Detailed Summary of Case of Bro. Fernando Enrique Picciochi, S.M., Drawn from Media Coverage and Legal Documents





Summary

Picciochi molested Sebastián Cuattromo, age 13, and another 7th-grade student in 1989 and 1990 on a camping trip and at the Marianista de Caballito School in the city of Buenos Aires. Former Marianist superior Luis Casalá admitted that in 1991 he was informed of an "act of aggression" by Picciochi against another student. That so-called act of aggression was actually attempted sexual abuse that the boy resisted and later revealed to his parents, who went to the school and reported it in person to Casalá. As a result, Picciochi was sent for an evaluation; the results, according to Casalá, showed him to be "normal, not homosexual." Two years later, in 1993, the order transferred the cleric to a Marianist parish in Rio Negro, in the south.

In June 2000, Cuattromo and his former classmate informed the school of their abuse and said they would be seeking legal action against both Picciochi and the order. The Marianists persuaded them to accept compensation of \$40,000 each in exchange for confidentiality and dropping the charges against the order.

In September 2000, Picciochi was criminally charged with 'repeated corruption of minors.' He disappeared, and in 2001, Cuattromo learned that he was living in the US.

In 2002, Cuattromo went to the Legal Council of the city of Buenos Aires and succeeded in getting his confidentiality agreement nullified. He then went to the Archdiocese of Buenos Aires to ask for the church too to overturn the gag order. He met with Martin Garcia Aguirre, Archbishop Bergoglio's personal secretary, who sent him to Father Mario Poli, vicar of the archdiocese's Flores district. Cuattromo presented his case to Poli but never heard back from him.

On March 21, 2007, Picciochi was arrested in the US and detained in an immigrants' center in Persall, Texas. He was extradited to Argentina in September 2010. In September 2012, he was sentenced to 12 years in prison for the sexual abuse of at least 5 children, all of whom had been Marianista School students.

On March 28, 2013, Mario Poli was appointed Buenos Aires archbishop by Pope Francis.

Cuattromo went on to lead the group "Adults for Childhood Rights," established to foster collective action to fight against child sexual abuse.

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