## CONDENSED TIME LINE RE: FR. BRENDAN SMYTH Prepared by Helen L. McGonigle, P.O. Box 540, Brookfield, CT 06804 USA 203-740-0074 <u>attymcg@yahoo.com</u>

The below timeline and attached documents demonstrate, with a glimpse of but one case of clergy abuse, the patterns of deception and indifference to the rights of children on that part of the Holy See, the Norbertine religious order and the Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island USA.

Smyth is ordained as Fr. Brendan Smyth 1945 into the Norbertine Order

From the late 1940s forward Smyth starts abusing children in Ireland, Scotland and Wales. This is known to his Abbott, Felim Colwell

Fr. Bruno Mulvihill another Norbertine, repeatedly tells the Abbott about Smyth's abused of children but his concerns fall upon deaf ears

Summer of 1965 Smyth is assigned to Our Lady of Mercy (OLM), East Greenwich, RI as a "favor" to then bishop of Providence, Russell McVinney.

Early 1968, complaints from parents are made to the diocese of Providence, and Smyth is sent back to Ireland for his first mental hospital treatment March 1968 (See letter of Russell McVinney To Abbott Colwell dated February 15, 1968 and Affidavit of Fr. Bruno Mulvihill)

1968 the Vatican steps in and rescinds Smyth's privilege to take confession for life and requires that he not leave the abbey unattended. These directives are not enforced

Early 1970s more complaints are made about Smyth to his Abbott and the bishop in Ireland (of Kilmore Francis McKiernan)

1974 Fr. Bruno Mulvihill writes the Irish PAPAL NUNCIO (Vatican's representative) and tells him and Bishop McKiernan that Smyth is abusing children. The Vatican is on notice of Smyth's crimes once again

1975 a canonical tribunal hearing is held where Sean Brady (now Cardinal) acts as notary, meaning he would have required the victims to swear an oath of secrecy. Two Smyth victims both boys, among them Brendan Boland, are sworn to secrecy under the 1962 Vatican Directive on Crimes of Sollicitation. The Irish Papal Nuncio (Vatican representative) is notified again

1970-1990 Smyth has three failed mental hospitalizations but continues to abuse children in Ireland and North Dakota as well and returns for visits to RI, sometimes staying with OLM parish families. In 1980 Smyth appears and is allowed to perform a wedding at OLM. Marriage is a sacrament in the Catholic faith.

1994-1995 Smyth convicted on guilty pleas (ADMISSIONS) on 141 counts of child molestation in N. Ireland and Ireland, is jailed and dies in prison in August 1997. Close to 1,000 victims were interviewed by the Garda and Northern Ireland Police Service/RUC Smyth sexually abused hundreds of children. His case collapsed the Irish government, caused a huge drop and church attendance and brought about public outcry with government and legislative reforms in Ireland.

1995 the Diocese of Providence tells the press, including the Providence Journal and East Greenwich Pendulum that there were "no complaints" of abuse of children by Smyth, concealing the complaints from 1968.

In year 2000 the Diocese manages to side step disclosure that Smyth abused children in RI when the RI Attorney General's office was conducting its investigation of priests who abused children in the diocese.

In 2006 the Diocese refuses to honor my request to make public the fact that Smyth abused children in RI and to correct the false statements made to the press in 1995 (East Greenwich Pendulum and Providence Journal). Theroux in his letter to me said there "does not seem to be any current advantage or pastoral reason to do so" The Diocese fails to report my complaint to RISP and it remains unknown as to whether they reported Smyth to Interpol, the International Police.

There have been a numerous documentaries featuring the case of Fr. Brendan Smyth which have aired in the Ireland and the United Kingdom and I urge the reader to look at the following two both of which are available on the internet at YouTube.com - 1) The Resurrection of Brendan Smyth by UTV, N. Ireland; and 2) This World: The Shame of the Catholic Church, but BBC, United Kingdom