

## BIOGRAPHY



Gene Thomas Gomulka is a retired (O6) Navy Captain/Chaplain, author, investigative reporter, and screenwriter. He also works *pro bono* as a sex abuse victims' advocate who helps those who were sexually abused or unjustly reprised against by Church leaders and their attorneys for reporting abuse.

A native of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Gomulka earned a B.A. in Philosophy from St. Francis University in Loretto, PA, and an S.T.L. from the University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. After serving for five years as an associate pastor in State College, PA and teaching courses in Dogmatic Theology and Liturgy at St. Francis Seminary in addition to serving as the Diocesan Respect Life Director, he entered active duty service in 1980 and retired with the rank of Navy Captain (O6) in 2004. His duty stations included Second Marine Division, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Sixth Fleet, Navy Chief of Chaplains Office, USS WISCONSIN (BB 64), Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Naval Air Station Sigonella, Marine Forces Pacific, and Naval Base Ventura County.

While serving as Deputy Chaplain, U.S. Marine Corps, Gomulka authored publications on suicide prevention, chaplain confidentiality, and marriage in the military; served on the Inspector General Team; co-authored the Core Values of "Honor, Courage and Commitment" adopted by the Marine Corps and later embraced by the Navy; and was invited to lecture at the National Defense University and to testify before Congress. Later, when he was the Marine Forces Pacific Chaplain supervising 150 chaplains deployed or stationed over two-thirds of the Earth, the Secretary of the Navy presented him with the Navy League's "Alfred Thayer Mahan Award" for "literary achievement and inspirational leadership."

Captain Gomulka's decorations include the Legion of Merit (three awards), the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal and various other service and campaign medals and ribbons. His interests include writing, cooking, skiing and foreign languages (Spanish, Polish, French, German, and [after studying and working in Italy for eight years] Italian).

Saint John Paul II named Gomulka a Prelate of Honor in 1999 with the honorific title of "Monsignor." After he and Dominican Father Thomas Doyle suffered reprisals in 2004 from then-Archbishop Edwin O'Brien for their work in exposing and combating clerical sex abuse in the Catholic Church, Gomulka retired after 24 years of active duty military service and took a leave of absence from the priesthood. During his leave Gomulka published *The Survival Guide for Marriage in the Military* and spoke at military family conferences on bases throughout the country.

When it became clear that his bishop who had been covering up sex abuse did not want a priest abuse advocate working in his diocese, Gomulka later married and was blessed with twin children, Luke and Sasha, who were born on his birthday. Upset with the ongoing sex abuse of minors and vulnerable adults in the Catholic Church, Gomulka believes that bishops and priests who engage in or cover up sex abuse should be incarcerated, laicized, or excommunicated. Among all the titles he has been afforded throughout his life (e.g., Father, Monsignor, Chaplain, Padre, Captain), his favorite title is "Dad."