

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 and investigator who helps those who were harassed and/or abused by Catholic bishops, priests, and seminarians, or whose abuse was covered up by Church leaders, their attorneys, and their public relations firms.

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 Angelicum University in Rome. After serving for five years as an associate pastor in State College, PA and teaching courses in 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, he co-authored the Core Values of "Honor, Courage and Commitment" adopted by the Marine Corps and later embraced by the Navy. In 1999 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 (Italian, Spanish, French, German and Polish).

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* that helped tens of thousands of dating and married military couples. He also wrote a weekly relationship column on military.com 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 whistleblower priest working in his diocese, Gomulka later married and was blessed with twin children, Luke and Sasha, who were born on his birthday. Because he has never been laicized, canonically he is still "Father" or "Monsignor" Gomulka. From his perspective, Church leaders like Pope Francis and countless bishops and chancery officials who engage in or cover up sex abuse should be the ones who should be laicized. Among all the titles he has been afforded throughout his life (e.g., Father, Monsignor, Chaplain, Padre, Captain), his favorite title is "Dad."