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Bridgeport Diocese Priest Abuse Allegations

LATEST NEWS



Documents Released In Bridgeport Diocese Sex Abuse

In 448-pages of depositions that Cardinal Edward M. Egan was forced to give as part of 23 lawsuits against seven priests that eventually were settled, the then-Bishop showed little compassion for the alleged victims and instead argued with attorney's that only a "remarkably small number" of priests have ever been accused of wrongdoing.



Pictures: Bridgeport Diocese Priest Abuse Scandal

From Files: Complaints And Diocese Reactions

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DOCUMENTS

- [Transcript of Oct. 7, 1997 Videotaped Deposition of Bishop Edward Egan \[PDF\]](#)
- [Transcript of Sept. 23, 1999 Videotaped Deposition of Bishop Edward Egan \[PDF\]](#)
- [Transcript of Nov. 11, 1995 Videotaped Deposition of Monsignor Andrew T. Cusack \[PDF\]](#)
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- [Rosado v. Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocesan](#)
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Timeline

March 2001. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport settles 23 lawsuits brought against seven unnamed priests for an undisclosed amount of money. The court orders the documents sealed and church officials believe eventually destroyed. Four newspapers – the New York Times, Hartford Courant, Boston Globe and Washington Post, file an emergency appeal in April 2002, seeking to have the documents preserved and unsealed. The diocese embarks on what would be more than a seven-year battle against the newspapers.

March 17, 2002. The Courant publishes a story based on thousands of pages of sealed court documents and testimony from civil suits against six priests. Among the findings: New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan, while serving as bishop of the Bridgeport Roman Catholic Diocese from 1988 to 2000, allowed several priests facing multiple accusations of sexual abuse to continue working for years.

Former Bridgeport Bishop Walter Curtis, who ran the diocese for 27 years before Egan, testified in 1995 that the diocese deliberately shuffled pedophile priests among parishes to give them a "fresh start," and admitted destroying records of complaints against some priests. Curtis also said he didn't believe pedophilia was a permanent condition.

In 1964, a teenage student at Sacred Heart University accused Father Laurence Brett, a spiritual director of the university, of performing oral sex on him and biting his penis to prevent him from ejaculating. Bishop Curtis discussed the situation with the Vatican representative

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- [St. Theresa Parish Of Trumbull](#)
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- [Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests \[SNAP\]](#)
- [SNAP Press Statement about documents](#)
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