already aware of what Lee was doing and chose not to "out" Lee. Interestingly, it was Estabrook who recommended Lee for orders to the U.S. Naval Academy where he later sexually assaulted Academy Midshipmen. I reported Lee not only because I thought he was engaging in what the Catholic Church views as immoral activity, but also because I feared he might find himself in very serious legal trouble if he did not get the help he needed.

My claim about O'Brien failing to act when he had a legal responsibility to do so is only reinforced by your laughable written response that I was concerned with Lee's "probable homosexual orientation." Anyone who has read my writings on the Department of Defense (DOD) homosexual policy reported in *The New York Times*, published in *Naval Proceedings* and reprinted in *First Things*, as well as the talks I gave on this topic before the Guild of Catholic Lawyers of New York and at the National Defense University, knows that I would be the last human being on this planet to call into question someone's "sexual orientation" especially after working so hard at rewriting the DOD homosexual exclusion policy to make it eminently clear that it was concerned with a person's behavior and had nothing to do whatsoever with a person's sexual orientation.

I found it interesting that you used an argument in your attached letter often made by gays that homosexuals are not prone to "molest young men." Such an argument is refuted by several studies including one by homosexual activists Karla Jay and Allen Young who, writing in *The Gay Report*, reported that "73 percent of homosexuals surveyed had at some time had sex with boys sixteen to

nineteen years of age or younger.” While not all gays are interested in having sex with minors, the fact that the Boy Scouts of America have filed for bankruptcy protection after facing some 100,000 lawsuits would show that a number of adult gays do pose a threat to young men and boys.

The November 2018 study by Rev. Dr. D. Paul Sullins, presciently documented how, beginning in the '60s, the number of sex abuse cases increased in direct proportion to the percentage of homosexuals in the episcopacy, priesthood, and seminaries. Sullin's conclusions, supported by a 2011 study, "Sex Abuse of Minors by Catholic Clergy," co-authored by Richard Fitzgibbons and Dale O'Leary, refute the John Jay Reports, based on underreporting by bishops, that erroneously argued that the abuse crisis has nothing to do with homosexuality. Fitzgibbons wrote, "Every priest whom I treated [over thirty-four years] who was involved with children sexually had previously been involved in adult homosexual relationships."

Unfortunately, I don't need these studies to support my supervisory experience involving a number of Catholic chaplains whose homosexual predation resulted in their imprisonment or their being given other-than-honorable discharges.

Unless you can support your signed statement with evidence that I merely "reported suspicions about Matt Lee's probable homosexual orientation," then I will call attention not only how you lied in writing to me, but also how you also lied to New Orleans investigative reporter, David Hammer, about the late Father Brian Highfill. (See: "David Hammer Investigation")

In my article I will also call attention to how you ignored my request that O'Brien's name be removed from the Pastoral Center for underreporting abuse and mishandling Lee's case just like you mishandled the Highfill case.

In the interest of exercising journalistic due diligence which publishers require I observe, I will afford you an opportunity to refute any and everything I have written above that you may wish to show is not true. If I do not hear back from you by noon (Eastern Time) on Tuesday, 11 October 2022, I will conclude that your silence renders consent to the truthfulness of the allegations contained in this email.

In Christ Jesus,

Gene Thomas Gomulka

Gene Thomas Gomulka is a sexual abuse victims' advocate, investigative reporter and screenwriter. A former Navy (O6) Captain/Chaplain, seminary instructor and diocesan respect life director, Gomulka was ordained a priest for the Altoona-Johnstown diocese and later made a Prelate of Honor (Monsignor) by St. John Paul II.

The article referenced in the above email was published by *One Peter Five*; reposted on Complicit Clergy; and entitled "[USCCB to Vote on Corrupt Candidate Next Week.](#)"