

**OPEN LETTERS TO POPE FRANCIS**  
**September 30, 2024**

Holiness Pope Francis  
Vatican City State, 00120

Dear Pope Francis,

My name is Lisa Roers. In addition to being a music teacher, a wife, and mother, I am also a clerical sex abuse survivor. When I was 9, I started playing pipe organ and piano in our parish church in Elgin, Nebraska. During that time, Father Dennis Hanneman sexually abused me for two years beginning in the fall of 1972 when I was in the fifth grade.

The abuse I underwent was horrific and some of the rituals were truly satanic. Father Hanneman would force rosaries, crucifixes, and candles into my lower orifices. He also inserted consecrated hosts into my vagina telling me that they would rid me of "my sins, my evil, and my filth." He also had me place the same objects into the vagina and anus of another little girl who has never recovered to this day from the satanic abuse.

There are no words I can use to describe the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual trauma I experienced. I locked away memories of those two years of abuse and only started dealing with them when my daughter was born. As is true for most sex abuse victims, it took decades for me to be able to confront this truly devastating period of my childhood.

In 2003, at the age of 40, I built up the courage to present my allegations to the late Omaha Archbishop Elden Curtiss. As happens with so many victims who report sexual abuse to Church officials, my allegations were fraudulently deemed "not credible."

After I continued to suffer and my predator still went unpunished for decades, I resubmitted my abuse report in 2021 to Archbishop Curtiss' successor, Archbishop Lucas. Fewer than three weeks after writing to the archbishop, I received a cold dismissive letter from him claiming that my allegations were investigated by the archdiocese and found to be "not credible." I know the so-called "investigation" was a whitewash because no one from the archdiocese in 2003 or 2021 inquired about the name or address of the other victim mentioned in my report.

Because Father Hanneman is currently working at Boys Town where he has access to minors, my sex abuse advocate contacted Boys Town officials and Board Members and implored them to have my allegations thoroughly investigated. The Boys Town lawyer, Michael O'Brien, told my advocate that Omaha Archbishop George Lucas assured him that the Nebraska Attorney General's Office had done an investigation and found no evidence of abuse. The truth is that no such investigation was ever undertaken and Attorney O'Brien never spoke with investigators at the Nebraska AG's Office.

After the Church abandoned me for more than 50 years, I had no choice but to file a police report with the Antelope County Sheriff's Department documenting abuse by Father Hanneman and cover-ups by Archbishops Lucas and Curtiss.

I recently learned that Archbishop Lucas has been accused of abusing a teen-aged seminarian in St. Louis; that he participated in a clerical gay orgy in the presence of Springfield seminarians; and that he covered up the sexual abuse of Cynthia Yesko by two pedophile Springfield priests when Cynthia was 4 to 7 years old.

As I write to you, joined by Rachel Mastrogiacomo whose abuse was covered up by Cardinal McElroy, I have reason to doubt that you will discipline Archbishop Lucas or Cardinal McElroy. I watched a video of Argentine abuse victims who accused you of covering up their abuse, and I read that you as pope have not laicized or excommunicated some 150 bishops who have been credibly accused of abusing minors and vulnerable adults. Archbishop Lucas needs to be added to this list despite having said, "I have never had sexual contact with another person."

For the historical record, I request, Holy Father, that you have all the abuse and cover-up allegations involving Father Hanneman and Archbishop Lucas thoroughly investigated. I eagerly await your response.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Lisa Roers*

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Dear Pope Francis,

I am writing to join my voice to that of Lisa whose open letter requests that you hold abusive priests, and bishops who cover up for them, accountable not only for what they have done, but also for what they have failed to do.

Unlike Lisa who was ritually abused as a minor, I was ritually raped by Father Jacob Bertrand within the context of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. At the time of the satanic ritual abuse, I was a vulnerable and pious virgin in my early twenties who would eventually discern religious life with several communities. Some of the graphic details of my case have been reported in numerous publications because Bertrand's grave acts of Eucharistic sacrilege involved felony rape.

When I reported Bertrand's satanic rituals to the San Diego Diocese, I was relieved that he was immediately removed from ministry. However, when I later learned that Bertrand was returned to ministry and that his dark deeds were being covered up by Bishop Robert McElroy, I filed a criminal complaint against him. Despite the fact that McElroy's lawyers refused to cooperate with prosecutors, Bertrand pleaded guilty and was sentenced to ten years probation. Had I not appealed to the criminal court and exposed Bertrand's felonious behavior and McElroy's cover-up, Bertrand might still be in ministry today and preying on other vulnerable virgins who are suitable candidates for occult blood rituals and satanic Black Masses.

Lisa and I are sending you our open letters because we want everyone to know what we reported and to witness your response. It is beyond scandalous that you lifted the excommunication of Father Marko Rupnik who allegedly raped nuns and forced them to drink his semen out of a chalice. Will you likewise do nothing to Archbishop Lucas who is covering up for Father Hanneman and Cardinal McElroy who covered up for Father Bertrand? Will you protect Jesus Christ in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar or will you protect those Judas priests who betray Him?

How can you and other bishops turn a blind eye to these betrayals? When you refuse to investigate and discipline priests who ritually abuse little girls like Lisa or virgins like me, you send a message that we are not worth protecting. Worst of all, you send a message that Our Eucharistic Lord is not worth protecting.

Lisa and I, along with countless other victims, believe the Catholic Church needs a Holy Father who will restore the Church's moral credibility by "cleansing the Temple" of those who engage in satanic ritual abuse and all forms of clerical sexual predation. Failure to do so inflicts pain on our beloved Savior and those He came to save.

In Christ through the Blessed Virgin Mary,

*Rachel Mastrogiacomo*

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