

*“Whoever says, ‘I know him,’ but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.” (1 John 2:4)*

The recent sexual abuse scandal involving the now disgraced Archbishop Anthony Apuron highlights once again the greatly entrenched long-term problem the Roman Catholic Church (RCC) both caused essentially and covered up! Why has this problem been so pervasive and persistent?

*“And these also stagger from wine and reel from beer: Priests and prophets stagger from beer and are befuddled with wine; they reel from beer, they stagger when seeing visions, they stumble when rendering decisions. All the tables are covered with vomit and there is not a spot without filth.” (Isa 28:7,8)*

Physical drunkenness is bad enough! But spiritual drunkenness is even worse, much worse. Since its inception in the 4<sup>th</sup> century CE, the RCC has compromised with worldly and pagan doctrines and practice, and has never enforced God’s laws and principles as found in the Bible.

The RCC does “tolerate wicked people” (Rev 2:2 NIV), unfortunately, until public outcry becomes too great, as in the case of this Archbishop on Guam.

*“They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.” (Titus 1:16)*

*All Bible verses quoted from New International Version (NIV)*

A news article about the archbishop can be viewed below:

# Vatican removes disgraced archbishop

Guam's Apuron convicted for child sex abuse

USA TODAY Weekend Extra  
17 Mar 2018 [+17 more](#) Haidee V. Eugenio and Dana M. Williams

A Vatican tribunal found Archbishop Anthony Apuron guilty of sexually abusing minors, removing him from office and exiling him from the island.

The Vatican said in a statement that Apuron's trial has concluded, and the tribunal "has issued its sentence of first instance, finding the accused guilty of certain accusations and imposing upon the accused the

penalties of privation of office and prohibition of residence in the Archdiocese of Guam."

The announcement said the sentence remains subject to possible appeal.

"In the absence of an appeal, the sentence becomes final and effective," the Vatican said. "In the case of an appeal, the imposed penalties are suspended until final resolution."

Apuron was suspended as archbishop in June 2016 following public allegations that he had sexually abused altar boys when he was the

parish priest in Agat in the 1970s. He denied the accusations and threatened to sue his accusers.

"The Vatican tribunal believed us," one of the accusers was Roland Paul L. Sondia, who said Apuron molested him when he was a 15-year-old altar boy in 1977. Sondia said the verdict gives him a sense of relief and justice.

"We've waited for so long for this day to come," Sondia said late Friday night upon learning of the Apuron verdict. "The Vatican tribunal believed us, believed what was done to us. I'm still trying to take it all in."

Sondia, now 56, said he was with his wife when he heard the news. "We hugged each other, we were in tears. They're tears of joy," said Sondia, who still lives in Agat with his family.



Anthony Apuron was suspended as archbishop in June 2016 following allegations that he had sexually abused altar boys in the 1970s.

*Part 1 (click to enlarge)*

"So glad we stopped being silent:" Roy Quintanilla said he was a 12-year-old altar boy in Agat when he was molested by Apuron about 40 years ago.

"I always believed that the Vatican would find Apuron guilty. How could they not, after our written and personal testimony? This verdict was a long time coming," said Quintanilla, who now resides in Hawaii.

Quintanilla said Apuron enjoyed the life of being the archbishop of Guam for three decades, "when he really should never have been bishop in the first place."

"Lucky for him, we remained silent all that time. I am so glad we stopped being silent. The Vatican's verdict was made possible because Guam's faithful stood together against an injustice. Although it

took me 40 years to come forward, I'm glad I did, and I am glad for everyone that came forward to tell their story," he said.

Archdiocese will issue statement: The Archdiocese of Agana, now headed by Archbishop Michael Jude Byrnes, will issue an initial statement Saturday morning regarding Apuron, according to Tony Diaz, director of communications for the archdiocese.

David Sablan, president of the grassroots group Concerned Catholics of Guam, whose actions helped expose abuses by Apuron, said on Friday night that "now that the Vatican tribunal guilty verdict has been rendered, it is time for the Catholic faithful on Guam to begin the healing process of our wounded church on Guam."

"Our trust and confidence is now

focused on Archbishop Byrnes, who has a huge task ahead of him with full authority as our new Archbishop of Agana. We shall work with him to strengthen our Church in being true to the teaching of Jesus Christ faithfully," Sablan said. "This is now the mission of CCOG and all Catholics on Guam."

"But it's not over:" Tim Rohr, who blogs about Catholic issues, said the Apuron verdict brings a sense of relief but it is not over.

"Since he will appeal, this will drag on for at least two more years," Rohr said.

In addition to the altar boys, Apuron was accused of sexually abusing his nephew Mark Apuron, who filed a lawsuit against him and the church in January.

Soon after the lawsuit was filed,

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Apuron issued a statement saying, "As I lay sick after another surgery and I face the final judgment approaching evermore close, having lost interest in this world, God is my witness: I deny all allegations of sexual abuse made against me, including this last one."

Swift rise to power, rapid fall from grace: Apuron, a former altar boy, rose from priest to archbishop in 14 years. He was installed as the leader of the island's faithful in 1986.

His descent from power was also swift.

*Part 2 (click to enlarge)*

Initially, the archbishop came under scrutiny because of his close ties to the Neocatachumenal Way, a group often at odds with traditional Catholics on the island. After a multimillion dollar property transfer and the removal of two popular priests, Apuron became the target of public protests.

As critics worked to unseat the archbishop, their efforts uncovered a massive child sex abuse scandal, propelled an overhaul of the archdiocese and changed Guam law. So far, the archdiocese has been named in 159 sex abuse lawsuits.

“Although it took me 40 years to come forward, I’m glad I did, and I am glad for everyone that came forward to tell their story.” Roy Quintanilla

*Part 3 (click to enlarge)*